

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Model Resort Sustainability Study Awarded to AIA Colorado West and Eagle River Valley

April 1, 2009 (DENVER)—The American Institute of Architects (AIA), Colorado West chapter, and Eagle River Valley have been selected for a grant project that will study opportunities for creating a model sustainable resort community in Vail, Minturn, Avon and the Eagle Corridor on Colorado’s Western Slope.

The grant for the project is funded through the national component of AIA, which will work with AIA Colorado West and Eagle River Valley to provide a Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) to complete the study. Additional funds will be raised by AIA Colorado West.

The SDAT, which creates a team of architects and professionals from across the country to work collaboratively with the local community, will provide a review of sustainable efforts in Eagle River Valley, contributing to a comprehensive dialogue for the future of the region.

Previous SDAT studies in communities across the country have created an important and influential dialogue within community leadership to positively affected development and governance policies.

“We believe this application provides an important opportunity to develop a strong valley-wide vision for a sustainable future, which will then have significant implications for the future of resort communities around the country,” said SDAT Committee Chair Chris Green, AIA, of Avon.

“This is an opportunity for AIA architects and AIA Colorado West to make a significant contribution to the sustainability dialogue in one of our key Western resort communities,” said Cyd Pougiales, AIA, president of AIA Colorado West.

The resort region to be included in the study includes the ski areas of Vail and Beaver Creek, as well as the surrounding communities that support, and are supported by, the resort economy.

The study will address issues that include:

Economic sustainability;

Integration of municipal and community efforts;

Development of leadership to establish a strong sustainable future for a resort community;

Balancing growth against increasing land and infrastructure costs, while providing housing for young residents; and

Water and energy conservation.

AIA awarded 10 SDAT grants to communities in the United States in 2009.

The SDAT was awarded by AIA’s Center for Communities by Design, a national forum dedicated to positively influencing the quality of life in our nation’s communities. Information relating to this year’s SDAT recipients and the SDAT program also is available from AIA at <http://www.aia.org/press/releases/AIAB025028?dvid=&recspec=AIAB025028>.

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About AIA & AIA Colorado West

For more than 150 years, members of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) have worked with each other and their communities to create more valuable, healthy, secure and sustainable buildings and cityscapes. AIA members have access to the right people, knowledge and tools to create better design, and through such resources and access, they help clients and communities make their visions real. AIA Colorado West is one of four chapters within the AIA Colorado (www.aiacolorado.org) component. This chapter is comprised of members from 27 counties in western Colorado and among others includes the cities of Aspen, Breckenridge, Vail, Grand Junction and Steamboat Springs.