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Press Release

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FIRST LEED-CERTIFIED SCHOOL IN NH ACHIEVES PLATINUM RANKING

NASHUA, NH, MARCH 2, 2010: 2nd Nature Academy, a Nashua, NH based private elementary school, has just become the first school in New Hampshire to become LEED-Certified, and the first non-residential building to receive Platinum certification, the highest ranking possible. 2nd Nature Academy is an independent, healthy high-performance, green school with an environmental science pedagogy and integrated curriculum. Located on a sustainable working farm, the 2nd Nature Academy campus boasts fields, forests, hiking trails, barns, ponds, and gardens and hosts an American Camp Association outdoor adventure camp program each summer. 2nd Nature Academy is licensed by the state of NH for Kindergarten through grade 6. With the addition of another green building beginning this spring, the campus will soon be home to Nature's Pathways child care and preschool programs.

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification is a process conducted through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) which follows a strict code of guidelines to ensure quality of materials and construction in order to reduce a building's carbon footprint and improve indoor air quality. Points are awarded in the areas of site sustainability, water efficiency, energy & atmosphere, materials & resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation & design.

Denis and Debbie Gleeson together with the Jordan Institute, Green Building Construction Group, KW Management, New Energy Works Timberframers,

and Virstar Geothermal Energy, planned, coordinated, and documented the green construction process. The Jordan Institute has verified the actual performance of the building. "Second Nature Academy's new school building is the most efficient building we have analyzed to date," said Paul Leveille, the Institute's High-Performance Buildings Program Manager. "Utility costs for the first year of operation were \$0.45 per square foot, about a quarter of what other schools use. Its exemplary energy performance is thanks to a superbly insulated and very air-tight shell coupled with high-efficiency geothermal **heating and cooling** equipment.

According to Gary Maedl, President of VIRSTAR Geothermal Energy, "This building shows how cost effective Geo can be when it is designed in combination with super-efficient pumps, fans, and fresh air ventilation systems." Nearly half of the energy for the school comes from a 10 KW solar electric system, installed by KW Management, on its south facing roof. Mark Weissflog, owner of KW Management stated, "This is a project to be proud of due to the attention to detail in all aspects of the construction, energy conservation measures, and balance of renewables."

The Gleeson's have taken their commitment one step further by offsetting 100% of the remaining required electricity by purchasing Renewable Energy Credits from wind power. No fossil fuels are used eliminating that potential indoor air quality concern and climate change potential. Along with non-toxic finishes throughout, a commitment to green housekeeping and 100% outside fresh air from a unique ventilation system the school provides superb indoor air quality.