

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Minnesota GreenStar and Alliance for Environmental Sustainability  
Announce Partnership to Advance Green Remodeling Practices**

**(Minneapolis, MN and Grand Rapid, MI; May 21<sup>st</sup> 2013)** – Minnesota GreenStar (MNGS) and the Alliance for Environmental Sustainability (AES) will make MNGS's successful Green Remodeling Certification program; 'GreenStar' available outside of Minnesota. Initial expansion states include Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin, followed by Indiana and Ohio. Nationwide expansion is also possible.

With over 120 million existing homes responsible for 21 percent of the U.S's energy use and Americans spending 90 percent of their time indoors in often unhealthy environments, the partnership's efforts will focus on educating occupants and remodelers on improving the five key categories of existing homes; Energy Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Water Conservation, Site & Community Impact and Resource Efficiency. This is a holistic program that views the home and lot has an interactive system.

"Our entire board is thrilled with this collaboration," said Minnesota GreenStar Board President Marc Slood. " We are impressed with AES's success at delivering Green Certifications through their well-developed Green Rater / Verifier network, which certified about 400 Green new homes through the LEED for Homes program last year alone. MNGS has a robust remodeling program that is easily adaptable to the States AES serves."

Brett Little, executive director of AES, noted that "The GreenStar Remodeling certification works for remodels of virtually all sizes and types, making certification of those projects meaningful and attainable."

Pilot trainings for "GreenStar" qualified contractors & homeowners are happening on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater and Ann Arbor and on the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Inner City Christian Federation in Grand Rapids Michigan. Lead by Michael Anshel, owner of an award winning design + build firm in Minneapolis and a visionary of MNGS. Pilot training also planned for Chicago on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

More information about the partnership and its programs is available at both organizations' websites,  
[www.mngreenstar.org](http://www.mngreenstar.org) [www.alliancees.org](http://www.alliancees.org)  
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Founded in 2007, Minnesota GreenStar is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has developed a leading residential building standards and certification program created to promote healthy, durable, high-performance design and construction for both new and existing homes. An objective, third-party verification system assures consumers that the new home or remodeling project meets the program requirements and is constructed as designed. A whole-systems approach applies the five (5) key concepts of green building programs – Energy Efficiency, Resource Efficiency (including durability), Indoor Environmental Quality, Water Conservation, Site and Community – to the traditional building process. The MNGS program improves the impact of green building programs on individuals, their families, the community, and the environment.

#### **ABOUT ALLIANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

AES is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission of *“Working collaboratively to provide awareness, education, and access to sustainable building resources for individuals, experts, and leaders to encourage sustainable choices.”* AES was founded in 2000 by a dedicated group of community and business members who saw the need to help ensure that our children and our community would have a healthy, safe and affordable environment. AES provides training, education, seminars, and consulting services, supporting investments in homes, communities, and environments by implementing sustainable building practices. AES trains and educates on topics such as green products, green building, LEED, energy efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, Energy Star V3, Green Communities and sustainable residential design.

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