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Epicurean Group's Latest Waste Reduction is Financial; Receives Improvement Award from Insurance Association

LOS ALTOS, California (April 18, 2012) – Epicurean Group, the sustainable Bay Area food service management company, is working to reduce waste again. This time, however, it's not food and packaging waste.

In March, Epicurean Group and its insurance company, McDermott Costa, were awarded the Controllable Premium Reduction (CPR) Improvement Award from the National Education Association for Controllable Premium (NEACP). The association works with certified workers' compensation advisers to help employers reduce the embedded charges that insurance companies are legally allowed to add into insurance policies. The association identifies and verifies savings, and honors those employers and advisers who are successful in reducing "controllable" premiums.

"In a sustainable food service management business, we know how important it is to reduce waste on every level," says Epicurean Group CEO Mary Clark Bartlett. Michael McDermott, vice president of McDermott Costa, Epicurean Group's insurance agency, says businesses are often overcharged – from 10 to 50 percent more – for their workers' compensation insurance policies.

"One of our most effective programs, Return to Work, began in 2010," says Epicurean Group Vice President of Operations and Safety Management Rey Hernandez. "The program allows employees to continue to work as a productive part of their team within the limits of their injury, as dictated by their doctors." The program affords the dual benefits of increasing employee morale and lowering rates, says Hernandez.

Marvin Rodriguez, Epicurean Group CFO, says, "McDermott Costa has shown us how to reduce waste in insurance premiums. Over the past three years of working together, we've reduced the controllable portion of our workers' compensation premium by an average of 37 percent, even though we've added 120 associates and managers to our staff." Rodriguez says reducing costs and attracting the best employees should be the goal of every smart company. "With the CPR Improvement Award, [Epicurean Group](#) is well on its way to achieving this goal."

Epicurean Group is an independent food service management company, providing restaurant and catering services to corporations, distinctive dining communities and schools and universities throughout Northern California. Epicurean Group is committed to socially responsible and environmentally sustainable business practices.

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McDermott Costa Vice President Michael McDermott and Epicurean Group CEO Mary Clark Bartlett display their CPR improvement certification, awarded by the NEACP.

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