



Mississippi Headwaters Chapter

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Renee Molstad
USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter
(952) 252-3573
info@usgbcmn.org

Patrick Santelli
Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon
(612) 625-3759
patrick.santelli@gmail.com

MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS CHAPTER OF THE U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL PARTNERS WITH MINNESOTA SCHOOLS CUTTING CARBON

\$375,000 of technical assistance made available to 100 Minnesota schools to cut carbon footprint

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 20, 2008 – The Mississippi Headwaters Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council, announced today that it is partnering with the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon project to help Minnesota schools reduce their energy and carbon footprints. The project will distribute \$375,000 to 100 schools in Minnesota that are driven to make their facilities more environmentally sound by reducing their energy usage and carbon footprints.

Minnesota public high schools, colleges and universities can apply for program funding until Dec. 15, 2008, at <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/schoolscuttingcarbon/apply>. Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon will select 100 eligible schools on a first come first serve basis.

"We are excited to have the USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter working with us," said Patrick Santelli, project coordinator for Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon. "The Chapter's expertise and leadership in green building design and implementation make it a valuable partner in the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon program."

The project will disperse \$50,000 in "mini-grants" to student groups to implement carbon-cutting projects. All 100 participating schools will receive \$500 in grant monies no later than March 2009. Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon will provide materials and carbon calculators to help schools understand and evaluate how they can make the largest impact.

Of the 100 selected schools, the Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon will reward competitive grants totaling \$20,000 to 10 schools with the most creative and effective energy-reduction projects in fall 2009. The purpose is to provide monies for schools to further implement their carbon reducing projects.

(more)

The Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon Web site will link to and track all 100 schools awarded grant monies. The Web site will provide students and teachers a platform to share resources and ideas, raise additional funds and calculate their carbon savings.

Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon is a joint program of the Clean Energy Resource Teams, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Office of Energy Security. The Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund provided project funding, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

To learn more about Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon, or to apply, visit:

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/schoolscuttingcarbon>.

About the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Mississippi Headwaters Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of the Minnesota region, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The Mississippi Headwaters Chapter promotes the design, construction and operation of buildings and communities that are healthy places to live and work, environmentally responsible and economically viable on a lifecycle basis. The Chapter serves its members and communities by promoting best practices in design and technology usage, advocating green building policies and facilitating information exchange and education. The chapter encourages the widespread acceptance and use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ and other complementary tools and standards. For more information, visit www.usgbcmn.org.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is the nation's leading coalition of corporations, builders, universities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations working together to promote buildings that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy places to live and work. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. Since its founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 7,500 member companies and organizations, a broad portfolio of LEED products and services, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo, and a network of 75 local chapters, affiliates and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

###