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**THE COLORADO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION'S  
ENERGY SAVING PARTNERS PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

***Energy Saving Program to Serve as Model***

**DENVER, CO, September 23, 2005** — The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a nonprofit research group based in Washington, D.C., is pleased to announce that Energy Saving Partners, which is a program of the Colorado Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC), received an "honorable mention" merit award as one of America's best low-income energy efficiency programs. Energy Savings Partners (E\$P) delivers free residential energy saving services to qualified families. E\$P receives funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), and Xcel Energy.

ACEEE initiated the awards program to recognize outstanding energy efficiency programs serving low-income households, a population especially hard-hit by soaring energy costs. E\$P's program was selected in a national search for its successful programs. ACEEE has compiled a report that includes all award programs, to serve as a reference of how to best structure programs and provide critical services that reduce energy costs.

"Low-income households are especially vulnerable to rapidly escalating energy costs," said Dr. Martin Kushler, ACEEE Utilities Program Director and report co-author. "This winter could create unprecedented hardships for low-income families. Energy efficiency improvements are essential to helping these families sustain themselves economically."

Energy Saving Partners administers Colorado's Weatherization program through eight local agencies. More than 60,000 homes have been weatherized since 1976. Each year another 4,000 are completed by E\$P. Xcel has been a funding partner since 1993, supplementing the services to its low-income customers.

"Weatherization provides low-income families with homes that use energy more cost effectively and safely while allowing the occupants to be comfortable," said Jeff Ackermann, E\$P program manager. "Colorado's Weatherization program has been extremely successful in reducing the energy burden on state's neediest families."

For additional information on this project, contact Dan York at 608-243-1123 or Marty Kushler at 517-655-7037. A free downloadable copy is available at <http://aceee.org/pubs/U053.htm>. To learn more about E\$P visit [www.colorado.gov/oemc](http://www.colorado.gov/oemc) or call Jeff Ackermann at (303)866-2386.

**About ACEEE:** *The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection. For information about ACEEE and its programs, publications, and conferences, contact ACEEE, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 801, Washington, D.C. 20036-5525 or visit <http://aceee.org>.*

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