



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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NIPSCO CUSTOMERS HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE THIS EARTH DAY BY PLANTING MORE THAN 37,000 TREES

MERRILLVILLE, Ind. – More than 37,000 trees will be planted thanks to the 3,700 NIPSCO customers who recently converted to paperless billing, as part of a recent environmental initiative between NIPSCO, its parent company NiSource Inc. and The Nature Conservancy.

For every customer who signed up for the free Direct e-Bill service between January 1, 2010, and April 1, 2010, the company contributed \$10 – equating to 10 trees per customer – to The Nature Conservancy to help rebuild the endangered Atlantic Forest in Brazil through the organization’s Plant a Billion Trees program.

“This program enabled our customers to have a positive impact on the environment, while supporting our ongoing effort to provide reliable, efficient and clean energy for generations to come,” said Jimmy Staton, executive vice president and group CEO for NiSource’s Indiana Utilities. “Whether it’s through our investment in renewable energy and technologies that reduce air pollution, or offering customers incentives to use energy more efficiently, we will continue to explore ways that help us serve our customers in an environmentally responsible way.”

The partnership played an important role in The Nature Conservancy’s reforestation effort, which according to the Conservancy, will help restore more than 2.5 million acres of land and remove 10 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year. That’s like taking two million cars off the road. Only seven percent of the Atlantic Forest’s original area – which was the size of the U.S. eastern seaboard from Maine to South Carolina – survives. The Atlantic Forest helps regulate the atmosphere and stabilize global climate, including the communities NIPSCO serves.

“The Nature Conservancy was delighted to partner with NIPSCO and NiSource on this innovative, win-win project that provides positive environmental impacts both here at home and in Brazil,” added Mary McConnell, The Nature Conservancy’s Indiana State Director. “Reducing paper usage while reforesting one of the most endangered ecological systems on the planet sends a strong message of proactive environmental stewardship. We applaud the company’s conservation leadership in Indiana and around the world.”

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NIPSCO CUSTOMERS HELP PLANT 37,000 TREES

In a combined effort, NIPSCO and customers from eight other NiSource utilities will plant more than 190,000 trees in total.

Although the promotion has ended, NIPSCO still encourages customers to sign up for paperless billing. The service is a free, convenient way for customers to manage their account on-line, while protecting the environment at the same time.

To learn about other ways NIPSCO is helping to protect the environment, and for additional ideas that customers can use to help do their part, visit www.NIPSCO.com/environment.

Learn more about The Nature Conservancy's Plant a Billion Trees campaign at Nature.org.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 457,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.8 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in seven states. More information about NIPSCO is available at www.nipsco.com.

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at www.nature.org.

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