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Go Solar California Launches Second Annual Sweepstakes

Statewide Contest Educates Consumers on Solar Energy and Offers a Green Home Makeover

Sacramento -- Californians are invited to test their solar and energy efficiency knowledge during the 2009 Go Solar California Sweepstakes, announced today by the California Energy Commission. Participants can enter to win a complete "green home makeover," including the installation of rooftop solar panels, a suite of EnergyStar appliances, plus more green prizes.

"Go Solar California Sweepstakes is helping Californians better understand how easily solar and energy efficiency fit into our everyday lives," said California Energy Commission Chairman Karen Douglas. "We encourage participants to embrace the energy efficient practices they learn during this sweepstakes and use them daily. Saving energy will save consumers money on their monthly utility bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for generations."

The sweepstakes will be open from April 22 through October 31 at <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org>

Visitors can take a solar quiz and watch an educational video about the Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP). Last year, the Go Solar California sweepstakes attracted nearly 17,000 entries. The winner took home a 2009 hybrid vehicle.

As part of the California Solar Initiative, the NSHP provides financial and marketing incentives to home builders to drive energy efficient solar home construction across the state. As of April 1, 2009 the NSHP applications represents 7,131 new energy efficient solar homes and approximately 13.7 megawatts of clean, solar-generated energy.

Solar systems can save homeowners up to 60 percent on their monthly utility bills and may be eligible for federal and state tax credits when purchasing a new energy efficient solar home.

"Because we're saving money on our monthly utility bills, we have more to put towards our mortgage, home improvement projects and general family needs," said Lorin English, a Rocklin mother of three who owns a solar home. "To me, buying a solar home makes good sense and just seems like the right thing to do."

To find out more about solar homes in your area, visit <http://www.gosolarcalifornia.org>

About the New Solar Homes Partnership

Launched in January 2007, the New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) is a component of the California Solar Initiative, signed into law in 2006 under Senate Bill 1 (Murray) to implement Governor Schwarzenegger's \$3.3 billion, Million Solar Roofs Program. The NSHP provides financial

incentives and marketing support to home builders, encouraging the construction of new, energy efficient solar homes that save homeowners money on their electric bills and helps protect the environment. The goals of the NSHP are to create a self-sustaining market for solar homes and gain builder commitment to install solar energy systems on new homes as a standard feature for the home buyer. A new home that qualifies for the New Solar Homes Partnership is at least 15 percent more efficient than the current building standards. The overall goal of the NSHP is to achieve 400 megawatts of new solar-produced electricity by the end of 2016.

For more information:

http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2009_releases/2009-04-22_sweepstakes.html

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