



## Vacon's 'green' building takes shape in Chambersburg

By MARCUS RAUHUT Staff writer  
 CHAMBERSBURG -- Contractors showed off some of the green elements of Vacon Inc.'s new North American headquarters building in Chambersburg.

Vacon, a Finland-based AC drive maker, is moving its operations from Black Gap Road to a new building scheduled to be completed later this year. The company produces alternating current drives, which control the speed of electric motors and are used in industry and municipal engineering.

On Tuesday, general contractor Brechbill & Helman Construction Co. led tours of the building to highlight some of the environmentally friendly features.

The building on Nitterhouse Drive will be among the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified buildings in Franklin County. Project developer Angus Steinson said the project is pursuing a Silver LEED certification.

The building will feature low-flow toilets, sinks and showers, as well as energy-efficient windows and HVAC systems.

Water used to test the drives will be recycled,

and about 65 percent of the electricity produced during testing will be used to power the building.

Some parts of the building also have added insulation. Steinson said the extra insulation cost an extra \$24,000 but will pay for itself in the first year because it is expected to result in energy savings of \$24,000 a year.

Construction methods are also designed to be environmentally friendly. The building was lowered by one foot to reduce the amount of fill needed and the site will use organic, native and water-efficient landscaping.

Brechbill & Helman's goal is to recycle 75 percent of construction waste. So far, 96 percent has been recycled.

The manufacturing section of Vacon is scheduled to be moved to the new facility by the end of September and the offices are expected to follow by the end of October. The entire move should be finished by Nov. 15.

The new building will allow Vacon to retain about 50 jobs and create 94 jobs.

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