



For Immediate Release

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McCormick Place commits to utilizing 100 percent wind energy

Announcement comes as WINDPOWER 2013 Conference and Exhibition
takes place at McCormick Place (May 5-8)

CHICAGO May 7, 2013- McCormick Place officials today announced that the nation's largest convention center has committed to offsetting 100 percent of its electricity usage with clean, affordable wind energy. This important announcement was made in conjunction with the WINDPOWER 2013 Conference and Exhibition taking place at McCormick Place from May 5-8.

McCormick Place has purchased Green-e Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated from wind power to match 100 percent of the annual electricity demand. In total, McCormick Place will purchase an estimated 130 million kilowatt-hours of wind power each year over the course of a new three-year REC purchase program provided by Sterling Planet.

"McCormick Place is a perfect example of how even the largest facilities in the world can lead the way towards a sustainable future for all," Governor Pat Quinn said. "Green energy is good business, and I congratulate McCormick Place for taking this important step that will improve our environment while creating jobs and driving our economy forward."

"I congratulate McCormick Place on to committing to clean, renewable wind energy as its sole source of electricity," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "McCormick Place continues to dominate as the best destination for any convention or trade show, bringing thousands of visitors to Chicago every year. Moving to 100 percent wind energy will increase job opportunities and economic development, while moving towards a sustainable future for the City of Chicago. It is also clear proof that sustainability can go hand in hand with the creating of a vibrant, thriving business environment."

The RECs will guarantee that an equal amount of renewable energy is delivered to the electric grid and will provide carbon avoidance of an estimated 730,931,248 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions.

“We are committed to having renewable energy as part of our comprehensive efforts to implement environmentally-friendly, sustainable practices,” said David Causton, General Manager of McCormick Place. “Purchasing wind power helps our organization become more sustainable, while also sending a message to others that supporting clean sources of electricity is a sound business decision and an important choice in reducing carbon emission with green power.”

The REC purchase is just the latest benchmark in McCormick Place’s sustainability efforts. McCormick Place is committed to initiatives designed to conserve energy, protect vital resources and promote ecologically efficient policies and procedures.

To achieve that goal, McCormick Place works with service partners, customers and vendors to encourage sustainable efforts through education, defined expectations and example. McCormick Place develops and incorporates into its operation procedures environmentally friendly products, processes and practices that are cost-effective and consistent with the core services it provides. The McCormick Place West Building also has attained LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) from the U.S. Green Build Council. The West Building is the largest new-construction facility in the country to be certified.

As host of WINDPOWER 2013, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), therefore, makes a fitting partner for McCormick Place. AWEA has worked with McCormick Place to ensure that related events and other functions are also offset by RECs. In fact, for the second year in a row, WINDPOWER is WindMade—a new consumer label that identifies organizations, products, services, and events that are powered by wind energy specifically. At WINDPOWER 2013, AWEA also is launching a Green Exhibitor Challenge for WINDPOWER 2014 as well as greening its show booth and taking countless other steps to ensure a sustainable event.

“Congratulations to McCormick Place for embracing clean, affordable renewable energy,” said AWEA Interim CEO Rob Gramlich. “WINDPOWER 2013 highlights what an amazing product our industry produces, so it’s appropriate that wind energy will be powering every light bulb, every dynamic booth exhibit, and every Power Point slide at this amazing event. It’s clear that McCormick understands the many benefits of wind energy, which makes us all the more excited to gather at this world-class facility.”

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About McCormick Place

McCormick Place, the largest exhibition and meeting facility in North America, is comprised of four state-of-the-art buildings, the North, South and West Buildings, the Lakeside Center, and the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place hotel. Combined, McCormick Place offers 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, 173 meeting rooms, the 4,249-seat Arie Crown Theater and one of the largest ballrooms in the world. Located on Chicago's lakefront just minutes from downtown, McCormick Place is owned by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and managed by SMG, a worldwide convention facility management company. For more information, visit: www.mccormickplace.com.

Sterling Planet leads U.S. sustainable energy markets, offering clients in diverse sectors a comprehensive portfolio of carbon-reduction assets – renewable energy certificates (RECs), carbon offsets and innovative White Tags® energy efficiency certificates. Recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as 2012 Green Power Supplier of the Year, Sterling Planet delivers more than 5 billion REC kilowatt-hours annually to EPA Green Power Partnership members, including the top three purchasers, and also supplies compliance markets through utility and government partnerships. Founded in 2000, the Atlanta-based company pioneered as the first nationwide retail REC provider and is committed to development of new renewable power generating projects.