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## CLEARLAKE FURNITURE CHOSEN BY LEADING WIND ENERGY COMPANY TO CREATE EARTH-FRIENDLY FURNITURE.

Vermont company is hand-crafting hundreds of pieces for NRG Systems.

LUDLOW, VT — When a company that is fully invested in harnessing the power of wind for an energy source needs furniture — and lots of it — they uphold the same standards for environmental conservation. So, when NRG Systems of Hinesburg, Vermont, chose ClearLake Furniture to build several hundred pieces for their headquarters, they were already certain they had found a company that understood the importance of “green building”.

Since 1982, NRG Systems has made products to help its customers measure and understand the wind. The company’s products can be found on every continent, in more than 120 countries, serving electric utilities, wind farm developers, research institutes, government agencies and universities. NRG Systems maintains a staunch commitment to developing the best technology, improving our world and protecting the environment. They awarded the furniture contract to ClearLake Furniture in February and 148 pieces have been completed thus far.

ClearLake Furniture, a custom-furniture builder based in Ludlow, VT, is well-versed in the business of working in an environmentally-friendly manner. According to the company’s founder and owner Brent Karner, the NRG order requires the craftsmen to adhere to the strict standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™. Established by the U.S. Green Building Council to ensure sustainable building and development practices, LEED requires that ClearLake Furniture uses only certified earth-friendly parts.

Karner’s company is already certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, he selects woods from sustainable forests for the fine furniture crafted by hand in his workshop. He says that they used reclaimed lumber — maple trees harvested last year from NRG’s property — to contribute to the “greenness” of the project.

“When we use reclaimed lumber, we often get wood with much more character,” says Karner, who was trained in the centuries-old woodworking techniques at the prestigious North Bennet Street School in Boston. “There are tapholes in some of the maple from where the trees were tapped to get sap needed to make maple syrup.”

Doug Ficken is overseeing the details for the pieces of furniture being built in the fully restored 19<sup>th</sup> century barn where Karner employs six woodworkers. Ficken says every piece of lumber can be traced via a tag number. The company is audited annually to ensure it is keeping up with the rules and regulations, which Ficken says tend to change on a regular basis. “We know where every piece of wood came from. There is a vigilant chain of custody and we take every step to make sure nothing is compromised.”

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Karner says he expects to have the 117 chairs and tables completed by September 2008. Meanwhile, he and his team of craftsmen have been awarded another LEED project by the National Parks Service in Woodstock, VT.

ClearLake Furniture was founded in 1992 with the mission of creating fine hardwood furniture one piece at a time. Customers choose every detail for their customized pieces and are even invited to select the wood from the raw lumber. Visitors can tour the workshop daily and chat with the woodworkers. The company also has a showroom in the historic village of Woodstock, VT. For more information, visit [www.clearlakefurniture.com](http://www.clearlakefurniture.com) or call 800-758-8767.

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