



Governor's Energy Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE OFFERS ENERGY EFFICIENT REBUILDING ASSISTANCE FOR TORNADO IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

WINDSOR – The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) participated at a homeowner and homebuilder information forum to discuss available programs and financial support for tornado affected residential properties on July 23, in Windsor. GEO announced four opportunities for support for those impacted by the powerful storm that touched down in Weld County in late May. Eric Stern, GEO's Senior Program Manager of Residential Buildings, explained how GEO will help homeowners, renters, and builders save money and save energy as they rebuild their communities:

ENERGY STAR New Homes:

GEO is offering \$500 per home rebate to homebuilders that build an ENERGY STAR qualified home. To earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the home's energy performance must be tested & verified by a certified Home Energy Rater. ENERGY STAR New Homes are 15% more energy efficient than homes built to 2004 IRC, and key features include high efficiency furnaces; properly installed insulation; energy efficient windows & thermal envelope; and air sealing and duct sealing. GEO will host a free training for area homebuilders in August.

Insulate Colorado:

GEO will offer a rebate to homeowners that install attic & exterior wall insulation and air sealing measures in existing single family homes. The rebate is equal to 20% of job cost or up to \$300 per home. The insulation must be installed by a qualified contractor, and a seminar will be held for interested contractors in August.

Energy Saving Partners:

GEO offers this free program is for income qualified residents, both renters and homeowners. Services may include receiving high efficiency refrigerators and furnaces, insulation installation and air leakage reduction, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL's), as well as a comprehensive energy audit. Residents interested in this program can contact the Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments at (970) 867-9409 ext. 230 for more information.

Solar Domestic Hot Water:

GEO is offering rebates to homeowners that install solar domestic hot water systems during the rebuilding effort. Program funding will provide for approximately 25 rebates. Rebates will be offered at up to \$2,000 per system, which is approximately 20% of the average cost. Systems installed before Dec 31, 2008 may also qualify for up to \$2,000 in federal tax credits. Contact the administrator at the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (CoSEIA) at GEOsolargrants@coseia.org or call (888) 991-0004 for more information.

Susan Kirkpatrick, executive director of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, which has been working with the Town of Windsor through its divisions of Emergency Management, Housing and Local Government said, "The Governor's Energy Office brings such valuable resources to the table in this recovery process. This is a great example of state and local government coming together to improve the lives of Colorado citizens. We applaud the services the GEO is making available to the Town of Windsor."

For more information, including applications and training will be available in early August. To learn more about these opportunities, visit GEO's website at www.colorado.gov/energy.

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