



Contact:
Agatha Vaaler
The Green Institute
(612)278-7142
avaaler@greeninstitute.org

Media Advisory – October 2, 2004
The Green Institute celebrates solar innovation!

The Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES) is once again showcasing the handiwork of solar enthusiasts across the North Star State for the annual Minnesota Solar Tour on Saturday, October 4th between 10AM and 5 PM

The **Green Institute** will open the doors of its flagship eco-enterprise center as one of the tour sites. The main feature will be a 34 kilowatt solar photovoltaic array:

- There are 696 modules on the roof facing southeast, and 92 modules on the side building wall facing southwest.
- The type of cells are called “thin-film amorphous silicon,” less expensive to manufacture but also less efficient than the average PV cell; on average however, it costs about the same per watt as a typical solar cell, but takes more roof space for the same output.
- Generates enough electricity (40,000 kWh/yr) to offset approximately 25 percent of the total annual power needs of the building and its tenants.
- During weekends when the building is not in high use, the system will create a surplus of energy that will be sold back to Xcel Energy through a grid inter-tie connection. Through net-metering, the energy will sell at the same rate Xcel charges the building for power.

The tour will also highlight innovative features throughout the building, a former LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) pilot, which houses the offices and operations of, among other progressive organizations, the ReUse Center, which sells salvaged building materials and sustainable wood products, the Will Steger Foundation, which advocates global warming awareness and Peace Coffee, which distributes fair-trade coffee.

*The ReUse Center will be open for business, as usual, between the hours of 10AM and 7PM.

*The Minnesota Electric Auto Association will park selected member electric cars in the parking lot.

Date: Saturday, October 4th, 10AM-5PM
Place: The Phillips Eco-Enterprise Center

**2801 21st Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407**

For more information on the MRES Solar Tour and sites, visit :
<http://www.mnrenewables.org/events/solartour/index.php>

For more information on the Green Institute, visit www.greeninstitute.org

###