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Contact: Michael Arny, President
Leonardo Academy
Phone: 608-280-0255
Email: michaelarny@leonardoacademy.org

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Asked to Include All Building Owners in Giveaway of Emission Allowances Worth \$1 Billion

June 10, 1999 -- On June 3, 1999, Leonardo Academy's Cleaner and Greener® Program asked the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to use emission allowances to reward all building owners for emission reductions delivered by their energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. In the past, all emission allowances have been given to polluters, while building owners that reduce emissions by implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects have been passed over.

Leonardo Academy filed this request with the WDNR as part of WDNR's public hearing process on the draft rules for reducing nitrogen oxide emissions, a pollutant that causes ground level ozone. These rules are being prepared in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) requirement that Wisconsin and 22 other states prepare and implement nitrogen oxide emission reduction plans. In crafting these rules, the WDNR is deciding how it will give away 1.0 to 2.9 billion dollars worth of allowances for nitrogen oxide emissions.

The U.S. EPA has issued guidance that allows WDNR to include rewards for emission reductions delivered by energy efficiency and renewable energy in nitrogen oxide emission reduction programs, but it is up to the WDNR to include these rewards in Wisconsin's rules.

Leonardo Academy asked the environmental protection agencies in all 50 states, including the WDNR, to incorporate the Cleaner and Greener Principles into all future pollution reduction programs. These principles (1) reward all building owners for emission reductions delivered by energy efficiency and renewable energy, (2) reduce the cost of pollution reduction programs, and (3) increase the environmental benefits of pollution reduction programs.

Providing rewards for all building owners and others that implement energy efficiency or renewable energy projects will create an additional revenue stream for schools, local and state government, businesses, and other building owners. Building owners can use this additional revenue stream to further support the building upgrades they need to better carry out their respective missions.

The Cleaner and Greener Principles for Pollution Reduction Programs are corporately supported by

Johnson Controls, Philips Lighting, Trane, Quad/Graphics, and Kinko's.

Leonardo Academy is a nonprofit organization that works on energy and environmental issues. Leonardo Academy's Cleaner and Greener® Program is devoted to putting the competitive marketplace to work on cleaning up the environment. The Cleaner and Greener® web site at www.cleanerandgreener.org features a calculator that lets building owners calculate the emission reductions caused by energy-saving projects.

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