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Wisconsin Film Festival: It's not easy being green in South Boston

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"The Greening of Southie" will be shown at Monona Terrace at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 5. - Photo provided

"Compelling" and "fun" are not words that are often used together to describe documentary films, or construction projects.

"The Greening of Southie" follows the creation of the environmentally innovative Macallen Building, Boston's first large-scale LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) residential project. The film is a uniquely charming, thoughtful and amusing entry at the Wisconsin Film Festival. It's 73 minutes long and will be presented at Monona Terrace at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 5. Advance tickets are sold out, but some rush tickets should still be available at the door.

Created by Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis, the directors behind the very popular "King Corn," which played the festival in 2007, "Greening" tells the tale of efforts to build something new and different in South Boston, one of the Northeast's most emphatically tradition-bound, blue collar communities.

The skilled tradesmen working on the project are hilariously outspoken in their skepticism regarding the Macallen's environmental impact, and the young designers are earnest and enthusiastic. It's a great cast of characters, and the use of time-lapse photography to tell the multi-year story is superb.

The film doesn't shirk the problems the project encountered, and there's plenty of high-end, two-button-toilet-flush humor. What's not to love?

An excerpt from "The Greening of Southie":