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Wisconsin ENERGY STAR® Homes Program Celebrates 8,000th Home

CALEDONIA, Wis. (June 18, 2007) – Focus on Energy, Wisconsin’s energy efficiency and renewable energy initiative, celebrated the completion of the 8,000th home certified under its Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program during a dedication ceremony on Friday, June 15, 2007. Speakers included Greg Nahn, program manager for the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, and David Ciepluch, energy efficiency project strategist for We Energies.

“One thing many consumers may not be aware of is that living in an energy efficient home is the single biggest impact they can make towards lowering their carbon footprint,” said Nahn. “By building their home to the standards of the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, they are not only enjoying a well-built home that is comfortable, durable and safe — they are saving on energy costs and lessening their impact on the environment and contribution to global warming.”

Nahn went on to praise the builders and consultants who have worked together since 2001 to make the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program successful. “The program has worked hard over the years to build the necessary infrastructure of partners who work together with a set of proven and effective building standards, specific to Wisconsin’s extreme weather,” added Nahn. “Their combined technical expertise during the planning, construction and testing of each home results in a dwelling that combines enhanced comfort and safety with increased durability and energy efficiency.”

Jim and Cindy Madson of Caledonia, Wis., own the 8,000th Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home. The 2,684 square foot traditional cedar and brick home was built by Racine, Wis., based Kevin Jones Builders. Along with Tom Bawolek, an independent consultant who partners with the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, Kevin Jones Builders worked to ensure the Madson family’s home was built to be an estimated 25 percent more energy efficient than homes built to Wisconsin’s Uniform Dwelling Code.

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Sound Building Principles

Like all homes built under the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, the Madson residence is different from other newly built homes in Wisconsin. The main difference is in the attention paid to every detail in the home's construction. The 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. A few of the practices and technologies that contribute to the program's exceptional performance include:

- **Tight Construction.** This is due to site visits designed to address potential gaps, holes and framing bypasses that can occur during construction. Tighter construction means reduced air infiltration, which combined with properly installed insulation and tested ventilation, can reduce energy bills and uncomfortable drafts while enhancing the ability to control indoor air quality.
- **Improved Insulation.** In addition to setting the standard for building air tightness, the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program establishes guidelines for insulation installation. This combination minimizes voids, gaps, compressions and air movement in and through the insulation, factors that can dramatically decrease performance on cold winter nights.
- **Tested Ventilation.** Through the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, homes are also tested for effective ventilation. An efficient, well designed ventilation system is necessary for avoiding damage from moisture and controlling indoor air quality.
- **Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling Equipment.** Due to the high standards during the construction of a Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Home, the size of the home's heating and cooling equipment can often be smaller than the equipment needed in a home built to Wisconsin's Uniform Dwelling Code. Using high efficiency heating and cooling equipment that is properly sized for the house can lower utility bills, reduce maintenance problems and eliminate noise.

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As energy costs and concern for the environment increase, Nahn hopes the Madson’s home will serve as an example to homeowners and builders in Wisconsin. “Building green is on the forefront of many consumers' minds, and it’s important to recognize that the biggest component of green building, with the largest long-term impact, has to do with the home's performance and efficiency — not the construction materials,” continued Nahn. “This is where the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program comes into play; a certified home will help lower the cost of living while protecting our environment now and for the future generations.”

“We thank Kevin Jones Builders for providing leadership in building superior homes,” said Nahn. “We also congratulate the Madson family for having the foresight to build with Kevin Jones Builders through the program, and wish them many years of happiness in their new home.”

To find other builders or consultants who partner with the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program, visit focusonenergy.com or call (800) 762-7077 for more information.

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 350 builders who have partnered with the Wisconsin ENERGY STAR Homes Program have constructed 8,000 new homes. For information about the program, 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 get 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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