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Focus on Energy Renewable Energy Program Promotes Energy Independence

- Program helped state residents and businesses install 245 renewable energy systems in the past year -

MADISON, Wis. (June 17, 2008) – In the past year Focus on Energy’s Renewable Energy Program has helped 245 Wisconsin businesses and homeowners become more energy independent. By providing technical and financial assistance toward the installation of renewable energy systems, Focus on Energy allowed them to harness energy from the sun, the wind and organic materials. Together, these systems will generate the equivalent of the electricity consumed by 256 average Wisconsin homes and the natural gas used by 499 average Wisconsin homes.

Focus on Energy’s Renewable Energy Program strives to make renewable energy an attainable option in Wisconsin by encouraging Wisconsin’s residents and businesses to investigate and take advantage of renewable energy sources. The program educates residents and business owners about renewable energy choices, provides training and financing, promotes technical assistance and supports the installation of renewable energy technologies across Wisconsin.

“The renewable energy industry is booming — and as technology continues to improve and costs come down, a growing number of Wisconsin residents and businesses are using renewable energy systems to reduce their energy bills,” said Don Wichert, program director for Focus on Energy’s Renewable Energy Program. “With a network of experts across Wisconsin and a variety of services, Focus on Energy can help anyone plan, finance and install renewable energy systems.”

Renewable energy also helps keep Wisconsin’s air and water clean for future generations. The 245 projects supported by Focus on Energy will prevent the burning of 1,275 tons of coal per year to generate electricity, and will prevent 5,666 tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere per year.

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Success Stories

As energy costs are on the rise, Wisconsin residents are taking advantage of the opportunity to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels and reduce pollution. The following Wisconsin residents and businesses, with the help of Focus on Energy, have installed a renewable energy system that has helped them become more energy independent:

In June 2007 **Charles Heide of Kenosha, Wis.**, installed a large 35-kilowatt (kW) wind turbine and in September 2007, he installed a 10.5 kW solar electric system. The projects were completed with the help of nearly \$65,000 in grants from Focus on Energy. The recently completed solar electric and wind systems feed surplus power back to the grid, resulting in monthly energy bill credits.

Each year, Heide's wind and solar electric systems will generate more than 87,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, enough to power eight typical Wisconsin homes. The renewable energy produced by these systems will offset the burning of 44 tons of coal and the release of more than 100 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year.

Camp Dewan near Lake Geneva, Wis., a private camp available for group parties and outings, recently completed the installation of a 16 kW solar electric system. Camp Dewan received technical assistance and was approved for a Cash-Back Reward totaling nearly \$30,000 from Focus on Energy. The system's 78 solar panels are expected to generate more than 20,000 kWh of electricity each year — enough to prevent more than 22 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

Winnebago County Health Department in Oshkosh, Wis., installed a solar domestic hot water system in April 2008. The 32-panel solar domestic hot water system will save the facility more than 3,700 therms a year, shielding it from increases in energy costs. The completion of the renewable energy system is due in part to technical assistance and a Cash-Back Reward totaling nearly \$39,000 from Focus on Energy — 35 percent of the project's total cost. The system's 1,280 square feet of solar collectors will prevent more than 22 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

To find more information about technical and financial assistance available through Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program, 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.

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