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HOME WEATHERIZATION SAVES ENERGY *Many Weatherization Measures Are Simple & Low Cost*

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 1, 2009 – Air leaks resulting from a home that’s not adequately weatherized are responsible for the greatest loss of a home’s heated or cooled inside air, according to Dan Mechtenberg, vice president of Nebraska natural gas operations, Black Hills Energy.

“Energy consumption can be reduced through proper home weatherization,” Mechtenberg said. “And helping customers use energy wisely is a priority for Black Hills Energy. Many measures are simple to do, and most homes can be weatherized for approximately \$100.”

Black Hills Energy’s weatherization program assists selected customers who are unable to weatherize their own homes and also shares information about measures that customers can take to make their homes more energy efficient. Here are several no- or low-cost weatherization measures homeowners can undertake to reduce their energy use this winter season. Additional energy-saving tips are available at www.bhehowto.com.

✦ ***Dial down and layer up.***

- Turn down your thermostat to 68 degrees* or lower, or install a programmable thermostat. Depending on what you set your thermostat at and for how long, you could save 8 percent of your home’s heating energy consumption during the heating season.

**You may need to keep the thermostat set higher than 68 degrees for health reasons if a baby or elderly person is in the house.*

✦ ***Maintain your heating system.***

- Have your heating system serviced regularly, so that it runs properly and efficiently.
- Seal ducts where there may be air leakages.
- Change or clean furnace filters every month.

✦ ***Seal the inside of the home.***

- Put plastic on windows and caulk and seal air leaks around attic doors.
- Install foam gaskets behind outlet covers and switchplates. Foam gaskets prevent air from leaking through wall outlets.*

**Only install foam gaskets if you know how to do so safely. Otherwise, ask a qualified electrician for assistance.*

✦ ***Reduce water heater temperature setting.***

- Set the water heater temperature as low as possible, but follow manufacturer recommendations for specific appliances.
- Insulate water heaters that are 10 years old and older, and hot water pipes.

✦ ***Reduce hot water use.***

- Install low-flow (two-gallons-per-minute or less) showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Take showers, not baths.
- Repair leaking faucets and water lines.
- Wash full loads of laundry and use cold water.

- Wash full loads of dishes. Select the energy-saver cycle, or simply open the dishwasher door once the cycle is complete to let the dishes air dry.

✦ ***Let the sunshine in.***

- Open the shades and curtains to allow sunlight to warm the inside of your home. Close them at night to help keep warm air in your home.

✦ ***Clear space.***

- Clean air registers, baseboard heaters and radiators. Make sure they are not blocked by furniture, carpeting, drapes or other items.

✦ ***Fireplaces***

- Close your damper when the fireplace is not in use.

✦ ***Minimize exhaust.***

- Turn off exhaust fans within 20 minutes after cooking or showering.
- Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans appropriately, as they blow warm air out of your house.
- Take advantage of moisture from cooking and bathing, which helps humidify the house and make it more comfortable.

✦ ***Get the whole family involved.***

- Have a house meeting to discuss the various ways you can save energy.
- Remind each other of the recommended heating temperatures.
- Turn off lights and electronics when they aren't needed.
- Review your heating bills together and see how much you've saved by comparing last year's consumption to this year's.

Black Hills Energy serves 197,400 natural gas customers in 110 eastern Nebraska communities. Black Hills Energy is part of Black Hills Corp. (NYSE: BKH) — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — is based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Golden, Colo., and Omaha, Neb. The company serves 759,000 natural gas and electric utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. The company's non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at www.blackhillscorp.com.

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