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Wisconsin Extended Health Care Facility is First to Install Renewable Energy System

- Solar domestic hot water system is part of Hammond, Wis. facility's recent renovation -

HAMMOND, Wis. (November 17, 2006) – As part of a recent renovation of its extended care facility, Hammond, Wis. based American Heritage Care Center incorporated a solar domestic hot water system. The renewable energy system will cut the facility's natural gas consumption, shielding it from increases in energy costs and helping the center gain energy independence. Installed by Hot Water Products, Inc. in Milwaukee, the system is the first to be installed in an extended care center in Wisconsin. With a 960 square foot collector area, the 1,500 gallons of storage tanks are expected to meet more than 30 percent of the center's annual hot water needs, saving approximately \$2,500 the first year alone. The project was completed with technical and financial assistance from Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative.

“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. “American Heritage Care Center's innovative achievement should be a model for other nursing homes and extended care facilities 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.”

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The cost of American Heritage Care Center's solar hot water system was \$56,859; however, because of a \$12,264 Cash-Back Reward from Focus on Energy and federal incentives, the system is expected to pay for itself in about four years. Focus on Energy presented the center with the Cash-Back Reward at its open house on November 16, 2006. The event celebrated the newly renovated center and offered attendees a tour, including the solar domestic hot water system.

Along with support from Focus on Energy's Renewable Energy Program on the installation of the solar domestic hot water system, the center's existing HVAC system was made more energy efficient with the help of Focus' Apartment & Condo Efficiency Services Program.

By supporting Wisconsin's renewable energy marketplace, Focus on Energy has made the sun, wind, water 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 is a public-private partnership that provides energy efficiency and renewable energy information and services to the state's energy utility customers. 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.

About Focus on Energy

Focus on Energy is a public-private partnership offering energy information and services to energy utility customers throughout Wisconsin. The goals of this program are to encourage energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, enhance the environment and ensure the future supply of energy for Wisconsin. Since July 2001, the program has helped Wisconsin's businesses and residents cut their annual utility bills by more than \$129 million – reducing their energy consumption by more than 931 million kilowatt-hours of electricity and more than 47 million therms of natural gas. For more information, call 800.762.7077 or visit focusonenergy.com.

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