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*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Office of the State Auditor to Conduct Best Practices Review on “Reducing Energy Costs in Local Government” *~Topic is timely given rising energy costs and growing public awareness around energy conservation ~*

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ST. PAUL (01/17/2008) – State Auditor Rebecca Otto announced today that the Office of the State Auditor is currently conducting a Best Practices Review on reducing energy costs in local government. A survey was sent to local governments across the state this week.

“This topic is timely given rising energy costs and growing public awareness around energy conservation,” State Auditor Otto said. **“We have heard from officials at all levels of local government – towns, cities, counties and school districts – who would like this review to be a resource for local governments, as they consider making decisions about how to reduce energy costs.”**

The purpose of the Best Practices Review will be to highlight cost-effective energy initiatives happening within local government, as well as to provide a resource manual for those interested in reducing energy costs.

“There are currently so many different options out there in terms of energy-saving products, services and initiatives to choose from,” State Auditor Otto said. **“Local governments feel the pinch from rising energy costs, and understand the potential long-term savings if they reduce energy costs. This Review will share the experience of other local governments who have already benefited from successful energy-efficiency projects.”**

For more information on Office of the State Auditor’s Best Practices Reviews, see <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=bestPracticesReviews>

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The Office of the State Auditor is a constitutional office that is charged with overseeing more than \$20 billion spent annually by local governments in Minnesota. The Office of the State Auditor does this by performing audits of local government financial statements, and by reviewing documents, data, reports, and complaints reported to the Office. The financial information collected from local governments is analyzed and is the basis of statutory reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor.