

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BKD's Learning & Development Department "Goes Green"

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – Eileen Wollenburg, director of **BKD, LLP's** Learning & Development, announces the department is "going green" with environmentally friendly processes and procedures designed to help reduce paper and office supplies, encourage recycling and control energy use.

The initiative, officially launched this summer, focuses on several areas of the firm's training and education practices with the biggest change being a move to paperless conferences. Firmwide educational sessions no longer include paper agendas or informational binders that can average 150 pages. In addition, speaker presentations, session handouts and attendee lists and surveys are no longer printed. Materials are being placed on disks or made available online for review prior to the conference. This is estimated to save approximately 546,359 sheets or 1,092 reams of paper each year.

Additional efforts to reduce the firm's carbon footprint include recycling and reusing event signage and supplies such as name badges and holders. Instructors now share training resources and tools, as well as maintain electronic records versus paper files. A switch to online event invitations and registration is helping to further limit paper waste. The firm is hosting many training sessions as webinars or other electronic formats to decrease the need for printed presentation materials.

Last year BKD held 50 events and provided 83,665 hours of continuing education to its client service personnel. To improve these offerings, meetings are now being combined and scheduled in one location to reduce transportation. When choosing training sites, Learning & Development is striving to use venues that have green certifications or practices such as the recycling of ink toners, allergen-free rooms and the use of energy-efficient light bulbs and environmentally friendly cleaning chemicals.

Future plans for the department include incorporating reusable white boards instead of paper flipcharts, providing various recycling bins in conference rooms and replacing bottled water and canned beverages with beverages in pitchers and cups made from post-consumer materials.

"We are very excited to embrace these environmental practices because we believe they will not only benefit the attendees of our conferences and training, but also the community," Wollenburg says. "By implementing a few small changes we can really make a big difference and we feel it is a responsible thing to do as a firm."

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BKD, LLP with offices in Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky,
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In addition to Learning & Development's initiatives, BKD observes green practices such as bottleless water for employees and the use of recycled office supplies, as well as recycling toner cartridges, paper, plastic and aluminum. BKD's Pledge for Sustainability also includes the firm's national office building, currently under construction in Springfield, Missouri, which will have many environmentally friendly features, including plumbing fixtures that use less water, energy efficient heating and air conditioning systems, water efficient landscaping and a white roof designed to reduce urban heat. The firm is pursuing LEED Silver certification for the building, meaning it will meet green performance measures for lowering operating costs, reducing waste sent to landfills, conserving energy and water and reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

-30-

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