

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Erin Ross
Renewal by Andersen
Phone: 651.264.4056
Fax: 651.264.4070

Greening Your Replacement Windows

Cottage Grove, Minn (September 10, 2007) —With rising energy costs and the return of cooler weather fast approaching, many homeowners are actively looking for ways to reduce their monthly heating bills. According to ENERGY STAR[®], the average American household spends \$1,900 annually on energy bills and as much as half of that energy cost goes to heating and cooling your home.

Homeowners who want to make a big impact on reducing their energy bills can start by looking out the window. Or rather, *at* the window. Traditionally, poor performing windows and doors have been the weak energy link in homes, often accounting for up to 40 percent of a home's heat loss during the winter.

As a result, homeowners are increasingly looking for replacement windows to boost the energy efficiency of their home. Craig Evanich, president of Renewal by Andersen, suggests homeowners look at key energy efficiency designations from their replacement windows such as qualification by ENERGY STAR, the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) label and other independent organizations that help consumers choose environmentally responsible and energy efficient products.

The ENERGY STAR label is designed to help homeowners make energy efficient choices and achieve substantial savings in heating and cooling costs. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, replacing inefficient single pane windows with ENERGY STAR qualified windows could save up to 15 percent on your energy bills.

In addition, homeowners who purchase and install ENERGY STAR qualified windows and doors in 2007 may be eligible to receive a one-time credit of up to \$500 on their federal income tax.

Windows are also rated for their energy efficiency by the NFRC, which helps homeowners compare window products by establishing an independent industry-wide standard for rating and labeling windows. The NFRC label means the window's performance is certified and provides an "apples to apples" comparison between products.

Evanich says, "When comparing windows, be sure to check a window's U-Factor on the NFRC label. A window with a lower U-Factor has better insulation properties. U-Factors run from .01 to .99. In colder climates, a factor of 0.35 or lower is recommended."

Homeowners are increasingly seeking products that not only help reduce their energy consumption, but do so in an environmentally responsible manner. This means taking into consideration the full product life-cycle, from materials to manufacturing and use to recycling and disposal.

According to Evanich, every Renewal by Andersen[®] window frame is manufactured using a patented composite material that is a blend of 40 percent reclaimed wood fiber and 60 percent thermoplastic polymers by volume. This low-maintenance framing material never needs painting or scraping, reducing waste created by ongoing maintenance.*

Wood fibers used in this composite material are reclaimed directly from manufacturing processes, helping to minimize the overall impact on the environment. In fact, in 2001 Renewal by Andersen became the first replacement window manufacturer to earn Green Seal certification, and continues to be the only replacement window manufacturer to be Green Seal certified today. This designation identifies a product as environmentally preferable, demonstrating it meets energy efficiency requirements and is manufactured in an environmentally conscious manner.

A window's durability is key to making energy efficient windows an investment for the long term, and avoiding future waste. Evanich suggests shopping for quality windows that are supported by a strong warranty and that shoppers look for long-term value over price. "Saving a few dollars now could mean another replacement project just a few years down the road," said Evanich.

###

* See the Renewal by Andersen limited warranty.

"Energy Star" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted, are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2007 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.