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CHRISTY WEBBER LANDSCAPES HEADQUARTERS AWARDED LEED PLATINUM RATING Becomes First New Construction Certified LEED Platinum in City of Chicago

Chicago, Illinois - November 20, 2007 - The new Christy Webber Landscapes headquarters has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The platinum rating is the USGBC's highest award (only five percent of LEED certified buildings are rated platinum - currently only 57 in the world). The Christy Webber Landscapes headquarters building is the first newly constructed building in Chicago to be awarded this honor.

Some of the key green building design features of the CWL headquarters building are:

- **Green roof:** Intensive and extensive green roof system accentuates building, captures and stores rainwater, insulates structure
- **Geothermal heating and cooling system:** Harvests the consistently moderate temperature within the earth's surface to heat the building in winter and keep it cool in summer
- **Active and passive solar thermal:** Supplements geothermal system for winter heat, supplies domestic hot water and provides heat to warehouse building

The building is part of Rancho Verde, an eco-industrial park that has revitalized a brownfield site in the city's East Garfield Park neighborhood. Since the early 1900s, the site had been occupied by a variety of industrial enterprises, including an illegal dump and an auto pound. Christy Webber Landscapes is the anchor tenant, with approximately 180 employees based on site. Most of these employees reside within the Chicago city limits, and a number of them have come to CWL through job training programs, such as the City's GreenCorps program.

Rancho Verde has been designed incorporating a high performance infrastructure, including an innovative, comprehensive stormwater management system. Rainwater that falls on the property is filtered through an integrated "treatment train" of best management practices, including lot line bioswales and a porous-bottomed detention basin.

The site features several Chicago/Midwestern "firsts":

- First green industry industrial park in the Midwest
- First use of pervious pavement on Chicago Department of Transportation public street
- First use of induction lamp technology for public street lighting
- First and largest tower-mounted vertical axis wind turbine for electricity generation

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RIGHT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

The company has launched an informational website (<http://www.chicagogreenworks.com>) that chronicles the development of their new headquarters and the numerous green systems and products incorporated into the design of Rancho Verde.