

# NEWS RELEASE

## CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS ARCHITECT INC. GOES CARBON NEUTRAL!

RIDEAU VALLEY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011 — We are very pleased to announce that Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. in Ottawa is now a carbon neutral professional office!

The amount of carbon dioxide equivalent produced by office and professional activities was calculated with the help of the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's Carbon Neutral Program. Staff travel, office heating and cooling, energy consumption of all kinds was tallied using energy bills for a 12-month period. From there, the number of trees needed to absorb or offset that same amount of carbon dioxide was calculated.

The tonnes of carbon dioxide produced annually by the Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. operation will be offset over the lifetime of 372 young, vigorous, newly-planted trees. The growing trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air thus taking greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere and locking it in the wood for up to 80 years. Tree mortality along the way was part of the calculation.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation will plant the trees during the regular reforestation activities in the Rideau Valley watershed in the Spring of 2011.

"I am proud to say that Chris Simmonds and his staff have made a contribution towards slowing down climate change. Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. is the first professional office in Eastern Ontario to take the very community-minded step of going carbon neutral." said Foundation Chair Jason Kelly.

Trees absorb greenhouse gas, produce life-giving oxygen, clean our water supplies, clean the air, provide wildlife habitat, buffer noise and wind, improve the soil and reduce soil erosion. No wonder planting trees is one of the best things we can do for our environment.

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**For more information:**

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