



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CO ENERGY STAR New Home market penetration makes record gains, hitting over 47%

EPA honors Xcel Energy as utility partner of the year for 2010

In 2010, over 47% of homes built in Colorado, a total of 4,100, achieved the ENERGY STAR label, up 15% from 2009. The increase is the direct result of the work of Xcel Energy and more than 50 statewide partners through the ENERGY STAR New Homes program. In addition, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the ENERGY STAR Utility Partner of the Year Award to Xcel Energy this week. Xcel Energy's ENERGY STAR program was selected for its success in supporting the construction of energy-efficient new homes.

"Congratulations to Xcel Energy for being named the ENERGY STAR Utility Partner of the Year," TJ Deora, the GEO's director said. "The hard work of Xcel Energy, and partnering organizations and businesses across the state has made Colorado's new housing stock more energy efficient and more comfortable for residents. In addition, the ENERGY STAR program has given homebuilders across the state the training and tools they need to remain competitive in a tough economy."

Xcel Energy's program helps customers and builders work through the process of building an ENERGY STAR qualified, and provides training, consultation, diagnostics testing for the building industry and ENERGY STAR certification. To complement Xcel Energy's program, the GEO works closely with local partners to provide industry training and increase consumer awareness of the ENERGY STAR label.

"The GEO and their partners, such as Xcel Energy, are leading the way in creating and implementing solutions to climate change through greater energy efficiency," said Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. "The Colorado program has helped its customers understand how they can help protect our environment while saving energy and money."

The EPA has linked significant cost and pollution savings to the ENERGY STAR program. Homes built to ENERGY STAR standards are typically 20 to 30 percent more efficient than standard homes, improving quality and comfort while reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010 alone, Coloradans that purchased ENERGY STAR homes saved an average of \$400 on their energy bills. This equates to total savings of over \$1.5M and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of over 2000 vehicles.

The ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Awards are awarded in a variety of categories each year to recognize efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce pollution. Award winners are selected from more than 17,000 organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program nationwide.

For additional information, visit:

www.xcelenergy.com/Colorado/Residential/Programs_Resources/Pages/ENERGYSTARNewHomes.aspx

www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=pt_awards.pt_es_awards

www.coloradoenergystarhomes.com