

GREEN WEEK: Greening of the City County Building Kick-Off Announcement  
April 14, 2009

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY FOR THE FIRST OF MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANT STEPS WE'RE TAKING TO MAKE INDIANAPOLIS A MORE SUSTAINABLE, MORE LIVABLE CITY.**

**THIS IS GREEN WEEK IN INDY, AND WE COULDN'T THINK OF A BETTER WAY TO KICK OFF A WEEK'S WORTH OF GREEN EVENTS THAN THIS ONE TODAY, AT THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING, IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN.**

**TODAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A TREMENDOUS UNDERTAKING TO GREEN THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING. WE'RE GOING TO TRANSFORM THE DECADES-OLD STRUCTURE THAT WE GATHER IN TODAY INTO A REFLECTION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO MAKING CITY GOVERNMENT LEANER AND GREENER.**

**WE WANT TO ENGAGE CITIZENS – BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATE CITIZENS – AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN EVERY STEP OF THIS PROCESS. MOST LIKELY, THIS WILL BE AT LEAST A YEAR-LONG ENDEAVOR, BUT THE END RESULT WILL BE WELL-WORTH THE EFFORT.**

**IT WILL MEAN AT THE VERY LEAST A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY AND WATER WE USE IN THE BUILDING, AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL WE RECYCLE IN THE BUILDING, AND THE END RESULT WILL BE SEEN IN COST SAVINGS, ALLOWING TAXPAYER DOLLARS TO STRETCH FURTHER AT A TIME WHEN FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY.**

**I AM EXTENDING AN OPEN INVITATION TO ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROCESS AND ABOUT PARTICIPATION TO ATTEND A KICK-OFF MEETING, NEXT FRIDAY, APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> AT 8:30 A.M. IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM OF THE ONE AMERICA BUILDING.**

**SINCE WE ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND LAUNCHED THE SUSTAININDY INITIATIVE IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, THE SUSTAINABILITY TEAM HAS TAKEN GREAT STRIDES TOWARD MAKING OUR CITY BETTER STEWARDS OF BOTH TAXPAYER DOLLARS AND THE ENVIRONMENT WE SHARE.**

**MANY OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE CULTIVATION OF STRONG – AND OFTEN CREATIVE – PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS. THE GREENING OF THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING IS NO DIFFERENT. ICE MILLER HAS COME ON BOARD AS A TREMENDOUS PARTNER IN THIS EFFORT, AND HAS**

**AGREED TO FACILITATE THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ASPECT OF THE GREENING PROCESS ALONG WITH OTHER PARTNERS, INCLUDING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE.**

**RMI IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND ENERGY RETROFITS, AND THEY'RE ALSO VERY SKILLED AT ENGAGING THE PUBLIC IN THE GREENING PROCESS – SOMETHING I THINK IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT OF THIS PROJECT. THEY LED THE GREENING OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN ENERGY RETROFIT OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. WHILE THE CITY COUNTY BUILDING WILL CERTAINLY PRESENT UNIQUE CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY, I'M CONFIDENT WE'VE ASSEMBLED A HIGH-QUALITY TEAM THAT'S UP TO THE TASK.**

**IN THE DAYS BETWEEN OUR ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY AND THE KICK-OFF MEETING NEXT FRIDAY, CITY EMPLOYEES, WITH THE HELP OF THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY, BUILDING AUTHORITY, AND THE OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNCIL, WILL GO AHEAD AND TAKE SOME PRELIMINARY STEPS TO JUMPSTART THE GREENING AND DO SOME SPRING CLEANING.**

**WE'LL BE WORKING IN THIS BUILDING FLOOR-BY-FLOOR TO CONVERT PAPER WASTE TO RECYCLING, TO EDUCATE EMPLOYEES**

**ABOUT RECORDS RETENTION FOR IMPROVED TRANSPARENCY, AND TO IMPLEMENT IN EVERY OFFICE RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES FOR DISPOSING OF NON-ESSENTIAL RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.**

**THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT, AND I AM CONFIDENT IT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE GOOD THINGS WE CAN ACCOMPLISH AS A CITY WHEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS PARTNER TOGETHER TO HARNESS THE CREATIVITY AND THE POSITIVE ENERGY FOUND ONLY IN INDIANAPOLIS. THE INDIANAPOLIS MARION COUNTY BUILDING AUTHORITY IS ONE PARTNER IN THIS EFFORT. THEIR EAGERNESS – NOT JUST THEIR WILLINGNESS – BUT THEIR EAGERNESS TO REVISIT THE WAY THINGS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DONE AND LOOK FOR INNOVATIVE WAYS TO BOTH GENERATE COST SAVINGS AND REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY WE USE WILL CERTAINLY BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY IN THE DECADES AHEAD.**

**IN A FEW MINUTES, WE’LL HEAR FROM RON REINKING, THE MANAGER OF THE INDIANAPOLIS MARION COUNTY BUILDING AUTHORITY. BUT BEFORE HE TAKES THE PODIUM, IT IS MY PLEASURE AT THIS TIME TO INTRODUCE KÄREN HALEY, THE DIRECTOR OF OUR OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY, WHO IS HERE TO OFFER MORE DETAILS ABOUT WHAT THIS PROJECT WILL ENTAIL.**

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