



Minnesota



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Inaugural Minnesota Leadership in Sustainability Award Winners Announced

Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce and the U.S Green Building Council of Minnesota recognized four companies for exceptional green business practices

Minneapolis, May 2, 2011 — The Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce along with the U.S. Green Building Council – Minnesota Chapter (USGBC-Minnesota) announced the recipients of the inaugural Leadership in Sustainability Awards. The Leadership in Sustainability Awards recognizes excellence in sustainability and direct community affect, as well as superior internal green business practices. The partnership with the Greening your Business Conference was a natural fit for recognize local organizations for their efforts in sustainability.

Best Green Campaign: Center for Energy and Environment

This award honors a campaign through community awareness or outreach which inspires environmentally responsible behavior in the Minnesota region. Campaigns were judged on messaging and measurable outcomes. The Center for Energy and Environment's campaign, "Energy Efficient Cities, Leading the Way" which will be completed in June 2011 is estimated to reach over 6,000 people. Energy Efficient Cities is a statewide pilot program developing and implementing comprehensive, cutting-edge residential energy efficiency programs in eight cities across the state of Minnesota: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Apple Valley, Austin, Owatonna, Rochester, Park Rapids and Duluth. Energy Efficient Cities introduces a one-stop approach that combines community-based social marketing, direct consumer action, innovative financing and contractor training.

Best Green Workplace: The Weidt Group

The Weidt Group demonstrated an official internal policy or initiative that exhibits measurable and significant environmental benefits to a workplace, its culture and its people. Submissions were judged based on innovation and measurable outcomes.

Best Green Market Development: VAST Enterprises

This award honors an organization's market focus on producing a product, process or service that exhibits measurable, significant, and environmental and economic benefits. Submissions were judged based on financial success and environmental impacts.

Excellence in Green Business: LHB, Inc.

This award which recognizes an organization that has deliberately embedded sustainability in their organizational mission. LHB uses a tool called Performance Metrics™ to understand the actual impact of the buildings they have designed. Such post-occupancy evaluations are rare – and potentially risky. LHB is currently taking that risk by assessing over 75 of the buildings designed between 1996 and today.

To qualify, nominated business must be located in and operated out of Minnesota. Five judges, representing different cities from across the Country, reviewed all nominations, which totaled 28.

(more)

About the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Minnesota Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of Minnesota, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The 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.

Greening Your Business Conference

The Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council—Minnesota Chapter, is hosting the 2011 Greening Your Business Conference on Thursday, April 14, 2011. Now in its third year, the conference provides the strategies and resources companies need to succeed in the green marketplace and keep pace with customer and societal demands to reduce their environmental impact. The conference is a full-day B2B event that includes workshops, a keynote panel facilitated by Pew Center on Global Climate Change, networking reception and exhibit hall. For more information, visit www.greenminneapolisbusiness.com.

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