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## **Focus on Energy Works with Veridian Homes to Make House “Extremely” Energy Efficient**

**MADISON, Wis. (Aug. 5, 2008)** — In conjunction with the popular show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” Focus on Energy and its partners worked with Madison, Wis., based Veridian Homes on implementing energy efficient features for a home which was presented on July 31, 2008 to the Anders-Beatty family of Richland Center, Wis. The project, which lasted just one week, resulted in a home certified by Focus on Energy’s Wisconsin ENERGY STAR® Homes Program.

The “Extreme Makeover” home is one of more than 9,000 Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes throughout the state. In order to achieve this certification, a consultant who partners with Focus on Energy worked with Veridian Homes on the planning, construction and testing of the home based on a set of proven and effective building standards to ensure energy efficiency. The end result of all this work is a home that will benefit the family for years to come.

“Veridian Homes is a strong partner of the program because of its commitment to building homes that are certified by the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program. In fact, the certification is considered to be the “greenest” aspect of the Makeover project,” said Sue Hanson, program manager for Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes. “In addition to enjoying a well-deserved, beautiful new home, this family will have the peace of mind knowing their house combines enhanced comfort and safety with increased durability and lower energy bills.”

### **What makes this home a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home?**

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 factor into the program’s exceptional performance include tight construction, improved insulation details, tested ventilation and energy efficient heating and cooling equipment.

- **Tight Construction** is attributed to site visits by consultants who partner with the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program. They address the gaps, holes and framing bypasses that can occur during construction.
- **Improved Insulation Details** combined with tight construction, minimize voids, gaps, compressions and air movement in and through the insulation, factors that can dramatically decrease performance on cold winter nights.
- **Tested Ventilation** ensures a well designed ventilation system, necessary for avoiding damage from moisture and maintaining indoor air quality.
- **Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment** that is properly sized for the house can lower utility bills, reduce maintenance problems and eliminate noise.

### What else makes this home energy efficient?

Some additional features that will contribute to this home’s energy efficiency include the use of ENERGY STAR qualified compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) and ENERGY STAR qualified appliances throughout the house.

The new home has incorporated a number of **ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs**. These CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs. In addition, CFLs last up to ten times longer, which makes frequent changing of burnt out light bulbs a thing of the past. ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, so they can replace regular incandescent bulbs in almost any fixture. CFLs are also available in dimmable and three-way varieties.

The “Extreme Makeover” home also boasts **ENERGY STAR qualified appliances**. Appliances such as clothes washers, refrigerators and dishwashers featuring the ENERGY STAR are better than standard appliances because they have met strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. Because they use less energy, they are better for the environment and cost less to operate, saving money on utility bills. In fact, ENERGY STAR qualified appliances use 10 percent to 50 percent less energy than standard models. For example:

#### Clothes Washers

- Compared to a standard model, an ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer saves more than 7,000 gallons of water a year.
- By dramatically reducing energy and water consumption, these units cut utility bills by an average of \$50 per year.

#### Refrigerators

- ENERGY STAR qualified refrigerator models use 40 percent less energy than the conventional models sold in 2001, which can result in a savings of more than \$250 over the refrigerator’s lifetime.

#### Dishwashers

- ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers use more than 40 percent less energy than the federal minimum standard for energy consumption.
- Because they use less hot water compared to new conventional models, an ENERGY STAR qualified dishwasher saves about \$90 over its lifetime.
- Because of their internal water heaters, ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers reduce water heating costs by 20 percent.

To find more information about energy efficient options for your home, visit [focusonenergy.com](http://focusonenergy.com) or call (800) 762-7077. To find more information about the Anders-Beatty family and the construction of the “Extreme Makeover” home, visit Veridian Homes’ designated Web site, [www.veridiangives.com](http://www.veridiangives.com).

#### **About the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program**

Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes is one of the Focus on Energy Residential Programs. New homes are constructed to meet program standards and are estimated to be 25 percent more energy efficient than homes built to Wisconsin’s Uniform Dwelling Code. To date, the more than 400 builders who have partnered with the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program have constructed more than 9,000 new homes. For information about the program, call (800) 762-7077 or visit [focusonenergy.com](http://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](http://focusonenergy.com).

#### **About “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”**

“Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” which has won back-to-back Emmy Awards as Best Reality Program (non-competitive), is entering its 6th season on ABC. The program is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. Anthony Dominici is the executive producer; and David Goldberg is the president of Endemol USA.

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