

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Energy rebates available April 19, some set aside for rural communities

On April 19, 75,000 rebates from the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) will be launched for an estimated 22 million dollars in savings, a portion of which is earmarked for rural communities including Park County.

The launch will include a comprehensive GEO website and call center, as well as a local helpdesk sponsored by the High Country Conservation Center (HCCC), which is working with the GEO to advise communities on incentives.

Rebates for Energy Star appliances include clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, gas condensing furnaces, hot water heaters and gas boilers.

Residential energy efficiency rebates include insulation and air sealing, duct sealing, whole-house energy monitoring and whole-house energy audits.

Renewable energy rebates require an energy audit (conducted after December 31, 2006). Rebates will be available for solar photovoltaic, solar domestic hot water, solar thermal hot water and small wind.

Rebates can be reserved online or by phone on a first-come, first-served basis. Work performed or purchases made before April 19 will not be eligible. The rebate check will be issued to the homeowner.

More information is available at the GEO website, www.colorado.gov/energy/, or by calling the High Country Conservation Center at 970-668-5703, or the Park county Community Energy Coordinator.

Tom Eisenman, Park County Development Services Coordinator (Director of Planning & Zoning and Environmental Health), said:

"We are pleased to have these resources in Park County to help us develop Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy programs. The Energy Star program, created in 1992 and the Governors' Energy Office programs due to launch soon, offer economic incentives to Park County businesses and individuals, saving them money in utility bills, reducing pollution and helping with America's energy independence."

“We are going to be spending more time in Park County to make sure locals get these dollars. That’s why I’ve been hired by the High Country Conservation Center,” said William Schwartz, Bailey resident and newly hired High Country Conservation Center staff.

It is important for building and appliance professionals to note that in order to be hired for rebate-qualifying work, professionals must be registered by the Better Business Bureau (registration is free). They will then automatically be included in the GEO statewide searchable database of service providers.

After April 19, audits must be performed by a Building Performance Institute (BPI) or Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) certified auditor. Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge will be offering a BPI certification class May 10-16. Costs may be defrayed by funding from the Colorado Workforce Center.