An anonymous donation inspired the Board of Trustees at the prestigious Westminster School in Connecticut to transform the residential experience of its boarding students with the development of two new green-focused student and faculty residences in preparation for its 125th anniversary celebrations.

Founded in 1888, the prestigious Westminster School in Simsbury on the outskirts of Hartford, Connecticut was bequeathed $10 million in Fall 2011 by an anonymous donor who challenged the school’s Board of Trustees to transform the residential experience for students and faculty staff.

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2013, the school community enthusiastically accepted the donor’s challenge and moved forward with developing two new Tudor-style student and faculty residences that each house 49 beds in single and double rooms.

Around 70% of the school’s 390 students are boarding students and the remaining day students.

The Challenge
In addition to the challenge set by the anonymous donor, the school’s commitment to sustainability and green practices meant that designers had to consider green materials and processes to reduce reliance on excessive energy and water use.

According to licensed Icynene dealer, Coastal Insulation Corp, timing also became a critical factor as the school hoped to formally open the new residences during its 125th anniversary year. The tight construction schedule led to different contractors having to work alongside each other to avoid any delay in construction.

The Solution
The use of spray foam insulation was specified by the client to achieve optimal thermal comfort and a reduction in excessive energy consumption. Lead project contractor, Bartlett Brainard Eacott enlisted the assistance of Coastal Insulation Corp to install Icynene Classic™ (LD-C-50) throughout the two residences’ unique steep sloping roof design. The roof system, which included many dormers, skylights, structural steel, totaled approximately 24,000 sq. ft.

With its insulating and air sealing qualities, Icynene Classic™ is guaranteed to perform for the life of the buildings providing both students and faculty staff thermal comfort all year round regardless of the season. With the client specifically seeking an air impermeable product, Icynene Classic™ also works to better protect against the infiltration of allergens and pollutants and has superb sound dampening qualities, ideal in a student residence environment.
With fewer air pockets for sound to travel through, Icynene Classic has amazing sound dampening qualities, ideal for students.

The team from Coastal Insulation worked diligently to ensure the tight construction schedule was kept on track. With health and safety a top priority, the Coastal Insulation team posted safety signage throughout the work space and coordinated with other contractors to ensure that only certified spray foam installers were present during installation.

Addressing the green commitment by the school, the design included 18 geothermal heating and cooling pumps and wells to enabling each student room to have its own temperature controls. The design also included a series of water conservation measures and included large window framing to take advantage of natural lighting, thereby reducing the need for artificial lighting.

The Result
Completion of the two Tudor-style residences is expected by Fall 2013, in time for the school’s 125th anniversary celebrations. The series of sustainable measures, including Icynene spray foam, will help the school continue its commitment to sustainability as well as provide boarding students and faculty staff a comfortable living environment.

Sources/Footnotes:
1. Coastal Insulation Corp, “Profile Job of the Week”, http://www.coastalinsulationcorp.com/blog-0/?Tag=westminster%20school
3. Icynene Inc. would like to thank Icynene contractor, Coastal Insulation Corp. for their assistance with this document.

For further information, contact your local licensed Icynene dealer.