



**Media Contact:**

Bob McKeon 402-943-9143  
Black Hills Media Line 866-243-9002

### **BLACK HILLS ENERGY TEAM WEATHERIZES 2 HOMES IN FAIRBURY, NEB.**

*Keeping the weather outside*

**BEATRICE, Neb., Dec. 19, 2011** – Two homes in Fairbury, Neb., were weatherized earlier this month by a team of employees from Black Hills Energy, Fairbury’s natural gas provider, as part of the companywide Black Hills Energy weatherization program.

“Helping customers reduce their energy usage is a priority of ours because how much energy is used is a key factor in how much a customer’s monthly natural gas bill is,” said Rick Schwartz, Black Hills Energy South Region gas operations manager. “That’s why using energy wisely is always a good idea. Our weatherization program shares information with customers about measures they can take to make their homes more energy efficient so energy is not wasted. For some who can’t do the work themselves, we’re doing it for them.”

The company works with city officials, health and human service agencies, and community service agencies in its Nebraska service territory to identify customers who cannot weatherize their residences because of age, health or financial reasons. Black Hills Energy worked this fall with Blue Valley Community Action Partnership to identify customers in Fairbury for weatherization assistance. Black Hills Energy weatherizes homes to help those unable to do the work themselves and to raise awareness of the simple, low-cost home weatherization measures all customers can take to use energy more efficiently. Black Hills Energy offers customers a full list of energy-saving tips and ideas at [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com) (click on Energy-Saving Tips).

Black Hills Energy weatherization teams perform a pre-weatherization inspection of homes to determine what each requires. Weatherization measures can include inspecting and cleaning furnaces; replacing furnace filters; and installing weatherstripping, caulking, pressurized expanding foam, window plastic, outlet gaskets, and water heater pipe insulation. Black Hills Energy also checks batteries in smoke

and carbon monoxide detectors, replacing batteries if necessary and installing detectors if a home doesn't have them.

The weatherization effort in Fairbury is part of a companywide undertaking – in its sixth year in some areas – in which Black Hills weatherization teams weatherize customer homes across the organization's multi-state electric and natural gas service territories each fall.

Black Hills Energy offers other programs and services to help customers manage their natural gas bills and control energy usage, including Budget Billing, which levels out monthly payments and spreads winter bills over the entire year.

Additionally, Black Hills sponsors its own energy assistance program, Black Hills Cares, through which customer and employee contributions are matched by the company and forwarded to local agencies for residential energy assistance. Customers can indicate on their bill the amount they want to contribute monthly. In Nebraska, The Salvation Army's HeatShare energy assistance program disburses Black Hills Cares funds.

For more information on Black Hills Energy programs and services, contact the company's 24-hour customer service center at 888-890-5554, or go to [www.blackhillsenergy.com](http://www.blackhillsenergy.com).

**Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy**

Black Hills Energy serves 196,000 natural gas customers in 106 eastern Nebraska communities. Black Hills Energy is a subsidiary of Black Hills Corp. — a diversified energy company with a tradition of exemplary service and a vision to be the energy partner of choice — based in Rapid City, S.D., with corporate offices in Denver and Papillion, Neb. Black Hills Corp. serves 762,000 natural gas and electric utility customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming, and its non-regulated businesses generate wholesale electricity, produce natural gas, oil and coal, and market energy. Black Hills' 2,100 employees partner to produce results that improve life with energy. More information is available at [www.blackhillscorp.com](http://www.blackhillscorp.com).

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