



For Immediate Release
March 24, 2010

Contact: Bob Hume
bob.hume@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651.266.8518

Saint Paul Ranks 11th on EPA's 2009 List of Cities with the Most ENERGY STAR Labeled Buildings

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman announced today that Saint Paul, along with Minneapolis and Bloomington, has ranked eleventh on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) 2009 list of cities with the most ENERGY STAR labeled buildings.

“EPA's ranking is important because it recognizes Saint Paul citizens for their dedication to making our buildings more green and energy efficient,” said Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, “The steps we have taken in recent years to improve building efficiency, energy production, and our environment has made Saint Paul a national leader in environmental sustainability.”

A leader in sustainable initiatives, Saint Paul is constantly striving to become more energy independent. Since the passing of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in February 2009, Saint Paul has received about \$4 million through the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), nearly \$3 million of which will create job opportunities upgrading energy efficiency of public, commercial, and residential buildings.

Some of the Saint Paul buildings that have earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR designation include: 180 East 5th Street, Court International, the Golden Rule Building, Lawson Commons, Metropolitan Council Headquarters, Securian Financial Group's 400 & 401 Buildings, Travelers, UBS Plaza and Wells Fargo Place.

During Mayor Coleman's first term the City opened the first Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certified police station in the state; worked with Xcel Energy to replace a coal-burning plant with a clean natural gas plant; welcomed Cub Foods' first LEED-Gold certified grocery store on Saint Paul's East Side; secured a \$1 million DOE solar thermal grant with District Energy Saint Paul and helped facilitate a ground-breaking agreement to create a clean, renewable energy source for the Rock-Tenn plant.

Mayor Coleman also hired the City's first sustainability coordinator, energy coordinator, and water quality and resources coordinator. He signed the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement soon after entering office and will invest more than \$1 million to retrofit City buildings for energy efficiency and cost savings.

Buildings that earn the ENERGY STAR use an average of 35 percent less energy than typical buildings and also release 35 percent less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The scale helps organizations assess how efficiently their buildings use energy relative to similar buildings nationwide. A building that scores 75 or higher on EPA's 1-100 scale is eligible for the

ENERGY STAR. Commercial buildings that can earn the ENERGY STAR include offices, bank branches, financial centers, retail stores, courthouses, hospitals, hotels, K-12 schools, medical offices, supermarkets, dormitories, and warehouses.

###