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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread Awarded Business Friend of the Environment

Earns Honor in Environmental Innovation from Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce

RACINE, Wis. (May 12, 2011) – Today, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread received the Business Friend of the Environment Award for its leadership in Environmental Innovation. The award, given by the [Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Association](#) (WMC) – recognizes The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread’s commitment to addressing environmental quality and community issues.

“We’re honored that The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread’s work to limit our environmental impact and carbon footprint has been recognized with the Business Friend of the Environment Award,” said Roger Dower, President of The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. “We believe the Foundation’s dedication to environmentally sustainable practices in our own facilities and programs reinforces our commitment to healthy environments and local communities,” added Dower.

The Foundation was chosen for its recently completed geothermal chiller at Wingspread, the Frank Lloyd Wright landmark that serves as its conference center and headquarters. The previous chiller, commonly referred to as an R-22 refrigerant is technically classified as a greenhouse gas and the resulting by-product of this type of chiller significantly contributed to global warming. In addition, the chiller used a tremendous amount of drinkable water to cool it, approximately 138 gallons a minute, requiring the Foundation to employ a more sustainable solution. The new chiller that was implemented uses renewable ground source thermal mass, which provides lower operating and maintenance costs while saving up to 1.5 million gallons of water each year.

The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread also received a Business Friend of the Environment Award in Environmental Innovation in 2009 for achieving Green [Seal Gold certification](#) for its guesthouse, which at the time was the only Gold-certified building in the United States.

The Foundation joins [eight other organizations](#) this year in receiving the award. According to WMC, the award is given for demonstrating “an innovative approach to environmental protection or putting forth a level of effort beyond that which is required by regulatory compliance.” An independent panel of judges representing industry, the

Department of Natural Resources, the environmental community and the University of Wisconsin selects the winners.

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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit www.johnsonfdn.org.