



Governor's Energy Office

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GOV. RITTER PROCLAIMS 'INSULATE COLORADO WEEK'

Gov. Bill Ritter today proclaimed this week the first-ever "Insulate Colorado Week" to highlight residential energy efficiency as a key element of the New Energy Economy and the best way for homeowners to prepare for the upcoming winter heating season.

The Insulate Colorado program provides homeowners with a rebate to insulate and air seal their home to address rising energy costs. The available rebate is equal to 20 percent of job cost, up to \$300 per home, and the insulation must be installed by a participating Colorado contractor.

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO) is partnering with municipalities and communities to support the proper installation of insulation and air-sealing measures in single family homes. The Insulate Colorado program also aims to increase consumer awareness of residential energy efficiency options and actively promote the installation of additional whole-house energy saving measures.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that homeowners can typically save up to 20 percent of heating and cooling costs, or up to 10 percent of total energy costs, by air sealing their homes and adding insulation in attics, floors over crawl spaces and accessible basement rim joists.

"Natural gas prices are expected to rise 10 percent to 30 percent this heating season," GEO Director Tom Plant said. "Homeowners with properly insulated homes can save money during both the heating and cooling seasons. "This week, we encourage homeowners to take advantage of this rebate and to install whole-house energy saving measures that will benefit them for years to come."

GEO will kick off "Insulate Colorado Week" today at a home in Denver. Several statewide community celebrations are scheduled for the rest of the week, including: Boulder, Chaffee County, and the Town of Salida, San Miguel County, and the Roaring Fork Valley. Colorado Springs Utilities and Crested Butte also will promote their programs with events later this month.

Xcel Energy is also supporting this event by donating energy efficient light bulbs to participating homeowners.

GEO also offers a free program for income qualified residents, Energy Saving Partners. Services may include receiving high efficiency refrigerators and furnaces, insulation installation and air leakage reduction, compact fluorescent light bulbs, as well as a comprehensive energy audit. To learn more, call toll-free 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435).

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