



## Carbon Offsets

### Making your attendance carbon neutral.

By partnering with NativeEnergy, Minnesota Green Communities has offset the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with your participation in the Green by Design annual conference in order to help address global climate change.

### How did we do it?

First, we estimated the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions resulting from the venue energy use, accommodations, and air travel and ground transportation for attendees, speakers, and Minnesota Green Communities staff.

Next, we acquired the CO<sub>2</sub> offsets to mitigate the estimated 12 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated by the conference.

Green By Design's purchases of carbon offsets from NativeEnergy have been helping build farmer-owned, distributed wind turbines, primarily installed in the midwest, especially in Minnesota. This year we have the opportunity to help build the Greensburg Wind Farm project. This project is being developed as a 12.5 MW project, comprised of eight Suzlon 1.25 MW wind turbines. It will be located just outside the town limits of Greensburg, Kansas.

Greensburg was 95 percent destroyed by an EF5 tornado in May of 2007, and is rebuilding as a "green city" with all buildings LEED certified, among other greening efforts. State and federal governments, organizations, major corporations, and local businesses—including a John Deere dealership—are supporting Greensburg by helping promote, plan, and fund this green initiative. The project will help Greensburg achieve its green energy goal of providing homes and businesses with a clean energy source. The Greensburg Wind Farm is expected to achieve commercial operations by June 30, 2010.

To learn more about the project, visit [www.nativeenergy.com/pages/greensburg](http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/greensburg).

### Why did we do it?

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are accumulating in the atmosphere like a thickening blanket, trapping the sun's heat, and causing the planet to warm. This buildup of gases threatens to disrupt the Earth's climate system, including the potential for sea level rise, severe storms, greater temperature extremes, and changes in ocean currents.

Our donation demonstrates Minnesota Green Communities' commitment to educating our stakeholders about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and the role that voluntary reductions of greenhouse gases have in addressing this critical environmental issue.

### Looking beyond the conference.

We encourage you to continue to promote a "carbon-neutral" lifestyle. We have begun by offsetting your energy and transportation costs for the Green by Design conference, and we encourage you to do the rest! For more information on offsetting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reducing your environmental footprint, visit [www.nativeenergy.com](http://www.nativeenergy.com).

*Over for About the Venue sheet*

**12 tons minus 12 tons  
= Carbon Neutral**



[www.mngreencommunities.org](http://www.mngreencommunities.org)

A collaboration of the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund,  
the Family Housing Fund, and Enterprise





## About the Venue

### The Depot Minneapolis • A Renaissance Hotel

While planning for the conference, Minnesota Green Communities looked for a venue that would be consistent with the green message of the event. We chose The Depot for several reasons. As an adaptive-reuse development, The Depot preserved a building no longer in use, extended the useful life of the structure, maintained a walkable streetscape, and avoided the creation of waste from demolition and construction and the energy consumption of making new materials for a new building.

Located in downtown Minneapolis, The Depot also allows the greatest number of participants to choose to arrive without cars, perhaps parking at a suburban park-and-ride, taking a local bus, biking in on the trail by the Mississippi River, or taking the Hiawatha Light Rail. The Depot is committed to sustainability practices like recycling throughout the hotel in both meeting rooms and common areas. It uses 100 percent recycled notepads and pens in meeting rooms, and recycled paper throughout. Guest rooms are equipped with energy-efficient lighting and reduced-flow showerheads. The Depot also continues to manage vacant room temperature and lighting, and utilizes a towel and linen conservation program.

Additionally, with the assistance of The Depot and Renewing the Countryside, locally-produced food is being incorporated into our conference menu, reducing transportation energy while supporting our farming community. Furthermore, Minnesota Green Communities and The Depot are partnering with People Serving People to ensure that leftover food is being taken to a local shelter so that food is not wasted.

### About the Depot

For nearly seven decades, family members and loved ones stood at the atrium of the Depot and waved to passengers boarding the trains of the Milwaukee Road line. The Depot was a hub of activity during the late 1800s, and at the peak of activity in 1920, the prosperous Depot bustled with 29 trains departing daily. While the last train left in 1971, the Depot still stands as a monument to the classic travel experience.

Today, the fully renovated Milwaukee Road Depot has reopened its doors enhancing the revitalization movement of Minneapolis' Riverfront District. This downtown hospitality venue boasts two award-winning Marriott hotels, a 15,000 square foot indoor water-park, a full service bar and restaurant, a variety of unique banquet and meeting spaces, heated underground parking, and an enclosed, seasonal ice skating rink.

Nestled between the historic Riverfront and Mill Districts, The Depot is walking distance from the Metrodome, downtown shopping and nightlife, the Mississippi River, St. Anthony Main, the Hiawatha Light Rail, and many other popular local venues and attractions.

*Over for Carbon Offsets sheet*

#### For more information:

##### The Depot Minneapolis

[www.TheDepotMinneapolis.com](http://www.TheDepotMinneapolis.com)

##### Renewing the Countryside

[www.renewingthecountryside.org](http://www.renewingthecountryside.org)

##### People Serving People

[www.peopleservingpeople.org](http://www.peopleservingpeople.org)

