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Focus on Energy Recognized as Leader in ENERGY STAR® Housing

- State's energy efficiency initiative earns award for promoting construction of new homes that protect the environment through energy efficiency -

MADISON, Wis. (June 16, 2009) — Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a 2009 ENERGY STAR Leadership in Housing Award. The award is an acknowledgment of Focus on Energy's efforts to promote energy efficient new home construction and environmental protection by sponsoring the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program.

“EPA is privileged to work with a diverse group of utilities, state programs, and home builder associations who effectively support ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes,” said Sam Rashkin, National Director of ENERGY STAR for Homes. “Thanks to the leadership of these sponsors, home buyers across the county have greater access to ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes that cost less to own while improving comfort, indoor air quality, safety, durability and our environment.”

What is the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program?

The Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program and participating builders work together based on the principles of applied building science and the recognition that a home is an integrated and interactive system. This system is designed, built and tested to meet program standards. Homes built under the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program are estimated to be 25 percent more energy efficient than homes built to Wisconsin's Uniform Dwelling Code.

A few of the practices and technologies that contribute to a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home's exceptional performance include tight construction, improved insulation details, combustion safety, tested ventilation and energy efficient heating and cooling equipment. The end result is a home that combines enhanced comfort with increased comfort, durability, safety and energy efficiency.

“Despite historically low construction in the new home building industry, we are extremely proud to be recognized for having a positive impact on Wisconsin’s housing industry. In fact, we reached the completion of the 10,000th Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home in 2008,” said Cater Dedolph, Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes program manager. “The program’s success demonstrates that building energy efficient homes is a high priority for consumers.”

To find more information about homes certified under the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, including participating builders, visit focusonenergy.com or call (800) 762-7077.

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.

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 12,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).

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