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Green Bay Multi-family Apartment Building Cuts Costs with Renewable Energy System

- Solar domestic hot water system is part of Green Bay, Wis. apartment building's recent renovation -

GREEN BAY, Wis. (April 18, 2007) – Meadows North, a Green Bay, Wis. multi-family apartment building, has incorporated a solar domestic hot water system as part of a recent renovation. The renewable energy system will cut the building's natural gas consumption, shielding it from increases in energy costs and helping the building gain energy independence. The project was completed with technical and financial assistance from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative.

Installed by Hurckman Mechanical Industries, Inc. of Green Bay, Wis. and Hot Water Products, Inc. of Milwaukee, the system is an example of what other Wisconsin multi-family properties can do to cut energy costs. With a 320 square foot collector area, the three 119-gallon storage tanks are expected to meet more than 15 percent of the 75-unit apartment building's annual hot water needs, saving approximately \$750 in the first year (using \$1 per therm prices).

“As natural gas prices continue to rise and the cost of renewable energy systems fall, a growing number of Wisconsin residents and businesses are using renewable energy systems to reduce their utility bills and keep our air and water cleaner for future generations,” said Don Wichert, program director for Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program. “Meadows North Apartments' innovative achievement should be a model for other multi-family properties around the state. With a network of experts across Wisconsin and a variety of programs to work with, Focus on Energy can help anyone plan, finance and install renewable energy systems.”

The cost of Meadows North's solar hot water system was \$32,765; they will receive an \$8,000 Cash-Back Reward from Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program. The building's existing HVAC system was also made more energy efficient with the help of a \$1,170 Cash-Back Reward from Focus on Energy's Apartment & Condo Efficiency Services Program.

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Meadows North Apartments and the Brown County Home Builders Association invited apartment building owners, builders and managers to a Multifamily Educational Outing at Meadows North on April 17, 2007 to discuss the benefits of energy efficiency and solar thermal in the multi-family industry. Kari Heinrich, program manager for the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program, was on hand to present the Cash-Back Reward check for \$9,170.

By supporting Wisconsin's renewable energy marketplace, Focus on Energy has made the sun, wind and organic materials a bigger part of Wisconsin's energy mix and has helped ensure that Wisconsin's residents and businesses have reliable and affordable sources of energy. For more information about the Renewable Energy Program, call Focus on Energy at (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About the Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program seeks to raise awareness, provide training and financing, enhance marketing, promote technical assistance and support the installation of renewable energy technologies across Wisconsin. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy works with eligible Wisconsin residents and businesses to install cost effective energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Focus information, resources and financial incentives help to implement projects that otherwise would not get completed, or to complete projects sooner than scheduled. Its efforts help Wisconsin residents and businesses manage rising energy costs, promote in-state economic development, protect our environment and control the state's growing demand for electricity and natural gas. For more information call (800) 762-7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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