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For Immediate Release

## **PLANET AND PGMS EXTEND PARTNERSHIP WITH OPEI/GIE+EXPO THROUGH 2018**

**HERNDON, Va., November 2, 2011** — The Green Industry Expo (GIE) is pleased to announce that it has extended its partnership with the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) through the year 2018. The GIE is made up of the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) and the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS).

The GIE+EXPO is the ninth largest trade show in the United States and offers 500,000 square feet of indoor exhibits, featuring 750 exhibitors, a 19 acre outdoor demonstration and test driving area, educational and networking opportunities, and a convenient mid-America location within driving distance of 60 percent of America's population. The GIE+EXPO is the industry's largest show of its kind, showcasing the newest green industry products and innovations. Attendees are exposed to the different segments of the industry that will ultimately help grow their businesses and increase profits.

"PLANET is pleased to announce our commitment to extend our partnership through 2018. With our industry constantly evolving, the GIE+EXPO allows green industry professionals the most opportunity for exposure to all aspects of our industry," says PLANET President, Jerry Grossi, Landscape Industry Certified Technician. "This partnership promotes strong communication between the different segments of our industry."

"Louisville has proven to be a dynamic venue for the GIE+EXPO, and PGMS is pleased to support the extension of its partnership with PLANET, and to continue to advance the educational programs we offer during the PGMS School of Grounds Management, which coincides with the show," says PGMS President and GIE President, Donald Bottger, Certified Grounds Manager. "From the classes to the indoor exhibits to the spectacular outdoor demonstration area, the GIE+EXPO truly is a 'must attend' for every grounds professional."

The GIE+EXPO is scheduled to be in the city of Louisville at the Kentucky Exposition Center for the foreseeable future. For more information on the GIE+EXPO, visit [GIE-EXPO.com](http://GIE-EXPO.com).

PLANET is the association of members who create and maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America. With approximately 3,500 member companies and affiliates, these firms and their employees represent more than 100,000 green industry professionals. Some of these professionals have taken the extra step of becoming certified through PLANET and bear the distinction of being known as [Landscape Industry Certified](#).

The Professional Grounds Management Society was established in 1911 as a professional society for the individual with the purpose of education and professional advancement. The majority of PGMS members are institutional grounds managers who work for organizations such as colleges and universities, municipalities, park and recreation facilities, office parks, apartment complexes, hotels/motels, cemeteries, theme parks, and landscape management companies.

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