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City and County of Denver - North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative

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**National Renewable Energy Laboratory to Advance Efforts
for a “Net Zero” District at the National Western Center
*NREL to help develop advanced sustainable strategies that can be duplicated
in Denver and beyond***

DENVER – The North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC) and the Colorado State University System (CSU System) announced today that the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will help develop sustainable strategies to create a “net zero” district at the future National Western Center (NWC), placing the project among the most sustainable in the region and creating a national example.

Located in nearby Golden, CO, NREL is the only federal laboratory solely dedicated to the research, development, commercialization, and deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The partnership leverages NREL staff expertise to help create advanced sustainable strategies for the NWC district and to develop technical resources that allow those strategies to be duplicated in Denver and beyond.

“Embracing an ethic of regeneration is one of the guiding principles in the NWC Master Plan that challenges us to create an efficient campus that will become an international leader in “net zero” efforts,” said Kelly Leid, Executive Director of the NDCC. “The involvement of NREL will help advance these efforts and create a team of experts to help us deliver this type of campus.”

During the NWC master planning process, the CSU System convened an NWC Sustainability Task

Force, made up of sustainability experts, staff from Denver’s Office of Sustainability and community representatives, which created integrated goals around energy, water and waste that would make the National Western Center project unique in the nation.

“The Colorado State University System has a commitment to sustainability—our Fort Collins campus is the first in the nation to achieve a platinum sustainability rating --and our role at the NWC allows us to extend this commitment to this exceptional new venue,” said Amy Parsons, Executive Vice Chancellor. “We are excited about NREL’s involvement, and will continue to work with our partners to meet NWC site regeneration goals and create opportunities for research and demonstration projects that advance the state of the art in sustainability.”

Through their involvement, NREL aims to develop new technical resources that will help cities, utilities, and the private sector work together to achieve net zero districts across the United States. Researchers at NREL believe that approaching energy planning at the district scale can unlock new opportunities for cost-effective energy savings through economies of scale and district energy systems that put to use energy that would normally be wasted.

“Net zero districts offer an incredible opportunity for cities to greatly reduce their energy use and carbon emissions while at the same time revitalizing urban neighborhoods,” said Chuck Kutscher, NREL’s Center Director for Buildings and Thermal Systems. “We’re very excited to partner with NDCC and CSU to support the NWC district in achieving innovative levels of energy performance and help establish Denver as a national leader in zero energy districts.”

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About the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC)

An initiative of Mayor Michael B. Hancock, the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC) is a coordinated effort between six redevelopment projects in a vibrant community that includes Globeville, Elyria and Swansea neighborhoods. These projects have a unique and historic opportunity to rebuild a connected community and energize a gateway to Downtown Denver. Projects include:

- Globeville & Elyria – Swansea Neighborhood Plans
- National Western Center
- Brighton Boulevard Corridor Redevelopment
- River North (RiNo) Revitalization
- CDOT’s I-70 East Reconstruction
- RTD’ FasTracks Station Development for the East, Gold and North Metro Lines

For more information, visit www.denvergov.org/NDCC.

About Colorado State University System

The CSU System serves the state, region, country, and the world, educating over 40,000 new and returning scholars annually. Highly skilled graduates number more than 6,800 a year, and more than 200,000 alumni live around the globe.

The CSU System has three campuses, each with very distinct roles and missions. Our flagship campus in Fort Collins is a doctoral-granting research university with a student body of nearly 30,000. As the only land-grant institution in the state, CSU has been serving Colorado since 1870. In addition, CSU Extension serves every county in Colorado, offering community-oriented education, research, and 4-H

programs. Colorado State University-Pueblo is a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, serving nearly 5,000 students. Diverse, intimate, and supportive, the Pueblo campus offers both undergraduate and graduate degrees in business, education, engineering and the humanities. CSU-Global Campus is the nation's first, independent, 100 percent online public university. Created to serve adult learners in Colorado and beyond, CSU-Global is committed to academic excellence, innovative and outcome-driven learning solutions, and career relevant degree programs.