

LHB, Inc. Wins Smart Business Award

LHB, Inc. has been recognized as a 2008 Minnesota Waste Wise Smart Business. Minnesota Waste Wise is a business membership program of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce devoted to help businesses reduce waste voluntarily and save money.

“LHB has been leading the way in Minnesota in green building standards for nearly a decade,” said Mark Blaiser, Minnesota Waste Wise executive director. “By incorporating LEED principles and practices into the design of its buildings, LHB is saving resources and energy. This translates into long term cost savings for the business owner.” LHB received two 2008 Governor’s Awards for Waste and Pollution Prevention at the Minnesota Air, Water, and Waste Environmental Conference in February.

The first project was the new Two Harbors High School. Lake Superior School District-ISD 381 and LHB partnered to design a high-performance, green building that is energy efficient, improves water quality on-site and reduces waste. Through its green design, the project saves approximately 1,800 gallons of water per year, saves 6.7 million Kbtu per year and reduces 2.2 million pounds of CO2 emissions. These reductions not only save natural resources, but will save the school district approximately \$85,700 per year. In addition, the cost of building the school was kept lower than the state and national average.

The second project was a collaboration between LHB and Bloomington based Quality Bicycle Products to design the highest rated LEED certified building in Minnesota to date. 4,600 pounds of solid waste was eliminated during construction. Other environmental benefits include a savings of over 2.4 million Kbtu, and the conservation of over 45,000 gallons of water per year. Energy cost savings total \$75,000 per year.

Bill Bennett, LHB’s CEO, noted, “We are really proud of this award. Over the past 15 years, our architects and engineers have worked very hard to gather measurable data from our projects. We have actual numbers to prove that our high-performance designs save money and reduce waste. Not only is high-performance design the right thing to do for the environment, but it makes good business sense too.”

LHB is proving that reduced resource consumption and energy use is smart business for a better environment, Blaiser noted. To learn more about LHB visit them on the Web at www.LHBcorp.com. To learn more about LEED principles and practices visit the U.S. Green Building Council at www.usgbc.org.

Minnesota Waste Wise helps businesses find ways to reduce waste and save money in the process. This service is available to all businesses in Minnesota. For information, call (651) 292-4662, or visit www.mnwastewise.org.