

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE SOLAR SYSTEM TOPS OFF ENERGY MAKEOVER

The two winners of the 2007 Energy Makeover Contest are receiving complete energy efficiency home upgrades just in time to enjoy big savings for the holidays.

Lakewood, CO---A Denver family is thrilled that a brand new solar electric system will be installed on their home on Thursday--for free! Angie Golden couldn't believe it when she found out she was a winner, selected from among over 7,000 entries, of the Energy Makeover Contest. Her family, and another winner in Boulder, has now received:

- Before and after energy audits
- New energy efficient furnace and central air conditioning
- New appliances
- New windows
- Insulation
- Duct cleaning
- New window coverings

Angie and Jeremy Golden moved into their home in 2001 with their three young children Avery, Eva, and Jude. Angie is a stay at home mom while Jeremy, a Colorado native, manages his tech support company. Their comfort problems were the largest issue. Angie complained of the windows being leaky and rattling from the wind and even ice forming on the inside of their windows. Their daughters corner room was always much colder than the parents centrally located room. And in the summer it is always hot, even with air conditioning running on full blast. Angie and her family have expressed great gratitude for helping them to live in a much more comfortable and sustainable home.

The Energy Makeover Contest is a combined educational effort between Xcel Energy; the Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC), a local nonprofit; the city of Boulder; and many energy efficiency and renewable energy company sponsors. The goal of this contest is to create a real-life example of energy efficiency and solar power at work to save resources and money in a real-life home.

Each home's energy use is measured before and after the upgrades are installed. This data is then analyzed and profiled on-line, through workshops and electronic newsletters. The aim is to help other homeowners understand what steps they can take to use less energy and how to use what they need wisely.

In past years winners have reduced their energy use form 20-80%. And these savings were achieved without a solar electric system.

These families will enjoy lower energy bills, increased property values, more comfortable living spaces, and an environmentally friendly home.

More information including details of upgrades and energy use will be posted at www.SmartEnergyLiving.org in the coming months.

Photos available upon request.

CESC is a 501 C (3) non-profit organization. CESC's mission is to increase the understanding and appreciation of energy science and technology in order to enable decision-makers to adopt energy practices that produce economic benefits, reduce environmental impacts and increase the sustainability of energy supply.

Xcel Energy is a leading combination electricity and natural gas energy company that offers a comprehensive portfolio of energy-related products and services to 3.3 million electricity customers and 1.8 million natural gas customers in 8 Western and Midwestern states.

Energy Makeover Contests

Started in 2003, the Energy Makeover Contests are partnerships between local utilities, CESC, and the leaders in the energy efficiency sectors. CESC has partnered with Delta Montrose Electric Association, Colorado Springs Utilities and Xcel Energy to award 24 families throughout Colorado energy efficiency upgrades. These family's energy bills dropped by 20% to 80%, saving them hundreds or thousands of dollars in energy costs!