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Hearthstone Homes Guarantees Lower Utility Costs ***Energy Star Homeowners Volunteer to be monitored.***

December 4, 2008 — As part of its commitment to saving energy, Hearthstone Homes is guaranteeing lower utility costs to all of its Energy Star qualified homeowners. If homeowners follow the guidelines and do not end up with a cost-savings, Hearthstone will reimburse them for the difference.

The only homebuilder to provide such a guarantee, Hearthstone Homes also announced that three of its homeowners have volunteered to go public with their utility usage after being monitored over the next three months.

Energy Star is the government-initiated symbol for energy efficiency. The mark identifies new homes, buildings and products that meet high standards of energy efficiency. Homes that earn the Energy Star qualified status are at least 15 percent more energy efficient than homes built to the 2004 International Residential Code and include additional energy-saving features that typically make them 20 to 30 percent more efficient than standard homes. These features include tight construction and ducts, effective insulation, efficient heating and cooling equipment, high performance windows and independent testing by OPPD.

“At Hearthstone Homes, we get to be part of thousands of people’s lives, which is both a profound honor and a serious responsibility. We get to help people build better lives, in homes they love to live in. We introduced Energy Star qualified homes with this in mind,” said Dave Vogtman, Hearthstone Homes chief sales officer.

For their part, homeowners must agree to, among other things, observe prudent use of windows and doors when the HVAC system is in use, change vent filters as recommended, and maintain thermostat settings no higher than 70 degrees during the heating season and no lower than 75 degrees in the cooling season.

Three Hearthstone homeowners with Energy Star status — a single man, a married couple and a family with children — have agreed to have their energy use monitored for the next three months.

Sean Guilfoyle and his wife, Renee, have already started following the guidelines. “We have a 2-year-old and another baby on the way, so when they told me we had to keep the thermostat at 70 in the winter months, I was concerned. But I’m already seeing that the energy efficient features keep the house warmer, and that there’s no need to turn it up,” Guilfoyle said.