



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2010

Contact:

Sharon Patterson, Eco Edge
208.440.1946 or sharon@BuildingEcoEdge.com

Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) and Idaho Power to Sponsor Year Two of the Sustainable Building Advisor Program + Nineteen Pioneers Graduate from Year One

Boise, ID – (July 13, 2010) – Eco Edge has been awarded \$5,000 from NEEA and \$2,000 from Idaho Power to support the Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) Course in Idaho. Last year, their funding helped 19 students graduate from the program, proving they are pioneers in green building and innovators of ground-breaking initiatives such as Cogitate Community, a non-profit to support low income Idahoans.

This student project team is tackling the problem of mobile home parks where owners sell the land, displace families and destroy the fabric of some of Idaho's most affordable housing communities. The project has gone beyond theory as the team has secured preliminary financing to find candidate parks that might convert to resident ownership. Justin Schwartz, the team's leader, states, *"I see a future where residents have control, their homes are more energy efficient, and their communities are healthier and sustainable."* Other projects include a sustainable development plan for the Broadway/Myrtle intersection, a "MPG" rating system for home energy performance and a program for educating youth on the benefits of Permaculture.

The SBA Program is a comprehensive 9-month course in sustainable building that is offered in 21 locations across North America. The curriculum covers site assessment, regional development and transportation, climate responsive design, indoor environmental quality, green materials, water resources, construction practices, and operations and maintenance. The class format includes lectures, site visits, reading assignments, papers, and team projects.

Eco Edge will offer this course starting September 10, 2010, through May 14, 2011. The classes will be held monthly at the Integrated Design Lab (IDL) in Boise from 4:00 pm – 9:30 pm on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Sharon Patterson will be the lead instructor coordinating local expert instructors in each topic.

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national exam, and earn the designation of Certified Sustainable Building Advisor (CSBA). The curriculum is endorsed by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for 100 learning units and the US Green Building Council as a Master (400 Level) course. Since 1999, over 800 students have graduated from the course.

An info session for the SBA Program will be held on Tuesday, July 13, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm upstairs from IDL at 108 N. 6th Street, Boise.

For more information on the students, course schedule, curriculum, instructors, testimonials and registration, visit <http://www.buildingecoedge.com/SustainableBuildingAdvisor.html>.

###

Eco Edge is a sustainability and green building consulting firm that specializes in education. Based in Boise, Idaho, Eco Edge works with a range of clients to develop sustainability strategies to increase energy efficiency, reduce water usage, decrease waste and improve indoor air quality. They have consulted on over two dozen LEED projects ranging from neighborhood development to commercial interiors; gut rehab to new homes; affordable to luxury. Eco Edge is an education provider with the National Sustainable Building Advisor Program and the Idaho and Wyoming Real Estate Commissions. In 2008, Eco Edge received a Grow Smart Award for the 'Heights Home' project. www.BuildingEcoEdge.com

The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA) is a private non-profit organization funded by Northwest utilities, the Energy Trust of Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration. NEEA works in collaboration with its stakeholders and strategic market partners to accelerate the sustained market adoption of energy-efficient products, technologies and practices. NEEA's market transformation efforts address energy efficiency in homes, businesses and industry. www.nwalliance.org

IDACORP, Inc. (NYSE: IDA), Boise, Idaho-based and formed in 1998, is a holding company comprised of Idaho Power Company, a regulated electric utility; IDACORP Financial, a holder of affordable housing projects and other real estate investments; and Ida-West Energy, an operator of small hydroelectric generation projects that satisfy the requirements of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978. IDACORP's origins lie with Idaho Power and operations beginning in 1916. Today, Idaho Power employs approximately 2,000 people to serve a 24,000 square-mile service area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. With 17 low-cost hydroelectric projects as the core of its generation portfolio, Idaho Power's 490,000 residential, business and agricultural customers pay some of the nation's lowest prices for electricity. To learn more about Idaho Power or IDACORP, visit www.idahopower.com or www.idacorpinc.com.

The National Sustainable Building Advisor Program (NaSBAP) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in Washington State. NaSBAP oversees the Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) course, which is administered through course providers across the US and in Canada. The purpose of this unique and comprehensive sustainable building course is to give practicing professionals the tools they need to make our built environment more sustainable. www.NaSBAP.org