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June 18 Energy Efficiency Forum & Expo Will Brighten Area's Economic Prospects

(Montrose, CO) The importance of energy efficiency to our local, regional, and state's economic future has drawn together a broad mix of supporters behind the **"Energy Efficiency Forum and Expo"** coming to the **Montrose Pavilion Thursday, June 18.**

"We now have tremendous opportunities to save energy and money using better technologies, new utility programs, and government incentives," noted Dan McClendon, DMEA's general manager. "Saving money on all of our energy bills provides the opportunity to spend money elsewhere in our local economy, and can provide an important economic stimulus during this challenging time. The compelling need and opportunity to become more energy efficient has brought many diverse interests together to work for the common purpose of brightening our future."

Energy companies sponsoring the event range from electric cooperatives DMEA and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association to natural gas distributor SourceGas and Anasazi Solar, a company installing solar electric and solar water heating. Governmental entities adding power to the event include the City of Montrose, Montrose County and the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). Business associations sponsoring the event include the Home Builders Association of Northwestern Colorado and the Colorado Rural Electric Cooperative Association (CREA).

"The seminar sessions and expo are all free to the public because of the support of these sponsors," said McClendon. "We appreciate the support of these leaders who are bringing dozens of cutting-edge energy technologies and financial incentives to both our members and to attendees from outside our service territory."

The **Energy Efficiency Expo opens at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 18, along with the start of seminar presentations targeted toward businesses.** Tri-State's Manager of External Communications Lee Boughey will keynote the morning session, highlighting Tri-State's new solar photovoltaic (PV) project, one of the largest projects of its kind in the world. Examples of energy efficient buildings in western Colorado will follow the Tri-State presentation. Federal grants available to businesses for energy saving projects will also be explained by Pattie Snidow of the USDA's Rural Development Office.

The use of new technologies to bring daylight into buildings will be presented by Erich Huffman of HUVCO who is bringing advanced Swedish technology into the U.S. market. HUVCO's "Parasans" system uses fiber optics to bring daylight deep into buildings that don't have direct access to sunlight.

"It is now possible to deliver fresh, pure, healthy natural light to almost any space through tiny fiber optic cable," said Huffman. "The flexible fiber optic cable, which has a smaller diameter than a pencil, can be hidden inside walls and floors and brought to the area where natural light is needed."

HUVCO estimates that if this type of system replaced 10 percent of the electric lighting used during the day in the U.S., Europe and China, greenhouse gases would be reduced by 220,000,000 tons every year. Studies also show that daylighting increases employee productivity significantly.

Afternoon presentations will help homeowners looking to improve the efficiency of their current home and provide ideas on building very efficient new homes.

- The Home Builders Association of Northwest Colorado will explain the ENERGY STAR new home program.
- Paul Smith of SourceGas and Phil Zimmer, DMEA energy services supervisor, will discuss their respective new utility programs and rebates.

- Home energy audits and simple home energy projects will be explained by Gary Tollefson of EnergyWise.
- Tax credits for home energy efficiency improvements will be highlighted by Adam Miller of Elderado Financial.
- Doug Seiter of the U.S. Department of Energy will talk about how federal “stimulus money” will be channeled for home energy improvements.
- The concluding afternoon speaker is Carl Lawrence of Eetrex (Energy Efficient Transportation Technologies), who will explain the emerging technologies of plug-in hybrid vehicles and electric cars.

The exhibit area is open throughout the day up until 6:30 p.m. Exhibitors include SourceGas, Anasazi Solar, Proven Technologies, HUVCO, EcoSpaces, Best Appliances, Atlasta Solar, Phoenix Windows, Independent Power Systems, Alternative Power Enterprises, Solar Energy International, Slaughter’s Heating & Cooling, Balanced Construction, Borner Engineering, Members Federal Credit Union, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES), WSERC, All Glass Station, Montrose County, the City of Montrose, the Vegetarian Society of Colorado, DMEA Geothermal, the Home Builders Association of Northwestern Colorado, “Air Pear” manufactured by Airius, Building Smart, LLC, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Freedom Construction, Colorado Clean Energy, Enterprise Car Sales, Whitey’s Home Improvement, Airtight Foam Solutions, and General Electric (GE).

Southern Colorado Clean Cities and Colorado Corn are displaying biofuel vehicles. All electric vehicles will also be on display thanks to Boo Creations of Montrose and Mountain Utility Electric Vehicles.

“We hope people will come by the Energy Forum and Expo for at least an hour or two,” said Steve Metheny, DMEA’s assistant general manager, moderator of the morning session for business owners. “Businesses should definitely attend to hear about the federal grant and loan opportunities available through USDA. People on tight schedules can stop by during the lunch hour or after work to pick up information from exhibitors. Homeowners have the opportunity to

learn a lot of valuable information in the afternoon. There's something for everyone and we appreciate all the sponsors, speakers and exhibitors making this possible.”

A food vendor will be set up outside the Pavilion during the lunch hour. For more information and updates go to www.dmea.com or call DMEA at 1-877-OUR-DMEA.

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