



Waste Wise e-News

A Tool for Environmental Sustainability Resources and Networking

GREEN BUILDING

Green building – also called sustainable building – uses environmentally responsible processes and resource efficiency throughout a building’s lifecycle, including design, construction, operations, remodeling and, finally, deconstruction (U.S. EPA). Ongoing implementation of green building practices and ongoing operations have economic, health and environmental benefits.

Impact of buildings in the U.S.

Buildings and their occupants have a significant impact on natural resources. According to the U.S. Green Building Council, the U.S. built environment has the following impacts on resource usage and the environment:

- 79 percent of electricity consumption; 39 percent of energy use
- 40 percent of raw materials use
- 30 percent of waste output (136 million tons annually)
- 14 percent of potable water consumption

Components of green building

As with any approach to sustainability, it is important when focusing on green building to consider it an ongoing process. The green building journey begins before the building’s construction, considering location, site/architecture/design, materials usage (considering post-consumer recycled content and end-of-life disposal), and overall footprint. Once built, the ongoing operations are a crucial factor in authentically maintaining a green building. Since building performance – energy/water usage, emissions and solid waste – account for a large portion of a building’s impact, it is important to do ongoing assessments of building performance. In addition, human interaction within the building environment can account for diminished performance, which is why behavior modification is such a crucial part of any environmental performance program.

RESOURCES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Components of Green Building

www.epa.gov/greenbuilding/pubs/components.htm

U.S. Green Building Council

www.usgbc.org

IN THE NEWS

“Disposing of Old Medicines can be Tricky Business”

MPR News, February 1, 2010

Click [here](#) for full story.

“Madden’s on Gull Lake Presented Minnesota’s Sustainable Tourism Award”

Brainerd Dispatch, January 30, 2010
Click [here](#) for full story.

“The Elephant in the Room has a Big Carbon Footprint”

GreenBiz.com, January 27, 2010
Click [here](#) for full story.

CONGRATULATIONS

Minnesota Waste Wise congratulates **Deluxe Corporation** of Shoreview, Minn., for winning the “2010 Resolution – Save More Waste Less – Event” membership promotion. Accordingly, Deluxe Corporation will receive a Minnesota Waste Wise advertising gift package worth more than \$2,500.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Is your business interested in promoting its services to more than 500 businesses statewide? Would you like to position your business as a sustainability leader? For \$300, your business will become the sole sponsor of the March 2010 Waste Wise e-News to include premier logo placement and an advertisement. Contact Jamie Csizmadia at (651) 292-4675 or jcsizmadia@mnchamber.com to secure your sponsorship today!

MEMBER WELCOME

Welcome and thanks to our new and renewing members:

Anoka County (Anoka)
Bernick’s Beverages & Vending (Waite Park)
Carleton College (Northfield)
Cass County (Walker)
Dakota Valley Recycling (Burnsville)
Deluxe Corporation (Shoreview)
Deluxe Corporation (Arden Hills)
Entegris (Chaska)
Fairview Health Services (Minneapolis)
Jobs Plus (Waseca)
LHB (Minneapolis)
Miller Felpax (Winona)
Minnesota Air Guard (Duluth)
Minnesota State Colleges & Universities (St. Paul)
Minnesota State University, Mankato (Mankato)
Minnesota State University, Winona (Winona)
NordicWare (Minneapolis)
Ocean Tech (St. Louis Park)
Pepsi Cola Bottling of Pipestone (Pipestone)
Unilev/Wells Fargo Center (St. Paul)
Seelye Craftsman (Plymouth)
Seneca Foods Corporation (Rochester)
Simcote (St. Paul)
Welsh Companies (Minnetonka)

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Not a member but would like to join? Are you a current member wanting to take full advantage of your member benefits? Contact Jamie Csizmadia at (651) 292-4675 or jcsizmadia@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.

