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ISO New England Earns LEED Gold-Level Environmental Certification for Corporate Buildings

First Commercial Office Headquarters in New England to Receive Gold

Holyoke, MA – January 14, 2008 – The new headquarters of ISO New England Inc. has been awarded gold-level environmental certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program, ISO New England and its architectural firm, Spagnolo Gisness & Associates, Inc. (SG&A) today announced.

The two-building Holyoke campus is the first corporate headquarters in New England to receive the prestigious gold ranking, considered a high standard of sustainable design, development, and construction. At 160,000 square foot, it is also currently the largest commercial office facility to receive gold certification in the region.

"The design and renovation of ISO New England's buildings incorporated a number of features that were both environmentally friendly and cost effective," said Robert Ludlow, ISO New England's Chief Financial Officer. "We are proud of achieving gold certification and congratulate our design team and all those who contributed to making our new headquarters energy efficient."

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for evaluating site sustainability, water and energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and material and resource selection and management. Thus, cooperation from the entire project team was necessary to achieve certification.

"ISO New England challenged the design, project management, and construction teams to create the most energy efficient and cost-effective building it could," stated SG&A Founding Principal, Jeff Tompkins. "It is refreshing to have a client that understands the need to give back by taking less and a team that can rise to those challenges. We are all very thankful for the ISO's commitment and proud of the team achievement."

In addition to the ISO and SG&A, AHA Consulting Engineers, and project developer Jones Lang LaSalle, were instrumental in achieving the gold standard of LEED certification. The project team also included construction managers, Barr & Barr, Inc., and structural engineers, McNamara/Salvia, Inc.

Among the building and construction features that contributed to the ISO's LEED gold-level environmental certification are:

- Almost 97 % of the construction and demolition waste was recycled.
- New materials used were manufactured within 500 miles, limiting transportation impacts.
- Interior building materials and finishes contain more than 17% recycled content.
- When applied and installed, paints, sealants, and carpets emitted a low amount of volatile organic compounds, and CO₂-controlled ventilation system further protect air quality.
- Insulation, windows, lighting, heating/air conditioning systems, and water heating systems are energy efficient, resulting in a 38.1% annual energy cost savings for the new and renovated buildings combined.
- Low-flow and automatic sensor operated plumbing fixtures, save 26%, or more than 311,000 gallons of water annually.
- Bike racks, preferred parking spots for carpoolers, and outlets to plug in electric cars are available for the required percentage of employees.
- Landscape plants are drought-tolerant native species.

“I applaud ISO New England for its leadership in attaining LEED gold certification for its fabulous new building,” said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles. “In Massachusetts, we are making energy efficiency the central component of our energy policy, and energy efficient buildings like ISO New England’s can take us a long way toward our energy goals.”

To further offset its carbon footprint, ISO New England purchased renewable energy credits totaling more than 1 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year for two years. By purchasing electricity generated from renewable fuels, the ISO will help avoid the additional production of harmful emissions.

ISO New England plans to maintain practical and ecological facilities-management, waste-management, and purchasing programs to ensure it continually makes wise use of resources. ISO New England also has created an employee “Green Team” that develops ideas and plans for advancing additional sustainability initiatives.

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About ISO New England: ISO New England, an independent, not-for-profit corporation, helps promote the health of New England’s economy and protect the well-being of its people by ensuring the constant availability of electricity, today and for future generations. ISO New England meets this obligation in three ways: by reliably operating New England’s 32,000-megawatt bulk electric power generation and transmission system, by overseeing and ensuring the fair administration of the region’s \$10 billion wholesale electricity markets, and by managing comprehensive regional electric power planning.

About Spagnolo Gisness & Associates: Al Spagnolo, Bill Gisness and Jeff Tompkins founded Spagnolo Gisness & Associates, Inc. (SG&A) in 1991 to create a full service architectural, interior design, and planning firm built around a strong design culture that remains truly client inclusive. Regional leaders in sustainable design, SG&A offers comprehensive design services in strategic focus markets: office buildings, mixed-use, corporate interiors, multi-family housing and higher education projects throughout the Northeast and beyond.