

Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes Program recognizes industry leaders

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Palmer Homes, Vision Homes receive Oregon award

PORTLAND, OR. — APRIL 10, 2008 — The second annual Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes award winners have been announced recognizing industry leaders in the high-performance building industry throughout Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. Awards were granted to outstanding partners who have helped establish a significant presence for ENERGY STAR qualified new homes within the Pacific Northwest.

Palmer Homes, Bend, Ore, received the award for Oregon Large Builder of the Year. During 2007, Palmer Homes constructed 71 ENERGY STAR certified homes throughout Central Oregon. ““Philosophically, we believe green building is very important. We are dedicated to the Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes program, not only because it saves energy and our buyers’ money, but we think it is the right thing to do for our planet.” said Vern Palmer, CEO, Palmer Homes.

Vision Homes, Medford, Ore, was awarded Oregon Small Builder of the Year. With a mission to design and construct energy efficient homes of the highest quality, Vision Homes has helped pioneer green building throughout Southern Oregon.

“We commend all of our builders who have helped make the Pacific Northwest a model for high-performance home building,” said David Hetherington, Program Manager for the Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes Program.

Additional awards were given to:

Regional Home Builder of the Year: New Tradition Homes, Vancouver , WA

Regional Development of the Year: McCall Development, Billings , MT

Regional Verifier of the Year: O’Brien & Company, Seattle , WA

Washington Large Home Builder: New Tradition Homes, Vancouver , WA

Washington Small Home Builder: Scott Homes, Inc., Olympia , WA

Montana Builder of the Year: Kingdom Builders, Missoula , MT

Idaho Builder of the Year: Capitol Building Company, Eagle, ID

In 2007, 2,658 Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes were built in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. ENERGY STAR qualified homes deliver the features today’s home buyers are looking for, with the additional benefits of comfort, energy and cost savings — all by employing a combination of energy-efficient construction practices and high-efficiency equipment. This increase in energy efficiency lowers homeowners’ energy bills, as they save on heating and cooling costs, lighting, and everyday use of major appliances like dishwashers. About 25 percent of all U.S. carbon emissions come from homes, so making homes more energy efficient is an important step in reducing the emissions that contribute to global warming.

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About Palmer Homes

Palmer Homes is located in Bend, OR with communities throughout the Bend, area. For more information, visit www.palmerhomes.com

About Vision Homes

Visions Homes is located in Medford, OR with homes in Central Point and Medford, Oregon. For more information, visit www.visionhomesinc.net

About ENERGY STAR and Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Today, the ENERGY STAR program is a joint partnership between EPA and Department of Energy and delivers the technical information and tools that organizations and consumers need to choose energy-efficient solutions. For a complete list of ENERGY STAR qualified products, retailers, manufacturers and energy savings information, call 1-888-373-2283 or log onto: www.energystar.gov.

ENERGY STAR qualified homes are built by home builders participating in the Northwest ENERGY STAR Homes program, which is funded by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA). The Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is a non-profit corporation supported by the Bonneville Power Administration, electric utilities, public benefits administrators, state governments, public interest groups and energy efficiency industry representatives. These entities work together to make affordable, energy-efficient products and service available in the marketplace. For more information regarding NEAA, visit: www.nwalliance.org. Consumers can learn more about ENERGY STAR qualified homes by visiting www.NorthwestENERGYSTAR.com or calling 1-888-373-2283.

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