



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eco Edge Approved for Workforce Investment Act Funding to Support Unemployed and Underemployed Professionals in the Design and Building Industry

Boise, ID – (September 1, 2010) – Eco Edge has been approved by the State Board of Education as a Proprietary School and by the Department of Labor as an **Eligible Training Provider for Workforce Investment Act** funding to offer unemployed and underemployed professionals the opportunity to take the Sustainable Building Advisor (SBA) course, developed by the National Sustainable Building Advisor Program (NaSBAP).

This is the second year that Eco Edge has been approved as a Provider for WIA funding. Last year, five students were enabled to take the SBA course as a direct result of receiving this support from the Department of Labor. Professionals across the building industry have been hard hit during this recession, and their future pivots on the ability to adapt to the growing demand for more sustainable design and operations. Buildings are responsible for approximately 40% of energy use and 40% of carbon emissions in the United States. Understanding how to reduce energy consumption and emissions as well as protect indoor air quality in buildings is critical to ensuring a healthier, more prosperous future for all of us.

The SBA Program is a comprehensive 9-month course in sustainable building that is offered in **26 locations** across North America. The curriculum covers all aspects of sustainable building design, construction and operations including 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 **October 8, 2010, through June 11, 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. Also worth noting, is that **Idaho Smart Growth** is officially a “Recommender” of this course.

Graduates of the program are eligible to sit for the national exam, and earn the designation of Certified Sustainable Building Advisor (CSBA). **Nineteen students graduated from the Boise course in 2010**. 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.

An info session for the SBA Program will be held on Monday, September 27, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the 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>.

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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 in 2008. www.BuildingEcoEdge.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