



# Waste Wise e-News

*A Tool for Environmental Sustainability Resources and Networking*

June 1, 2011

## GREEN BUILDINGS

Green building is a whole-systems approach to designing and constructing buildings with a decreased impact on their surroundings and occupants. In the last decade, environmentally responsible design has increasingly become a recognizable concept for homeowners and businesses alike.

The practice of green building reduces the impact of the built environment on both natural environment and human health through:

- Conservation and efficient use of resources
- Reduced solid waste generation, pollutants and overall environmental impact.
- Protection of human health for building occupants (U.S. EPA)

### Greener Buildings, Healthy People

The built environment can have a variety of negative effects on human health which, in turn, can affect employee productivity, retention and morale. Green building selects products such as furniture, carpeting, paint, green cleaners and construction materials that do not contain the harmful chemicals used during traditional manufacturing processes. The use of natural lighting and specially designed HVAC systems also increase human health and comfort in the indoor environment.

### Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) developed LEED to provide a well-defined framework for building owners and managers to identify and execute green building in all phases including design, construction, operations and maintenance. The LEED framework includes practical ways to implement and measure green building performance.

There are many benefits to green building, and the most effective projects address the impacts with a whole-systems approach in every phase of the project. Further, whether or not looking at green building certifications, the project doesn't end with the completion of the building. Monitoring building performance ensures that the investment is maximized for years to come.

## RESOURCES

### U.S. EPA Green Building

[www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/about](http://www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/about)

### Sustainable Landscaping (U.S. EPA Region 3)

[www.epa.gov/greenacres/smithsonian](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/smithsonian)

## IN THE NEWS

### “Paper or Plastic? It May Cost You”

NorthfieldNews.com, May 24

Click [here](#) for full story.

### “UPS Boosts Mileage 40% with Prototype Plastic Delivery Vans”

GreenBiz.com, May 16

Click [here](#) for full story.

## EVENTS

### Harmonizing People and Nature: A New Business Model

June 13

5:00 p.m.

University of Minnesota Student Center Theater, St. Paul

For more information, click [here](#).

## SUCCESS STORY

Solid waste management – prevention, reuse and then recycling – is an important component of the green building process. Waste Wise member [CB Richard Ellis](#) recently diverted 70 percent (48.75 tons) of the construction waste created on the jobsite over the course of the five-month build-out of the CB Richard Ellis Minneapolis headquarters. Partnerships played a key role to achieve the company's goals related to this construction project, one of which was solid waste management. A partnership with a design-build company, the general contractor, ensured that CBRE had direct involvement in the selection of the waste-hauling company for the project, which was important since the space was planned for LEED Gold certification. The selection resulted in a successful and strategic partnership between the hauling company and CBRE, which ensured that at least 70 percent of the construction waste was recycled per project requirements, that tracking was diligent, and that reporting was timely and accurate.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

**Thank you to our new and renewing members:**

### CORPORATE

Greenlights Recycling, Inc. (Blaine)

### SUPPORTER

Amazon Environmental (Fridley)

Bachman's (Minneapolis)

BAE Systems (Fridley)

District Energy (St. Paul)

Goodrich Sensor & Integrated Systems (Burnsville)

Kandiyohi County Recycling (Willmar)

Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen (Park Rapids)

Macalester College (St. Paul)

St. Luke's Hospital (Duluth)

St. Paul Linoleum & Carpet (Eagan)

Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Red Wing)

## SPONSORSHIP AND ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you interested in promoting your business's products, services and accomplishments to more than 1,000 businesses statewide? Would you like to position your business as a sustainability leader? For \$199, your business will become the sole sponsor of a monthly Waste Wise e-News edition to include premier logo placement and an advertisement. Contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or [kworley@mnchamber.com](mailto:kworley@mnchamber.com) to secure your sponsorship today!

## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Not a member but would like to join? Want to take full advantage of your member benefits? Contact Kate Worley at (651) 292-4662 or [kworley@mnchamber.com](mailto:kworley@mnchamber.com).

*Disclosure: Waste Wise e-News is a tool to inform our members of current events or waste issues. The content of Waste Wise e-News is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Minnesota Waste Wise does not endorse any of the following waste services, organizations or events. Any such portrayal is unintentional by Minnesota Waste Wise.*