



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Herring Run Watershed Center Awarded LEED® -NC Gold Green Building Certification

Building is first in city to receive LEED-NC Gold

June 30, 2009 (Baltimore, MD)—The Herring Run Watershed Association announced today that the Herring Run Watershed Center, located at 3545 Belair Road, has been awarded LEED-NC Gold by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED is the USGBC’s leading rating system that recognizes the world’s greenest, most energy efficient, and high performing buildings.

The Watershed Center is a model of green building techniques and much more. “It is intended to be a hub of activity in northeast Baltimore for environmental education, citizen action, and community revitalization,” said Mary Sloan Roby, Executive Director of the Herring Run Watershed Association. “Inside its walls we offer environmental education activities, teach homeowners about water and energy-efficient materials, and share information about sustainability with local organizations and businesses.

The Watershed Center was designed by Ziger/Snead LLC and built by Baltimore Green Construction to achieve LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material along with a variety of other sustainable strategies. LEED verifies environmental performance, occupant health, and financial return. LEED was established for market leaders to design & construct buildings that protect and save precious resources while also making good economic sense.

The Watershed Center, formerly the Pelham Bakery, is an all green education center and meeting site. It houses more than 35 green features that include a living roof, a tankless hot water heater, denim insulation, special framing techniques, tubular skylights, and more. The project achieved LEED NC-Gold by successfully attaining 40 points for design, construction, and special innovations, like the special gardens that capture rain water.

For more information or to arrange for a behind-the-scenes tour, contact Lisa Hansen, HRWA Marketing Representative at 410-404-3438 or lhansen@waterfronttech.com.

(more)

About the Herring Run Watershed Association

The Herring Run Watershed Association is a 501(c) 3 organization whose mission is to improve the environmental and aesthetic quality of the Herring Run Watershed by conducting stewardship and education programs, and by mobilizing volunteers for monitoring, restoration and advocacy.

The 31-square mile Herring Run Watershed contains more than 41 miles of streams, which flow into the Back River and ultimately into the Chesapeake Bay. The area covers more than 50 neighborhoods and 1,500 acres of parkland in the northeast side of Baltimore City and the southeast side of Baltimore County. HRWA is active in restoration activities throughout the watershed.

About the U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since UGSBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 17,000 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo (www.greenbuildexpo.org), and a network of 78 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org.

About LEED®

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category. LEED can be applied to all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell developments, existing buildings, homes, neighborhood developments, schools and retail facilities. LEED for Healthcare is currently under development and is expected to be released in early 2008.

Incentives for LEED are available at the state and local level and LEED has also been adopted nationwide by federal agencies, state and local governments, and interested private companies. For more information, visit www.usgbc.org/LEED.