



Press Release

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Berkshire Gas Recognized with 2009 ENERGY STAR® Leadership in Housing Award

Berkshire Gas earns an award for promoting construction of new homes that protect the environment through energy efficiency

Pittsfield, MA - Berkshire Gas is pleased to announce that it has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with a 2009 Energy Star Leadership in Housing Award. This award recognizes the Company's efforts to promote energy-efficient construction and environmental protection by sponsoring an Energy Star for New Homes program in its service area last year.

To earn the Energy Star, a home must meet strict guidelines for energy efficiency set by EPA. These homes are at least 15% more energy efficient than homes built to local code, and include additional energy-saving features that typically make them 20–30% more efficient than standard homes.

"Berkshire Gas has long been a leader in energy efficiency and being recognized by the EPA for our efforts confirms the value and benefits of energy efficiency for our customers," said Mike Sommer, Berkshire's Manager of Energy Services. "Energy efficiency is one of the most effective ways to trim costs and protect the environment. We are proud to continue our partnership with Energy Star and urge all of our customers to take advantage of these programs."

Energy Star qualified homes offer homebuyers all the features they want in a new home, plus energy-saving features like effective insulation systems, high performance windows, tight construction and ducts, properly-sized and installed efficient heating and cooling equipment, efficient products, and third-party verification.

"EPA is privileged to work with a diverse group of utilities, state programs, and home builder associations who effectively support Energy Star Qualified Homes," said Sam Rashkin, National Director of Energy Star Homes. "Thanks to the leadership of these sponsors, home buyers across the country have greater access to Energy Star Qualified Homes that cost less to own while improving comfort, indoor air quality, durability, and our environment."

Berkshire Gas is a subsidiary of Energy East Corporation, a super-regional energy services and delivery company in the Northeast. We serve approximately 36,000 natural gas customers in western Massachusetts, 27,200 in Berkshire County and 8,800 in Franklin and Hampshire Counties. By providing outstanding customer service and meeting our customers' energy requirements in an environmentally responsible manner, we will continue to be a valuable asset to the communities we serve. For more information about Berkshire Gas, visit berkshiregas.com.

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 12,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).