



## Media Contact

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## Energy Conservation, Recycling Company First Franchise in Oregon

*Minnesota based energy efficiency and environmental company awards first national franchise in Oregon.*

Owatonna, MN – January 9, 2007 - The Retrofit Companies® (TRC®) ([www.retrofitcompanies.com](http://www.retrofitcompanies.com)), an energy efficiency and recycling company, has awarded it's very first franchise. Justin Antus, a former sales person for TRC Corporate, and his business partner Anthony Ondracek will open the first franchise location near Portland, OR in 2007. TRC began offering franchises for sale in 2006.

"We are incredibly excited to be the first franchise for The Retrofit Companies. As a current employee I have gotten to know them personally and professionally. The employees are honest and ethical in their business conduct. They have distinguished themselves in their local market and nationally within their respective industries (recycling, retrofitting). I want to work hard towards gaining the same reputation within the state of Oregon that TRC currently has in Minnesota. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity with this organization," Antus says.

Ondracek tells why he and Antus chose to open a franchise in Oregon, "We feel businesses in Oregon have begun to realize their obligation and opportunity to preserve our state's resources. With the recent creation of the Oregon Energy Trust, and the state and federal tax incentive programs that currently exist, there has never been a better time for Oregon businesses to consider energy conservation projects. An analysis done by TRC® can quickly identify any areas that may be improved and we offer simple solutions for those improvements."

Recently Robert Marquardt, Vice President, Sales and Marketing at TRC® noted, "With increased consumer awareness and strong public opinion, energy usage and recycling efforts have created excellent market growth opportunities and customer demand for lighting retrofits and the recycling of hazardous waste. Our growth strategy at The Retrofit Companies® was developed to focus on exceeding customer needs. With our customers located throughout the United States, franchising our business model is an effective and efficient path to that end. Our Franchise development goals for 2007 include four cities, strategically located in the United States to leverage these opportunities."

The Retrofit Companies started as an electrical contractor specializing in energy efficient lighting upgrades then, due to waste disposal restrictions and a need for competitive supply prices, expanded their service menu to include Universal Waste recycling and lighting product sales. TRC regularly works in more than ten states in the mid-west installing efficient lighting upgrades, recycling Universal Waste, providing general electrical service and retail lighting supply. TRC corporate opened in 1992, and currently has locations in Owatonna, MN, St. Paul, MN and Indianapolis, IN.

For additional information about The Retrofit Companies® contact Robert Marquardt at 800-795-1230 or visit [www.retrofitcompanies.com](http://www.retrofitcompanies.com).

**PHOTO:** (left to right) Robert Marquardt (VP Sales & Marketing, TRC); Brad Meier (Owatonna Chamber of Commerce President); Tom Kuntz (Owatonna Mayor); Eric Kylo (CFO, TRC); Justin Antus (Franchise Owner), Tony Ondracek (Franchise Owner); Steve Kath (President of TRC); Ken Hendricksen (Owatonna Business Incubator President); Dan Harrington (VP Operations, TRC).

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