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ABC LAUNCHES GREEN CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

CHANTILLY, VA - Associated Builders and Contractors today launched a pilot Green Contractor Certification program for member companies in the state of Virginia. The Green Contractor Certification program is designed to recognize construction companies that implement green practices and principles at their workplace environments, including their headquarters, branch offices and jobsite offices.

To achieve Green Contractor Certification under the pilot program, companies from three ABC chapters – Virginia, Baltimore Metro and Metro Washington – must complete an application, undergo an onsite audit by ABC officials and be certified by ABC's National Green Building Committee. The Green Contractor Certification program is expected to be unveiled at the national level in early 2009. At that time the onsite audits and certifications will be conducted and validated by an independent third party.

"The ABC Green Contractor Certification program shows that our members are leaders in our industry's movement to create sustainable workplace environments both on and off the jobsite," said Patrick Dean, ABC-VA President. "We expect that the certification program will become the industry standard. It's the right thing to do."

The Green Contractor Certification process involves a list of 12 prerequisites ranging from distributing documents electronically to establishing an aggressive recycling program. Companies also are required to fulfill 12 or 36 elective items that include conducting a professional energy audit, water conservation efforts, and providing incentives for carpooling or using public transportation. In addition, each company must achieve four education and training benchmarks, such as instructing employees on sustainable issues and requiring at least 50 percent of managers to receive green building awareness education.

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About ABC-VA

The Virginia Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors is a statewide, pro-business association representing construction and construction-related firms, with offices in Chantilly, Richmond, and Hampton Roads. Founded in 1972, ABC-VA is the only association in Virginia that is dedicated to representing the interests of merit shop contractors. Today, the Virginia chapter is over 680 members strong and is a leading provider of networking, education, political advocacy, and service to the commercial construction industry.