

MASSACHUSETTS



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Western Massachusetts Electric Company Sponsors Wisdom Way Solar Village ENERGY STAR® Tier III Homes

Lexington, MA - May XX, 2010 - Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO) announces the sponsorship of twelve of the newest homes at Windsor Way Solar Village that meet the most stringent new construction energy efficiency standards in the state.

These Wisdom Way Solar Village homes are expected to achieve ENERGY STAR® Tier III - the highest ENERGY STAR rating available through the Massachusetts New Homes with ENERGY STAR Program. The first home, completed in April, achieved a Home Energy Rating score of 16 and a 61.4% improvement over the Massachusetts Baseline Home. The second home achieved a HERS of 13 and a 62% improvement. To receive Tier III benefits in the MA New Homes with ENERGY STAR Program, a home must meet a HERS Index of 85 or less and demonstrate a 60% improvement in energy savings over the baseline. For reaching Tier III status these homes will each be awarded an incentive of \$8,000.00 from WMECO and Berkshire Gas. There are ten additional homes at Wisdom Way Solar Village expected to achieve ENERGY STAR Tier III.

Western Massachusetts Electric Company is one of the nine utility and non-utility sponsors that make up the Joint Management Committee (JMC) that administers the Massachusetts New Homes with ENERGY STAR Program. The JMC, in their facilitation of the Massachusetts New Homes with Energy Star Program, developed the Energy Star Tier III level in 2010 to encourage deeper energy savings in new residential construction.

Anne Perkins is the Director of the Home Ownership Program at Rural Development, Inc., the non-profit organization that is building Wisdom Way Solar Village. The village will consist of twenty homes near the center of Greenfield, MA. Eleven of the homes are being built for low-income buyers, five are designated for moderate-income buyers, and two will be sold on the open market. "I think the addition of Tier III to the Program is fabulous because it pushes builders, RDI included, to be serious about the energy

efficiency of the homes we build. We need to consider every detail in order to achieve this high standard," said Ms. Perkins, a long-time participant in the Massachusetts New Homes with ENERGY STAR Program.

RDI partnered with Energy Efficiency Associates to certify the homes. Each ENERGY STAR home in Wisdom Way Solar Village is tested and verified on site throughout the building process by Energy Efficiency Associates, a certified third party Home Energy Rater.