



Conference teaches building professionals how to help PA homeowners reduce energy costs



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Approximately 175 building professionals turned out in State College last Wednesday for the opportunity to learn about how their businesses can meet the growing customer demand for green, energy efficient homes.

PA Home Energy Conference 2008 featured several speakers on the agenda, including Commissioner Tyrone Christy from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Professionals from the residential and remodeling building industries offered advice on the business of

diagnosing and fixing a home's energy, health and comfort issues. An on-site exhibit center at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center also allowed attendees to get a look at the latest home performance diagnostic tools and technology.

The host sponsor of the event, PA Home Energy, is a new program set up with support from the Penn-State-managed West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) to help consumers reduce home energy use and integrate whole house performance with green design. ENERGY STAR products, for both new and existing homes, are a major component of the program.

"We were extremely pleased with the number of building professionals that have decided that ENERGY STAR programs are where the future of building and home performance is going to be for their business," says Barbara Robuck, marketing and communications manager for WPPSEF.

Robuck says the organization's goal for the future is to continue to grow the network of service providers throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and educate consumers about the existing programs that can help reduce high energy bills.

"Your energy bill is not a fixed cost. You can do something about it," Robuck says. "PA Home Energy is changing the way that Pennsylvanians consume energy and we are doing it in a way that makes homes more comfortable."

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