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Innovative Energy Efficient Apartment Building Opens for Low-Income Milwaukee Residents

MILWAUKEE (May 5, 2009) — On April 4, 2009, Prairie Apartments, an innovative eco-friendly new construction building, opened its doors to low-income Milwaukee residents experiencing obstacles such as homelessness and mental illness. With the help of Focus on Energy, developers Heartland Housing of Chicago and Guest House of Milwaukee were able to integrate energy efficiency measures into the 24-unit complex.

“Not only does the apartment provide high-quality affordable housing for Milwaukee residents in need, it incorporates important energy efficient features,” said Carter Dedolph, Focus on Energy Program Manager. “Prairie Apartments is a shining example of our goal to help buildings throughout the state reduce their energy use, operating costs and environmental impact.”

Energy Efficient Features

To save energy and money, Focus on Energy worked with the developers to make extensive use of ENERGY STAR[®] qualified compact fluorescent fixtures and lighting occupancy sensors in most of the common areas. In addition, ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, programmable thermostats and windows were also used throughout.

Moreover, the building’s well-sealed envelope reduces air leakage, and works hand in hand with high efficiency cooling and heating equipment. In fact, the facility’s standards of design are so high it was built to achieve the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes certification. Overall, the improvements should save the building more than 4,000 therms of natural gas and about 72,500 kilowatt hours of electricity annually; not to mention \$13,000 a year on energy costs.

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**INNOVATIVE ENERGY EFFICIENT APARTMENT BUILDING OPENS FOR LOW-INCOME
MILWAUKEE RESIDENTS
-PAGE 2-**

“When you consider the housing sector accounts for more than one-third of all energy consumed in the United States on a daily basis, it becomes important to remember the environmental impact of where we live,” continued Dedolph. “This why Wisconsin residents need to know, whether they own a home, business, or rent an apartment, they have the ability to take control of their energy use — with the help of Focus on Energy.”

To get more information about the programs available through Focus on Energy, 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 be 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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