



Governor's Energy Office

COLORADO: 2008 Homes Program with Local Government **ENERGY STAR Program Area: New Homes**

Program Summary: As part of Colorado's new [Climate Action Plan](#), the [Governor's Energy Office \(GEO\)](#) will match funds of up to \$25,000 through a competitive process for local government to implement ENERGY STAR new homes programs. While some developers in Colorado have already embraced ENERGY STAR qualified building, GEO's new effort in 2008 aims to enhance the program across the state.

Program Description and Development: In 2007, under the direction of new Governor Bill Ritter, the state of Colorado adopted a Climate Action Plan and passed legislation to establish a new clean energy fund of \$7 million. Prior to the Climate Action Plan, some developers and utilities in Colorado had already participated in various ENERGY STAR activities. The [Southern Colorado ENERGY STAR Homes Group](#), for example, organized a cooperative advertising campaign with the EPA. With new resources from the clean energy fund, however, the state energy office has developed a plan for 2008 to expand the roles of cities, counties and the state in expanding the market penetration of ENERGY STAR labeled new homes in Colorado. Under this program, cities, counties or regional partnerships will be able to apply to GEO for competitive matching grants of up to \$25,000 for program development, marketing, training or another innovative activity. The grant solicitation has received interest from across the state as GEO continues to nurture this off-the-shelf program.

Resources and Investment: Working with localities allows Colorado to tailor this program to the varied needs of the diverse jurisdictions of the state. In addition, the requirement that cities, counties or regions match funds allows GEO to leverage its resources to build a larger state-wide program. Local governments have the option of matching for the full \$25,000 or can seek a smaller amount based on interest, needs and resources in their area.

Energy Savings Benefits and Results: The program is just getting underway as of the start of 2008. Much of the results will depend on whether the state and localities can convince developers and consumers of the economic and environmental benefits of ENERGY STAR. Kristin Shewfelt of the Architectural Energy Corporation in Colorado reports that private sector partners are excited about the potential of the program. GEO is also receiving positive responses from local governments.

Lessons Learned: While there will be more learning over the course of the next year, Eric Stern of GEO believes that there are already some lessons from the initial experiences. Letting local government take the lead within the framework of expanding ENERGY STAR allows for greater customization and innovation. Implementing the program on a regional-scale in the state is also a useful practice. ENERGY STAR homes programs across the country can benefit from the successful coordination of the national, state and local governments.

Further Resources:

[Colorado GEO ENERGY STAR New Homes Webpage](#)

Contact Information:

Eric Stern
Colorado Governor's Energy Office
303.866.2206
eric.stern@state.co.us

Kristin Shewfelt
Architectural Energy Corporation
303.459.7462
kshewfelt@archenergy.com

