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ST. PAUL™

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District Energy St. Paul Solar Project Wins IREC's Innovation Award

Dallas, Texas, October 17, 2011 – District Energy St. Paul is pleased to announce that the Solar Thermal District Energy Project was awarded one of five innovation awards from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) under the category of community renewables.

This year's Innovation Awards were selected through a competitive process and targeted initiatives aimed at supporting clean energy workforce development, community renewables, state and local government and K-12 projects. For nearly three decades, IREC has worked with industry, government, educators and other stakeholders to ensure that the broader use of renewable energies is possible, safe, affordable and practical, particularly for the individual consumer. Ken Jurman, IREC chair commented on this year's awardees, "...winning submissions demonstrate initiatives and best practices that are helping move clean energy technologies closer to becoming the norm rather than the exception."

District Energy developed this project through a grant from the Department of Energy's Solar America Communities program and partnerships with the City of Saint Paul and Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources (DER). The head of the Division of Energy Resources, Bill Grant, remarked, "The District Energy St. Paul solar thermal project serves as a national model for integration of renewable energy and combined heat and power. It is both replicable and scalable."

District Energy owns and operates the 23,000 square foot solar hot water system, making Saint Paul home to the largest hot water system in the country. "Expanding renewable energy is a critical piece for the future of Saint Paul," Mayor Chris Coleman said. "I'm excited that Saint Paul and its partner District Energy are earning national attention for these cutting edge technologies."

The project is also the first solar project in the United States to be integrated into a district energy system. The solar energy produced is used on-site (at the Saint Paul RiverCentre) for domestic hot water and space heating, with excess energy exported to serve other buildings within the district heating network. This type of solar thermal system may be employed by other district energy networks including hospitals, industrial parks, and business and academic campuses nationwide.

For now, the installation serves as a great teaching application, hosting hundreds of visitors in just its first six months of operation. Tours and workshops have been given to local installers, engineering association, guests from the German Consulate, International Energy Agency, University of Minnesota, International Facility Management Association, Building Owners and Managers Association, and solar industry supporters from around the country.

Ken Smith, President of District Energy St. Paul, expressed gratitude for the project experience and the outstanding project partners. “It is truly an honor to be recognized by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, a national leader in creating opportunities for success in renewable energy. We started on this journey with ambitious goals to increase our company’s renewable portfolio, and motivate other communities with a truly showcase project. After 6 months, we are confident in the installation’s performance and grateful to the Saint Paul RiverCentre, the DOE, the MN Division of Energy Resources, and the City of Saint Paul for being with us every step of the way. We are also excited to see local partners, particularly TKDA and Johnson Controls leveraging their experience to deliver transformative community energy projects.

District Energy St. Paul takes pride in integrating effective and renewable solutions that benefit our Customers, our Community and our Environment. *To learn more about the project, visit <http://www.districtenergy.com/solutions/solar.html> or <http://www.solarsaintpaul.com>.*

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