

Media Release

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June 9, 2009

With the Sale of the Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center Finalized, The Green Institute Looks to the Future



(Minneapolis, MN) Ownership of the Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center (PEEC) was officially transferred to the Greenway Office LLC, an affiliate of Wellington Management, Inc. on June 1, 2009. “We’re anticipating a seamless transition. Our building is at full occupancy and the Green Institute has become a signed lease holder,” said Helen Spry, The Green Institute’s Building Operator.

The PEEC, a 57,609 square foot office/warehouse building located in the heart of South Minneapolis, was the first speculatively-built green commercial building in the Upper Midwest. The building was conceived as the dream resolution in a neighborhood-based land dispute over a local government agency’s proposal to construct a high-volume garbage transfer station over fifteen years ago. The Green Institute used the building’s sustainability features to recruit over a dozen tenants working in the industries of energy, environment and social justice to re-locate to a low-income urban neighborhood. Today, this hub for eco-enterprise brings almost 150 annual jobs to a former brownfields site.

Green Institute Board Chair Bill Kingsbury commented: “It was a bittersweet day for The Green Institute. The ability to pay off our historic debt allows us to better focus the time and attention of our board and staff on our mission and programs. We thank our partners at the City and all of our creditors for their patience as we have worked through these difficult times.”

“Some of our programs, such as Community Energy, have been growing in the past year,” reflected Diana McKeown, Program Coordinator for Metro – CERTs, which is currently hiring additional staff with funding from a Bush Foundation Grant.

In the past year, the Green Institute has helped over twenty communities with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, has partnered with construction skills training and job placement programs, including Goodwill – Easterseals and the American Indian OIC, and has planned an expansion of energy conservation programming and clean energy research and development.

“The sale was a definite win-win for both parties,” said Jamie Heipel, Green Institute Executive Director, “We look forward to building on fifteen years of work within the community through job creation, waste reduction and clean energy solutions.”

For more information about The Green Institute, visit www.greeninstitute.org

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