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**Green Office Challenges Registration Now Open!**  
***Tenants, Building Managers Challenged to Reduce Energy,  
Water Usage, and Waste***

Research resulting from the Chicago Climate Action Plan show that seventy percent of Chicago's greenhouse gas emissions is from buildings – 39% from commercial buildings. In response to this, the City of Chicago developed the Chicago Green Office Challenge in partnership with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA., a membership association of local governments advancing sustainability. The Green Office Challenge is a friendly competition engaging building owners, property management firms, and tenants in Chicago's central business district to improve the environmental performance of their offices. Property managers and tenants are asked to meet energy efficiency, water conservation, and waste minimization goals through capital improvements and behavioral challenges.

Participants of the Challenge will be recognized by Mayor Daley for their hard work in reducing their contribution to the cumulative waste and energy of the city. Each company's name will be listed on the City's website with an awards ceremony being held annually to recognize top achievers. By taking the Challenge, building owners and property managers in this competitive market have the opportunity to add more value to their properties. The key is that these environmental improvements translate to economic savings. The bottom line is during tough during these economic times, environmental and energy efficiency initiatives often translate into real bottom line benefits.

Some measures that can be taken include:

- Using 100% recycled paper
- Using reusable cups and plates
- Changing coffee service to a company that makes coffee in bulk, cutting down on waste
- Installing lighting sensors in all conference rooms and offices
- Using energy efficient lighting
- Turning off all computers at night
- Sending out monthly e-mails, containing green tips and office updates
- Recycling waste, including collection and proper processing of cell phones, batteries and cartridges

-more-

The Challenge is targeting commercial office buildings bordered by Chicago Ave to the North, Halsted to the West, Roosevelt to the South, and Lake Shore Drive to the East.

Interested parties can sign up via email at

[greenofficechallenge@cityofchicago.org](mailto:greenofficechallenge@cityofchicago.org) or visit the program Web site at

[www.chicagogreenofficechallenge.org](http://www.chicagogreenofficechallenge.org) for more information. The registration

deadline for the first round of the competition is December 19, 2008.

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