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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota School Districts Lead the Nation with ENERGY STAR® Leader Awards

WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN (WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2006) - Nine school districts in the state of Minnesota have been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as ENERGY STAR® Leaders. This national award recognizes organizations for continuous improvement in energy efficiency.

Minnesota leads the nation in the number of ENERGY STAR Leader awards for the K-12 schools sector; in fact, all of the Leaders in the Midwest are Minnesota school districts in the Twin Cities and outlying areas:

ISD 197 West St. Paul (2005) 10-point
ISD 833 South Washington County (2005) 10-point
ISD 191 Burnsville/Eagan/Savage (2006) 10-point
ISD 742 St. Cloud (2006) 10-point
ISD 834 Stillwater (2006) 10-point
ISD 832 Mahtomedi (2006) 10-point
ISD 283 St. Louis Park (2006) 10-point
ISD 877 Buffalo/Hanover/Montrose (2006) 10-point
ISD 13 Columbia Heights (2006) 75 or better average rating

EPA recognizes organizations based on documented improvement in energy performance. Their national performance rating system scores a building's energy efficiency, on a scale of 1 to 100, relative to similar buildings across the country. To be eligible for recognition as an ENERGY STAR Leader, a business or organization must have portfolio-wide energy efficiency improvements of 10, 20, or 30 points above an organization-wide baseline or an average rating of 75 or better portfolio-wide.

The school districts achieved this award as participants in the Schools for Energy Efficiency^(tm) (SEE) program, created by Hallberg Engineering, Inc. of White Bear Lake, MN a mechanical and electrical engineering firm with over 25 years experience working with schools.

The SEE program is designed to help schools with ideas and methods to save energy and energy-related expenses. Focusing on low and no cost strategies, schools follow a systemized plan promoting efficient facility operations and behavior modification through energy awareness campaigns and activities.

Nearly 250 schools in Minnesota are currently working to save energy in support of education through this program and together have averaged 10% annual energy use reduction and avoided \$5.4 million dollars in utility expenses since the start of the program only four years ago.

"Through the SEE Program, our students and staff are beginning to understand that electricity and fuel are not free. When lights are turned off and computers are shut down when they are not used, more dollars are available to support educational programming. It's a win-win for our students and the environment!"
St. Cloud ISD 742 Superintendent, Bruce Watkins

In addition to the district Leader awards, over 10 individual school facilities participating in the SEE program have also received ENERGY STAR Labels, ranking them in the top 25% in the nation for efficient facility operations.

"We congratulate Minnesota schools for their exceptional achievement in saving energy," said Audrie Washington, ENERGY STAR Regional Program Manager. "What the Schools for Energy Efficiency program schools have done shows a strong connection between superior energy management and environmental stewardship. The districts are also doing a great job of teaching young people that environmental benefits can go hand-in-hand with economic benefits."

Visit www.energystar.gov for more information about the ENERGY STAR program or www.seeprograms.com to learn about the National award-winning Schools for Energy Efficiency program based in the Twin Cities, MN.

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