

WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS WORKSHOP

WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday, July 17-18, 2007

WHERE: Red Lion Hotel, Denver, Colorado

Throughout the West, energy demand, rapid growth, and projected impacts of climate change are creating new challenges for development in urban and rural areas. The importance of energy conservation is taking on an ever-greater role as Western communities expand and redevelop with new housing projects. The potential for innovative energy efficiency and conservation to create new opportunities for stronger economies, greener communities, and a healthier environment is enormous.

The Western Governors' Association will host a two-day *Energy Efficient Buildings Workshop* to discuss strategies for achieving greater energy efficiency in new residential construction and public buildings. By successfully implementing new energy efficiency strategies and prospecting for their increased profitability, a 30 percent greater improvement in energy efficiency above current International Energy Conservation Codes is the overarching goal.

This workshop will bring together participants from throughout the Western states to:

- Share existing tools, best practices, and successful approaches used to overcome impediments to achieving highly efficient buildings
- Identify legislative and regulatory (state and local) changes that will assist in promoting highly efficient buildings
- Identify incentives that would encourage builders of both residential and public properties to voluntarily build beyond required energy efficiency standards

Speakers will present real-world examples of federal, state, county and local energy efficiency programs that have successfully gone beyond current code levels. The workshop will also give participants the opportunity to have in-depth discussions on how these innovative programs work, and how they can implement them in their areas.

Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, who has supported legislation to improve energy efficiency across Colorado, has been invited to open the conference. Keynote presentations on energy efficiency and design to follow include:

- **Howard Geller** of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project.
- **Sam Rashkin**, National Director of ENERGY STAR for homes at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- **The National Association of Homebuilders**

The plenary sessions will include presentations on:

- Innovative state legislation and programs
- Programs for efficiency in public buildings
- Innovative local building code and permitting programs
- Homebuilder perspectives on how to stimulate energy efficient building
- Removing barriers for the greater participation of utilities
- Financing programs
- Perspectives from public utility commissions

After panel presentations by various experts in the field, breakout sessions will allow individual conference attendees to participate in discussions of energy efficiency, providing an excellent opportunity for contributing recommendations to policymakers.

A tour of energy efficient construction at the nearby Stapleton Development, including a near-zero emissions home is being planned.

Join the Western Governors' Association in this effort to increase energy conservation and efficiency in the West.

The energy efficient home tours will begin at 8:30 a.m. on July 17, and the conference will kick-off at 11:00 a.m. The conference will adjourn at 3:30 on July 18.

Conference fees are \$100, and will include lunches and all agenda activities. To register and learn more about the workshop, visit the WGA workshop at www.westgov.org.

Individual hotel reservations must be made before June 25th by directly contacting the Red Lion Hotel/Denver Central at 303-321-6666 or 1-800-RED-LION. A special block of rooms has been set aside at the conference rate of \$99 per night.