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Vancouver Architects Lead By Going Carbon Neutral

Vancouver, BC – Carbon Neutral? Carbon Footprint? What does this mean? To Vancouver-based Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden (HBBH), it means leading the industry, as they become the first architectural firm in Canada to achieve official Carbon Neutral status for their operations.

In more technical terms, carbon neutral refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount of offset. Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden has chosen to measure its corporate greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint using the World Resource Institute's Corporate Accounting & Reporting Standard (the "GHG Protocol"). The GHG Protocol is the most internationally accepted GHG accounting and reporting standard at this time.

Principal, Bruce Haden, describes why the firm is so passionate about leading the charge towards a carbon neutral industry, *"Buildings are contributors of a significant amount of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Canada. As architects passionate about sustainable design, we work towards minimizing this negative in all our projects, primarily by designing for reduced energy usage. Given this, we felt it important to put our own house in order as well."*

HBBH selected Go Neutral Now Consulting to implement the GHG Protocol standard. Go Neutral first identified the firm's base year as fiscal 2007 ending June 30, 2007. From there, HBBH and Go Neutral measured the GHG inventory of the operations, brainstormed reduction strategies and established targets for long term GHG reductions. For the year ending June 30, 2007, including: building heat and electricity, company vehicles, air travel, automobile usage, staff commuting and paper usage, the greenhouse gas footprint equates to 65 metric tonnes of CO2 equivalent. As the reduction strategies will not be able to reduce the footprint to an absolute zero, HBBH has decided to purchase high quality, local, verified carbon credits to offset their greenhouse gas impact to zero.

"By measuring, reducing and offsetting our own office's operational emissions, says Haden, we manifest our own concern about global climate change, and enhance our credibility with clients when we argue the importance of reducing GHG emissions in the buildings we design for them."

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About Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden architects + urbanistes

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden is a firm with expertise in mixed-use and waterfront development, urban planning, historic restoration, residential, municipal, cultural and academic building types. The firm is responsible for a wide range of work in Canada, the USA, Australia and China. The firm's pursuit of design excellence has been acknowledged nationally and internationally through numerous publications and more than 50 design awards, including a 2008 Governor General's Medal in Architecture for the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre.

About the World Resource Institute

The GHG Protocol was developed by the World Resources Institute, a Washington based environmental non-government organization, together with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, a Geneva based coalition of 170 international companies. Launched in 1998, the mission of the partnership was to develop

internationally accepted greenhouse gas accounting and reporting standards for business and to promote their adoption. The GHG Protocol was first published in 2001 and subsequently updated in 2005. Refer www.ghgprotocol.org.

About Go Neutral Now Consulting

GNN is a Vancouver based greenhouse gas consulting firm concentrating on GHG inventories for mid-to-large sized companies throughout North America. GNN measured the GHG inventories of 28 companies in 2008. Refer www.goneutralnow.com."

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