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IAPMO Acquires Green *Plumbers* USA Training and Accreditation Program

Ontario, Calif. (April 12, 2011) — The IAPMO Group today announced it has acquired the North American rights to the Green *Plumbers*[®] USA Training and Accreditation Program from Onni, Inc., and the Master Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors Association of Australia (MPMSAA).

Green *Plumbers* USA is an innovative national training and accreditation program that assists plumbers in understanding their role in the environment and public health. The organization's goal is to train thousands of plumbers to promote the benefits of water conservation and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by changing consumer and plumbing behavior through the use of energy efficiency and water saving technologies.

The United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters (UA), the recognized plumbing industry training authority with more than 340,000 members in the United States and Canada, partners with Green *Plumbers* in a common effort to provide the highest possible quality of green plumbing certifications in the country.

Green *Plumbers* USA CEO Steve Lehtonen joins IAPMO as senior director of Environmental Education and will continue to promote and develop the Green *Plumbers* program in North America.

"My goal when we brought the Green *Plumbers* program over from Australia in 2007 was to enhance the image of the plumber, recruit new workers to the plumbing industry and educate plumbers to be champions of conservation," Lehtonen said. "This acquisition will continue the core mission of the program while also allowing the Green *Plumbers* training program to expand operations, improve quality and assure that our environmental goals are consistent with effective codes, health and safety."

In addition to Lehtonen, Green *Plumbers* Senior Instructor Doug Kirk has joined IAPMO as director of Green Plumbing Curriculum.

Green Invest, the Australian trademark owner, has developed an international business model into which the existing Green *Plumbers* USA commercial operations will be merged, but will continue to operate as Green *Plumbers* USA.

Current Green *Plumbers* training operations will continue, and emphasis will be placed upon more classes, in more states, and expanded online applications. The new operation will be branded as "Green Plumbers Training and Accreditation."

IAPMO is uniquely positioned via its international presence to offer Green *Plumbers* training and personnel certification from its various offices throughout the world. The Green *Plumbers* program will benefit from The IAPMO Group's acquisition through expected access to numerous markets outside North America and Australia/New Zealand.

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Sponsor of the Uniform Codes, IAPMO – The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials – works in concert with government and industry for safe, sanitary plumbing and mechanical systems. Learn more about IAPMO at www.iapmo.org.

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