



OEMC/E\$P Media Contact: Megan Castle
Megan.Castle@state.co.us

(303) 866-2262

Sun Power Media Contact: Ernie Lefebvre
elefebvre@sunpowerinc.org
(303) 382-1514

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION AND SUN POWER, INC.
CELEBRATE 30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COLORADO'S WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM**

U.S. Senator Allard to Visit Swansea Home for Weatherization Day

DENVER, CO, October 30, 2006 – The Colorado Office of Energy Management and Conservation (OEMC) and Sun Power, Inc. a local service provider, are celebrating “Colorado Weatherization Day” on October 30, in Denver’s Swansea neighborhood. The event will also mark the 30th anniversary of Colorado’s Weatherization program, highlighting its contributions, and showcasing its state-of-the-art energy efficiency techniques and measures used to improve homes.

In Colorado, income-qualified households receive free energy efficiency services through the Energy Saving Partners (E\$P) Program, a program of OEMC. E\$P manages the Colorado’s eight local agencies that implement weatherization throughout the state.

“For the past 30 years, Weatherization has provided Colorado’s neediest families with safe, warm, comfortable homes through energy saving measures. More than 100,000 homes have been weatherized in Colorado. Weatherization has proven that the average monthly energy bill can be reduced by 15 to 30 percent. For every dollar invested in weatherization, at least \$1.30 in energy-related benefits is returned,” said Drew Bolin, OEMC Director.

Sun Power, the weatherization agency serving Denver and Jefferson Counties, has weatherized nearly 12, 000 homes. They will conduct a tour of the energy efficiency measures done at a Swansea home and hand out tips on other ways to lower utility bills.

“Sun Power is proud to provide this essential service to Colorado’s families who are most at risk. At each home, our technicians perform an extensive energy audit to determine the most cost-effective weatherization techniques, as well as assess health and safety conditions, such as carbon monoxide levels,” said Ernie Lefebvre, Sun Power Executive Director.

In addition to safety measures, technicians use the audit to guide the energy efficiency investments made in the home. For example, adding insulation, efficient lighting and replacing the refrigerator can significantly reduce energy usage. This year’s demonstration home received insulation to stop drafts and heat loss. Also, the home’s refrigerator was replaced with a new energy efficient model.

Low-income households struggling with their utility bills can also receive help through the Low-income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), which begins accepting applications on November 1. LEAP eligible households also automatically qualify for weatherization services. LEAP and E\$P work hand-in-hand: LEAP represents an immediate response to the situation, and E\$P offers a longer term solution. E\$P is funded through the U.S. Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Human Services, and Xcel Energy, Inc.

Denver and Boulder are both hosting events for “Weatherization Day” on October 30, and Grand Junction will host an event on November 1. For more information or how to qualify, contact E\$P at 1-866-HEAT HELP (1-866-432-8435) or in Denver, call Sun Power at (303) 382-1514.

If you would like to attend “Weatherization Day,” please RSVP to Megan Castle at (303) 866-2262 or megan.castle@state.co.us.

–End–