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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CHIPOTLE PLANS MAJOR SOLAR POWER INITIATIVE**

### **Partners with Standard Renewable Energy to Generate 500 kW of Solar Power On-site at Chipotle Restaurants**

DENVER, October 20, 2009 – Chipotle Mexican Grill (NYSE: CMG and CMG.B) announced today it is partnering with Houston-based Standard Renewable Energy (SRE) to install solar panels on approximately 75 Chipotle restaurants over the next year. In all, Chipotle has committed to panels that will produce 500 kilowatts of electricity, making Chipotle the largest direct producer of solar energy in the restaurant industry.

“Our effort to change the way people think about and eat fast food began with our commitment to serving food made with ingredients from more sustainable sources, and that same kind of thinking now influences all areas of our business,” said Steve Ells, founder, chairman and co-CEO of Chipotle. “Today, we’re following a similar path in the way we design and build restaurants, looking for more environmentally friendly building materials and systems that make our restaurants more efficient.”

Solar panel installations are already underway in select cities including Denver, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio. Markets and restaurants where solar may be used is based on a formula that includes a restaurant’s electricity consumption, local utility solar rebates, and its access to direct sunlight.

The intent of Chipotle’s solar initiative is to reduce the restaurants’ traditional energy consumption during peak hours for energy use (from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.), when pressure on the energy grid is greatest. The amount of power produced through the solar program will eliminate more than 41 million pounds of CO2 emissions.

“Chipotle has recognized an eco-friendly method of reducing its operating costs while reducing its carbon footprint,” said Standard Renewable Energy CEO John Berger. “By applying solar, each individual restaurant will be decreasing its reliance on the local grid and fossil fuels and supplementing it with clean, renewable energy. This is just another way Chipotle is leading the restaurant industry in sustainability.”

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In addition to this new solar panel initiative, Chipotle was the first restaurant ever to receive Platinum level LEED® certification – the highest level – by the U.S. Green Building Council for its Gurnee, Ill., restaurant that features an on-site wind turbine and an underground cistern to harvest rainwater for irrigation. Chipotle also has a LEED certified restaurant in Long Island, NY, and a third restaurant that is pending certification in Minneapolis. All of Chipotle's new restaurants include some environmentally friendly materials or systems, including low VOC paints and sealants, recycled drywall and stainless steel, photocell light controls that regulate electric lighting based on availability of natural lighting, or low-E window glass that helps reduce heating and cooling needs.

Chipotle's pursuit of more sustainable building options is an extension of a philosophy it calls "Food with Integrity" that has the company pursuing ingredients from more sustainable sources. This commitment has led Chipotle to serve more naturally raised meat (from animals raised in a humane way, never given antibiotics or added hormones, and fed a pure vegetarian diet) than any other restaurant company. It also maintains significant commitments to serving organic and locally grown produce, and cheese and sour cream made with milk from cows that are never given the synthetic hormone rBGH.

### ***About Chipotle***

Steve Eells, founder, chairman and co-CEO, started Chipotle with the idea that food served fast did not have to be a typical fast food experience. Today, Chipotle continues to offer a focused menu of burritos, tacos, burrito bowls (a burrito without the tortilla) and salads made from fresh, high-quality raw ingredients, prepared using classic cooking methods and served in a distinctive atmosphere. Through our vision of Food with Integrity, Chipotle is seeking better food not only from using fresh ingredients, but ingredients that are sustainably grown and naturally raised with respect for the animals, the land, and the farmers who produce the food. Chipotle opened its first restaurant in 1993 and currently operates nearly 900 restaurants. For more information, visit [Chipotle.com](http://Chipotle.com).

### ***About Standard Renewable Energy***

Founded in 2006, Standard Renewable Energy (SRE) is the nation's largest Distributed Energy Services Company (DESCO) and leading provider of energy efficiency and on-site renewable energy solutions for homes, businesses and government entities. Products and services include solar and wind energy systems, energy monitoring services, energy audits, high-efficiency heating and cooling products, high efficiency insulation and lighting, solar window film, and more. For further information visit their website at [www.sre3.com](http://www.sre3.com).

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