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Contact: John Atwood (EDA)

202-482-2309

Scott Smullen (NOAA)

202-482-5647

**U.S. Department of Commerce Awards \$175,000 Grant to Support Creation of the
National Center for Eco-Industrial Development**

*Center will promote environmentally-friendly industrial development and job growth in
the Nation's most economically-distressed communities*

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Department of Commerce today announced the award of a \$175,000 grant to facilitate job growth and sustainable industrial expansion in the Nation's most economically-distressed communities by supporting the creation of the National Center for Eco-industrial Development.

The Center will work to promote industrial ecology; establish eco-industrial parks, and expand use of environmentally benign manufacturing processes and techniques that will maximize a community's development potential while preserving the environment.

The Center will be run cooperatively by the University of Southern California and Cornell University.

The technical assistance grant will allow the Center's researchers to develop national training programs; initiate a consortium of university researchers working on eco-industrial development; develop a Web site; provide technical assistance; and prepare Web-based resource manuals.

The grant is being awarded under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) and National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"EDA is a leader in promoting innovative economic development techniques and our partnerships with the academic world, community-based organizations, and local governments are helping spread the word about the advantages of eco-industrial

development strategies," said Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Arthur C. Campbell.

"Eco-industrial development can be used to turn brownfield sites and other underutilized areas into economic boons for surrounding communities. The National Center for Eco-industrial Development will help both urban and rural areas attract new industry and jobs while protecting the environment. EDA and NOAA are pleased to work together to establish this important development resource," Campbell said.

"Eco-industrial development techniques replace more conventional industrial and community development approaches with models that incorporate industrial ecology, pollution prevention, and recycling. The approach is helping distressed communities diversify their economies, attract high-paying jobs, and protect the environment," said D. James Baker, NOAA Administrator.

EDA works in collaboration with local government and community groups to generate new jobs, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth in economically-distressed communities. EDA assistance is available to rural and urban areas of the nation experiencing high unemployment, low income, or other severe economic distress.

NOAA works to predict environmental changes, protect life and property, provide decision makers with reliable scientific information, and foster global environmental stewardship. NOAA's goals and programs today reflect a commitment to these basic responsibilities in the service of our customers and the Nation. By addressing environmental challenges, NOAA works as an integral part of the Department of Commerce to further the Nation's capabilities for sustainable development.

Additional information about the Department of Commerce and its agencies and programs can be accessed via the World Wide Web: <http://www.doc.gov>