Minneapolis mayor visits Staples campus

Biofuels generates interest

STAPLES — R.T. Rybeck, mayor of Minneapolis, recently visited the Staples campus of Central Lakes College.

Rybeck arrived to observe the progress underway through the Ag and Energy Center to develop the use of oilseed crops such as canola to sustain local agriculture in an environmentally and economically feasible manner. Ron Nelson, farm manager, demonstrated the oilseed presser that producers of used to operate for equipment such as combines as well as viable livestock feed.

Rybeck and St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman helped form the Blue-Green Alliance several years ago in partnership with the Sierra Club and the United Steel Workers in the belief that investments in solving critical environmental challenges, such as global warming, represent strategic economic opportunities for the future.

Biofuels from crops grown on marginal acres are part of the vision for renewable energy and green product opportunities.