



## news release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Commercial Energy Efficiency Survey Results Released**

Mankato, Minn. (October 21, 2010) – The Envision 2020 Green Building Group and Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) are releasing the results of a survey of business leaders conducted in September. The purpose of the survey was to assess area businesses' status and knowledge of energy efficiency initiatives and renewable energy to help the Green Building Group and GMG establish their plans for the future.

The full survey results, as well as a summary of highlights, will be available on Greater Mankato Growth's and Envision 2020's websites.

The survey results indicate that many businesses have taken steps to enhance their energy efficiency. Of the businesses surveyed, 35 percent have conducted or arranged for an energy audit or attempted to estimate their energy footprint. Approximately 66 percent of the businesses indicated they have done an energy efficiency improvement or upgrade or process improvement that resulted in energy savings in the last 3 years, and 49 percent are considering making initial or additional improvements in the future.

Despite the apparent desire and willingness of many businesses to engage in energy saving activities, the survey revealed many businesses struggle with where to get information. Approximately 45 percent of businesses surveyed indicated they didn't know where to look for information on energy efficiency improvements and where to find financial assistance. About 63 percent indicated an interest in attending a workshop focused on energy efficiency upgrades, options, incentives and other information, while 74 percent indicated it would be helpful or very helpful if someone were to publish a list of available resources.

"When it comes to energy efficiency, there are so many resources out there, but because this is such a rapidly expanding field, sifting through all the information available on the web and elsewhere can be overwhelming," said Tom Riley, GMG's New Business Development Director, who also participates in the Envision 2020 Green Building Group. "In reality, this has actually been quite a daunting process for us too. These are uncharted waters, but this is information our businesses want and need."

In direct response to the survey, GMG has put a guide of energy efficiency resources for business on its website at [greatermankato.com/business-energyefficiency.php](http://greatermankato.com/business-energyefficiency.php). "It's a work in progress, but it's a start," explained Riley of the site's ongoing development. "As we are made aware of new viable resources for business, we will add them to the site," explained Riley.

Also based on the survey results, the Envision 2020 Green Building Group, in conjunction with Greater Mankato Growth, will offer two workshops on Energy Efficiency. The first will take place during Minnesota Manufacturers Week and address energy efficiency issues specific to manufacturing on **October 26** from 4 – 6 pm at the Greater Mankato Business Development Center, 1961 Premier Drive, Mankato. Those working in the manufacturing field can RSVP for this event by calling 507.385.6640 or emailing [info@greatermankato.com](mailto:info@greatermankato.com). More information on this workshop is also available at

[greatermankato.com/business-energyefficiency.php](http://greatermankato.com/business-energyefficiency.php). A second energy efficiency workshop for all businesses will take place during the Greater Mankato Business Showcase on **April 12, 2011**.

The energy efficiency survey, online resource guide and workshops were funded in part through a grant from the South Central Minnesota Economic Collaborative.

#### **About the Envision 2020 Green Building Group**

The Green Building Group is part of the Envision 2020 Economic Development Key Performance area. Envision 2020 began more than four years ago, with a planning and visioning stage that included well over 400 citizens taking the time to engage in the important work of envisioning a desired future for the Greater Mankato region. Together, they organized a visionary plan into six Key Performance Areas and identified a total of 34 goals, including energy diversification, including increasing energy efficiency and developing renewable energy industries.

#### **About Greater Mankato Growth**

Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) is committed to advancing business for a stronger community. As the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development organization serving the regional marketplace, GMG advances business through: existing business support, new business growth, business promotion, talent development, public affairs, community marketing, visitor attraction and servicing and civic engagement.

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