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NEWS RELEASE

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2nd Annual ‘Growing Sustainable Communities’ Conference Set for Feb. 19

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Mayor Roy D. Buol and the Dubuque City Council are pleased to announce that Dubuque’s second annual “Growing Sustainable Communities” conference will be held on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009. The public is invited to attend the event, sponsored by the City of Dubuque and Alliant Energy, which will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Grand River Center in the Port of Dubuque. Cost to attend is \$20 per person, which includes lunch.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Promoting Historic Preservation as Part of the Climate Solution” and will offer insight on creating local and regional policies to promote sustainability through historic preservation. Keynote speakers for the event are Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Roya Stanley, director of the Iowa Office for Energy Independence. In addition to their individual presentations, both will participate in a question and answer panel discussion.

“In fall 2007, we had the first collective opportunity to hear from national experts about the science of global climate solutions and how cities can implement programs to improve air quality, reduce emissions of pollutants, and integrate planning, building and zoning codes into sustainability strategies, including green design initiatives,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “The second conference builds importantly upon the inaugural event, attended by over 600 elected officials from around the state, local business, church and education leaders, college students and private citizens, and will provide a remarkable opportunity for Dubuque and our region, already proud of its historic gems, to learn more about how historic preservation is a critical element of any sustainability model. We are indeed honored to welcome these national and state leaders to Dubuque to present on innovative, replicable initiatives for community revitalization, sustainable development, and energy independence!”

(MORE)

Richard Moe often sites a report from the Brookings Institution which projects that, by 2030, the U.S. will have demolished and replaced 82 billion square feet of our current building stock, or nearly one-third of our existing buildings, largely because the vast majority of them were not designed and built to last any longer.

“Buildings are vast repositories of energy. It takes energy to manufacture or extract building materials, more energy to transport them to a construction site, still more energy to assemble them into a building. All of that energy is embodied in the finished structure - and if the structure is demolished and landfilled, the energy locked up in it is totally wasted,” said Moe. “It all comes down to this simple fact: we can’t build our way out of the global warming crisis. We have to conserve our way out. That means we have to make better, wiser use of what we’ve already built.”

Registration for Growing Sustainable Communities is required by Wednesday, Feb. 11. A limited number of student scholarships for the cost of the event are also available. Online registration and payment, as well as additional information, are available at www.sustainabledubuque.org or by calling 563.589.4110 during business hours. The event will be a zero-waste event and the lunch menu will feature locally grown food.

The Growing Sustainable Communities conference is an annual event in support of the City’s Sustainable Dubuque initiative, a three-part approach to sustainability to create policies and programs that address economic prosperity, environmental integrity, and social cultural vibrancy. When all three components are addressed, the result is a community that is viable, livable, and equitable.

The mission of the conference is to educate the public on the issues that impact the long-term health and sustainability of our region and to create an opportunity for policy decision-makers from the tri-state area to come together to discuss ways in which they can enact the most effective change at the local level. The inaugural event drew nearly 600 attendees.

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