



Rural Development, Inc.

Home Ownership Program
44 Canal Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
(413) 863-9781 fax (413) 863-8160



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: August 8, 2008

Contact: Anne Perkins
Director of Home Ownership Programs
(413) 863-9781 ext. 148

Anne Perkins, Director of Home Ownership Programs for RDI, Serving on Governor Patrick's Massachusetts Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force

Task force charged with recommending policies and measures for changing the way buildings are constructed and renovated as the means to reduce energy costs, mitigate climate change, and build a green economy in Massachusetts.

Turners Falls, MA, August 8, 2008 – Anne Perkins, Director of Home Ownership Programs for Rural Development, Inc. in Turners Falls, has been appointed by Governor Deval Patrick to his Massachusetts Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force. The Task Force is charged with helping the state's public and private sectors design ever more efficient buildings until all new construction reaches zero net energy by the year 2030. Ms. Perkins will be working on the Task Force's subcommittee for residential buildings.

Governor Patrick has called on the Task Force to make recommendations that would:

- Enable the state to issue specifications for the first state-owned zero net energy building by January 1, 2010;
- Specify an interim standard for state-owned construction that is significantly more stringent than the current Massachusetts LEED Plus benchmark; and
- Point the way toward broad marketability of zero net energy residential, commercial, and institutional buildings by 2020, and statewide adoption of zero net energy buildings for new construction by 2030.

Ms. Perkins, the developer and general contractor for the Wisdom Way Solar Village in Greenfield, was asked to be a member of the Task Force because of her nationally recognized work in affordable housing. Under her leadership RDI has built more than sixty ENERGY STAR certified homes; five LEED certified homes; and twelve homes with solar electric systems. LEED is a third-party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings.

According to the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, in the United States building operations (i.e. heating, cooling, lighting, hot water and plug load) account for 43 percent of total CO₂ emissions and 76 percent of total electricity consumption. Constructing buildings to zero net energy standards means that buildings produce as much energy as they consume. Zero net energy buildings are also carbon neutral, meaning they do not add to CO₂ emissions. Because conventional buildings are major contributors to carbon emissions, building them to zero net energy standards can offer significant mitigation of global warming.

RDI's first near zero net energy home was completed in Colrain, MA in May 2007. A home from RDI's current project, the Wisdom Way Solar Village in Greenfield, MA, has been chosen as one of six contenders in the Zero Energy Challenge sponsored by four Massachusetts utilities. That home is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2008.

The final report of the Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force is available at www.mass.gov/eea