

Contact:

Jessica Nelson
Sebesta Blomberg
Phone: (651) 634-7337
jnelson@sebesta.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**HISTORIC BUILDING COMPLEX AWARDED LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION**

MINNEAPOLIS — May 12, 2011 — The John Whitin Mill building complex, owned by Alternatives Unilimited, Inc., was recently certified LEED® Gold from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The building, which is listed on the Massachusetts Historic Register, is located on the Mumford River near the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Whitinsville. The project involved the rehabilitation and conversion of 30,000 sf of space in five distinguished industrial buildings built between 1826 and 1920. The mixed use facility supports Alternatives Unilimited's goal of creating a community 'crossroads' combining social, cultural, historical and environmental components.



In 2004, The Whitin Mill Renovation Project began with a goal to be energy self-sufficient and environmentally sensitive. To accomplish this, the hydropower spillway was raised to provide a heavier drop of water, which constantly flows at a steady pace. The turbine drives a 50 kW generator. A previous project added a 10kW array of solar panels to the roof of the 3-story brick mill built in 1906. The geothermal wells now utilize the year-round water temperature of 55 degrees, circulating it to heat pumps that will cool the buildings in the summer and help to heat them in the winter. The green technology incorporated in this renovation project generate and estimated 88% of the on-site energy needs and 100% of the required heating and cooling. Annual costs for electricity, heating, and air conditioning were cut from \$67,000 to \$33,000 due to the use of solar panels, hydropower and geothermal wells. The final renovation was completed in 2008. With more than 40 efficiency criteria to be evaluated, the formal certification from the USGBC was achieved in May of 2011.

Sebesta Blomberg provided Fundamental and Enhanced Commissioning services to support the LEED certification of the renovation and rehabilitation.

About Sebesta Blomberg

Sebesta Blomberg is a national leader in providing full-service consulting and engineering services. As a company, we promote collaborative and sustainable solutions that are designed to ensure occupant comfort, improve efficiency, reduce operational costs, and ultimately optimize client effectiveness. We create exceptional built environments that meet the most complex of challenges. Sebesta Blomberg is headquartered in Minneapolis-St. Paul, with 15 offices located throughout the United States. Additional information on Sebesta Blomberg and it's services can be found at www.sebesta.com.