



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT**

Robert Keenan, Senior Planner  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
February 18, 2010

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**City of Steamboat Springs and partners receive grant from the Governor's Energy Office to implement ENERGY STAR New Homes Program**

February 18, 2010 (Steamboat Springs, CO) The City of Steamboat Springs, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC), Evergreen Building Solutions, and Mountain Energy Consultants are pleased to announce they are recipients of the 2010 Governor's Energy Office (GEO) ENERGY STAR New Homes Grant. The GEO will be contributing \$15,764 to the program with the City matching \$12,382 in-kind for a total budget of \$28,146. All of the GEO funding comes from the Department of Energy (DOE) which received their funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

As a critical part of Colorado's New Energy Economy, the GEO is working closely with more than 120 local governments, community organizations, energy providers, homebuilders associations, homebuilders and Home Energy Raters to support the statewide construction and testing of new energy efficient single family homes built to ENERGY STAR standards. The program aims to increase consumer awareness of energy efficiency options in residential new construction, and actively support all participating Colorado ENERGY STAR homebuilders. All certified new homes will receive the ENERGY STAR label to allow for simple identification by Colorado home buyers.

To earn the ENERGY STAR label, a home must meet guidelines for energy efficiency set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In our region, these homes are at least 20% more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code (IRC), and include additional energy saving features that typically make them 20-30% more efficient than standard homes. The home's actual energy performance must be certified by an independent Home Energy Rater who is responsible for conducting onsite testing and inspections of installed measures such as insulation, high performance windows, building envelope, duct systems, and efficient heating and cooling equipment.

Also in 2010, the City of Steamboat Springs and Routt County are re-working the recently adopted Green Building Program. One of the core components of the program is the ENERGY STAR performance pathway for energy efficiency. "The education and outreach of ENERGY STAR will

be aptly timed to support the implementation of the Green Building Program,” said Bob Keenan, Senior Planner for the City of Steamboat Springs.

This year, the City of Steamboat Springs teamed up with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC), Evergreen Building Solutions, and Mountain Energy Consultants to bring a larger program to the valley. By collaborating, the grant request has increased in size and scope. “The primary focus of the ENERGY STAR program will be a series of workshops for the trades, builders, developers, architects, realtors and public,” said Angela Ashby co-chair of YVSC. “The workshops will vary in content, depending on the audience. For example, the workshop for the public will be much more condensed and less technical than the workshop for the builder. The workshop for the realtor will focus more on the marketing and energy efficiency advantages of an ENERGY STAR certified home.” Chad Feagler of Mountain Energy Consultants who is a certified Home Energy Rater and accredited through RESNET (Residential Energy Services Network) and Tristan Frolich from Evergreen Building Solutions will help facilitate workshops and provide outreach.

Details and workshop dates will be determined in the next few months. Please refer to [www.yvsc.org](http://www.yvsc.org) or [www.steamboatsprings.net/departments/planning\\_department](http://www.steamboatsprings.net/departments/planning_department) for updates as the program evolves. For more information about the GEO or its ENERGY STAR New Homes Program, please visit [www.colorado.gov/energy/](http://www.colorado.gov/energy/) or [www.coloradoenergystarhomes.org](http://www.coloradoenergystarhomes.org) .

Details and workshop dates to be determined. Please stay tuned for more information.

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Contact information:

Robert Keenan, Senior Planner  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
(970) 871-8260 or [bkeenan@steamboatsprings.net](mailto:bkeenan@steamboatsprings.net)