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### **Carnegie-Stout Public Library Celebrates Green Certification**

**Dubuque, IA (April 3, 2014)** – The Petal Project is proud to announce that the Carnegie-Stout Public Library has earned Petal Certification by meeting the requirements of all five petals – Energy Conservation, Waste Reduction, Pollution Prevention, Staff Education, and Water Conservation –and is now the eleventh fully certified green business in Dubuque. In addition to the Petal Certification, Carnegie-Stout Public Library was awarded a LEED certification at the silver level in the Existing-Building category in 2012. The library is the first in the United States to earn LEED certification in the existing building category while also being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To celebrate their Petal Certification and Earth Day, Carnegie-Stout Public Library is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Library on Monday, April 21, 2014 at 6:30 pm. Along with the ribbon cutting, the library is hosting the author/photographer Mark Hirsch at 7:00 p.m. He is the author of the photo journal and book *That Tree*.

As part of the Petal Project, Carnegie-Stout Public Library incorporated a number of green practices into their daily operations and facility management:

**Water Conservation:** Carnegie-Stout has installed low-flow water aerators on faucets throughout their facilities as an appreciable way to reduce water consumption.

**Staff Education:** Carnegie-Stout's green practices are discussed during new-employee orientation as well as through e-mail, announcements, and meetings. Staff also participates in a bi-annual-highway cleanup.

**Energy Conservation:** Carnegie-Stout is LEED Certified. In order to achieve this, many systems, such as the heating and cooling system, humidity control, lighting, safety, and building automation controls must be installed and operating efficiently.

**Pollution Prevention:** Carnegie-Stout uses "green" certified cleaning products. Also, teleconferencing and carpooling is encouraged for meetings, as well as biking to work. Those who choose to bike have access to a bicycle rack and tire-repair kit.

**Waste Reduction:** Carnegie-Stout recycles batteries, lighting, computer hardware, and other harmful landfill items. Additionally, they recycle books and provide re-usable library bags for patrons.

Petal Certification affirms Carnegie-Stout Public Library's long-term commitment to environmental sustainability. Susan Henricks commented, "The Carnegie-Stout Public Library is proud to become the first City facility to earn Petal Project certification. This distinction reflects the City of Dubuque's and Carnegie-Stout Public Library's commitment to sustainability. We look forward to continuing improvements in this effort to be green."

Additional information on the Petal Project certification program and Carnegie-Stout Public Library's accomplishments can be found at [www.Petal-Project.com](http://www.Petal-Project.com).

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For more information, or to schedule an interview, please call Holly Kueter at 563.690.5738 or email her at [hkueter@ecia.org](mailto:hkueter@ecia.org).

The Petal Project is a regional green business certification program designed to encourage organizations in the Dubuque area to adopt environmentally friendly business practices. The program provides businesses with a simple framework for saving money and resources while establishing a community-wide definition of a green business for consumers wishing to shop based on their values.

The Petal Project is divided into five categories: pollution prevention, water conservation, waste reduction, energy conservation, and staff education. Within each category, a business must complete all of the mandatory and a specified number of optional criteria to earn that petal. Once a business has earned all five petals, it is "Petal Certified".

There are currently twenty-six businesses in Dubuque County participating in the program: UnityPoint Health – Finley Hospital, Loras College, Dubuque Bank & Trust, Premier Bank, Premier Tooling & Mfg., River Lights Bookstore, Dubuque Data Services, Unison Solutions, Unified Therapy Services, EIMCo, American Trust, City of Dubuque, Clarke University, Cartegraph, DuTrac, East Central Intergovernmental Association, Envision, IIW, P.C., ManorCare, Medline, Mystique Casino, Northeast Iowa Community College, Physical Therapy Solutions, Platinum Supplemental Insurance, St. Joseph the Worker, and the Telegraph Herald.