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Energy Makeover Contest Winners Experience a 65% Reduction in Natural Gas Use In Spite of Recent Weather

LAKEWOOD, CO – One of the winners of the 2006 Xcel Energy Makeover winners, Wendy Chavez, exclaims “We have been very comfortable even though it has been so very cold. My bill seems to be at least half of what it had been, so I am very happy.” The energy data collected so far shows that the Chavez’s used 65% less natural gas than last winter, in spite of recent snow storms and extra cold weather.

The contest is designed to bring attention to the many options homeowners have to reduce their energy bills, improve home comfort, and address indoor air quality and durability concerns. An educational workshop and home tour explaining in detail the Chavez home energy analysis and energy improvements is being held on February 17th, beginning at the National Renewable Energy laboratory Visitor’s Center, in Golden and finishing at the Chavez Home, in Centennial.

For the third consecutive year, Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) and Xcel Energy partnered to provide two Xcel Energy customers with energy-related home improvements worth over \$25,000 each. Two Xcel Energy residential customers with higher-than-average energy bills were chosen from a pool of more than 10,000 applicants. Consideration was based on an analysis of the homeowners' energy bills over the last 12 months and which home would best showcase a complete energy makeover.

George and Wendy Chavez of Centennial said that they couldn't get their home comfortable in the winter or summer. They had previously called contractors to look at their heating and cooling system, but the contractors couldn't find or fix the problem. Their windows actually whistled when the wind blew and Wendy was always chilly.

The Energy Makeover Contest contractors worked together to properly diagnose and fix energy-related problems using a "whole house" approach. All of the energy efficiency improvements were completed in mid-November, just in time for Colorado’s unusual “arctic” winter.

Wendy Chavez is excited about what has been done on her home and explains “I am really enjoying everything that has been done for us.”

CESC is a non-profit energy education organization dedicated to educating consumers about home energy efficiency. The organization holds regular consumer workshops, publishes a semi-annual magazine called Smart Energy Living, and runs a contest with Colorado Springs Utilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Colorado Energy Science Center, www.SmartEnergyLiving.org

Xcel Energy, www.xcelenergy.com

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