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Fueling Sustainability

Dubuque, IA (June 26, 2013) –Unison Solutions, Inc. has become an industry leader in an innovative sustainable product, biogas conditioning systems. Biogas is a sustainable, renewable, and carbon neutral alternative to fossil fuels. Since the company was founded in 2000, they have installed systems around the world at landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, dairies, and food processing digester plants. These systems capture and condition biogas so that it can be used as energy. Sustainable products are the bedrock of Unison; however, in 2012 employees decided to take sustainability to the next level by incorporating it into their business practices.

Unison Solutions, Inc. learned about the Petal Project, a green business certification program, during the Growing Sustainable Communities Conference last year. Shortly thereafter Unison staff reviewed the criteria, met with Petal Project staff and decided to officially join the program. A green team was formed to implement the sustainability program throughout the business. The Team quickly discovered that the business was already meeting many of the Petal Project requirements, but more could be done to “green” their business. This included tracking mileage and fuel usage for their seven company vehicles, tracking resource use, installing low flow aerators, insulating hot water pipes, and educating employees about sustainable practices.

Implementing sustainable practices throughout their business has yielded many benefits. Leaders at Unison have found that employees like working in a “green” workplace. They have also seen a reduction in overhead costs resulting from energy efficiency upgrades. Additionally, incorporating sustainable practices into the everyday operations of Unison aligned with the product line offered by Unison. Jan M. Scott, President of Unison Solutions, Inc., commented: “being environmentally friendly is the standard for the entire company at Unison Solutions Inc. Our customers operate wastewater treatment plants, food digesters and landfills around the world, turning biogas into energy and vehicle fuel. As Unison products are providing a green solution for communities, our team can now highlight our business practices of striving to be as environmentally conscious as possible. The Petal Project provides the guidelines of an independent group to show we are working hard to reduce waste and conserve our natural resources.”

On June 26th the Petal Project team hosted a green ribbon cutting to applaud Unison for completing all of the certification criteria and becoming the eighth Petal Certified business in Dubuque County. Unison Solutions, Inc. joins Finley Hospital (2010), Loras College (2011), Dubuque Bank & Trust (2012), Premier Bank (2012), Premier Tooling & Mfg., Inc. (2012), River Lights Bookstore (2012), and Dubuque Data Services (2012). Kelsey McElroy-Anderson, coordinator of the Petal Project for East Central Intergovernmental Association commented: “I commend Unison Solutions for their leadership in this initiative. From the very beginning it was apparent that sustainability was a top priority. Their participation in the Petal Project helped take Unison’s ‘green’ business model to the next level.” Jan Scott added: “we are very proud to be Petal Certified.

Additional information on the Petal Project certification program and Unison Solutions’ accomplishments can be found at www.Petal-Project.com.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview, please call Kelsey McElroy-Anderson at 563.690.5738 or email her at kmcelroy@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, 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-four businesses in Dubuque County participating in the program. For a complete list of participating businesses visit www.petal-project.com/tracker.html.