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NEWS RELEASE

Aug. 17, 2010 – For Immediate Release

Dubuque One of 22 ‘Smarter Cities’ in U.S.

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently named Dubuque one of its “2010 Smarter Cities,” a list of 22 municipalities that are leading the way in green power, energy efficiency, and conservation. According to the NRDC, these cities are already testing out the solutions that will launch America into the 21st century.

“National recognition as a pioneer in sustainability is a tremendous advantage in growing existing businesses and attracting new employers and jobs,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “This is very encouraging as we continue to work with our many partners to help local businesses and households save money and resources.”

The NRDC said, “Dubuque’s city government has made a greener future a top priority for several years, but now they’re reaching out to citizens, nonprofits and business leaders to aid them on the path towards sustainability. Dubuque’s advances in alternative energy development, energy-saving initiatives and individual volunteer action qualify it for the title of a 2010 Smarter City for Energy.” Dubuque’s water pollution control plant upgrade project, IBM’s selection of Dubuque as a pilot city for its American Smarter Cities project, and the City’s plans to revitalize the Historic Millwork District were cited as examples of qualifications for the recognition.

The NRDC reports that cities across America are looking at their municipal energy production and use and asking, “Can we do this better, more responsibly, considering the impacts to budget, health and environment, and fairness and livability concerns?” Energy is just one of a dozen “sustainability factors” that the Smarter Cities project team plans to analyze in the hopes of identifying those leader cities that for a specific factor are putting in place best practices, testing innovative new programs and passing model legislation. For more information, visit <http://smartercities.nrdc.org>. Dubuque also received this recognition in 2008. It is one of four small cities on the list (population under 100,000) and the only Iowa community named to the list in 2010.