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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

State Auditor Otto Releases Best Practices Review

~Review highlights best practices of local governments in reducing energy costs ~

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ST. PAUL (07/02/2008) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto today released the Best Practices Review on Reducing Energy Costs in Local Governments. **“This topic is timely because as energy costs continue to increase, more pressure is put on local government budgets. These increases have the potential to impact service delivery,”** said State Auditor Rebecca Otto. **“Public awareness has also increased around energy issues, creating more pressure on government to reduce energy use.”** This review will assist local officials in making informed decisions to reduce energy costs. It provides recommendations for steps to best practices, and cost/benefit analyses on different types of technologies and services to reduce energy costs.

The review is designed to be easy to use for local government. The online version has a user-friendly feature: It is interactive. **“When we surveyed local governments for this review, they reported that an obstacle to reducing energy costs is financial resources. This review has live links that get them directly to financial resources. We get them to the money,”** said State Auditor Otto. **“It also contains links to information resources, and cost calculators to crunch numbers.”**

The review features nine case studies that highlight best practices in reducing energy costs by cities, counties and school districts in Minnesota. The entities and technologies/services highlighted in the case studies include:

- Lighting retrofit projects – City of Minnetonka, St. Louis County, and Washington County
- Geothermal Heating and Cooling – Watertown-Mayer School District
- Passive Solar Energy System – City of Minneapolis
- Active Solar Energy System – City of Minneapolis
- Wind Energy System – Pipestone-Jasper School District
- Displacement Ventilation System – Anoka-Hennepin School District
- LEED Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) – Blue Earth County, and Watertown-Mayer School District
- Energy Performance Contracts – Scott County

“Some great things are going on in local governments in Minnesota to reduce energy costs. These wise investments not only help hedge against increasing energy costs, but they also can help reduce operating costs,” stated Auditor Otto.

For the complete report, go to: <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=20080702.001>.

The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.

Rebecca Otto is Minnesota's 18th State Auditor. A high-resolution official photo is available for download at http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/images/otto_hires.jpg. To learn more about State Auditor Otto, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bio>.