



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 31, 2006

Media Contact: Kirstin Marr, 303-216-2026 x103, [kmarr@smartenergyliving.org](mailto:kmarr@smartenergyliving.org)

## **Energy Makeover Contest winners getting comfortable with energy savings**

LAKESWOOD, CO – Colorado Energy Science Center (CESC) and Xcel Energy partnered for the third consecutive year 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 will best showcase a complete energy makeover.

One of the 2006 winners said that they couldn't get their home comfortable in the winter or summer. George and Wendy Chavez of Centennial previously called contractors to look at their heating and cooling system, but the contractors couldn't find or fix the problem. The Energy Makeover Contest highlights the benefits of contractors working together to properly diagnose and fix energy-related problems using a "whole house" approach. These contractors will use this approach to fix the Chavez's home.

Wayne and Cheryl McDonald of Aurora said, "This is a blessing for our family." Wayne manages parking at DIA and coaches girls' varsity basketball for Montbello High School. Cheryl works at the Rose Community Foundation. With both parents working and five children at home, their drafty home and old furnace have been a source of major comfort problems and high-energy bills.

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. This year more than 10,000 applicants joined the contest. Participants received free energy efficiency information from CESC, and hundreds of people attended the center's workshops to develop a cost-effective plan towards home energy efficiency. Xcel Energy also made their "60 Simple Ways" brochure available to applicants.

Energy experts began improvements began on Tuesday, Oct. 17, with a home energy rating. All the work at both homes will be completed by late November. Energy savings data for the winner's homes will be made available after the winter heating season and again after the summer cooling season.

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 also runs a contest with Colorado Springs Utilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Colorado Energy Science Center, [www.SmartEnergyLiving.org](http://www.SmartEnergyLiving.org)  
Xcel Energy, [www.xcelenergy.com](http://www.xcelenergy.com)

-end-