



## Governor's Energy Office

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, February 7, 2008

### CONTACT:

Megan Castle, 303.866.2262

### “GOVERNOR’S ENERGY OFFICE ANNOUNCES 12 ENERGY STAR NEW HOMES PARTNERS”

DENVER— The Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) announced that 12 matching grant award recipients have been selected for the 2008 Colorado ENERGY STAR® New Homes program. The awardees are comprised of 37 statewide communities and will receive matching funds to support a variety of activities to increase the energy efficiency of all new homes built in their jurisdictions. Through this program, city and county officials will work closely with area residential builders to help them earn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR label for new homes and increase the energy efficiency and value of their housing stock.

GEO received applications totaling \$329,000 in proposed partner match and has allocated \$224,000 of Clean Energy Funds to the program. The ENERGY STAR New Homes 12 partners and their 37 communities are:

- *Boulder County:* City of Boulder, Boulder County, City of Longmont
- *Pitkin County:* Town of Carbondale, City of Aspen, City of Rifle, City of Glenwood Springs, Pitkin County
- *Mt. Crested Butte:* Town of Mt. Crested Butte
- *Chaffee County:* Chaffee County, Town of Poncha Springs, City of Salida, Town of Buena Vista, Sangre De Cristo Electric, Headwaters Energy & Finance, First Colorado Land Office, Chaffee County HBA, South Main Development, Coureguex Development
- *City and County of Denver:* City and County of Denver, Colorado Energy Science Center, Lowry
- *San Miguel County:* Town of Telluride, Town of Mountain Village, San Miguel County, New Community Coalition
- *Summit County:* High Country Conservation Center, Summit County, Town of Frisco, Town of Breckenridge
- *Steamboat Springs:* City of Steamboat Springs
- *Douglas County:* Town of Parker
- *Northern Colorado:* City of Fort Collins
- *Colorado Springs:* Colorado Springs Utilities
- *Eagle County:* Eagle County, Eagle Valley Alliance for Sustainability, Town of Vail

“Energy-efficient homes are our best defense against the rising cost of energy and reducing our overall energy demand,” said Tom Plant, GEO’s director. “The goal of the ENERGY STAR New Homes program is to educate communities, builders, homeowners and buyers that energy efficiency is an essential feature to controlling costs, reducing pollution and having a more comfortable home.”

To earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These homes are at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code (IRC), and include additional energy saving features that typically make them 20–30% more efficient than standard homes.

Once built, the home must have an energy audit by a certified by an independent Home Energy Rater who is responsible for conducting onsite testing and inspections of installed measures such as insulation, high performance windows, building envelope, duct systems, and efficient heating and cooling equipment.

“We want to support communities that are interested in investing in energy efficiency but need assistance in rolling out a local program. This program is designed to help communities achieve higher levels of energy efficiency, control pollution, and better manage their energy usage. Additionally, GEO is interested in working with any communities that wish to go beyond this program in promoting energy efficiency, and we will support these extra efforts,” said Tom Plant.

Additional ENERGY STAR home information can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). For more information about the program, visit the Governor's Energy Office, [www.colorado.gov/energy](http://www.colorado.gov/energy)

# # #