

NEWS RELEASE

HOMEBUILDERS CALLED TO HELP ONTARIO BECOME A WORLD LEADER IN “GREEN” HOME BUILDING

TORONTO, April 14, 2010..... EnerQuality Corporation, which provides certification, training and consultation in energy-efficient housing to the Ontario residential construction industry, today announced the launch of the Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships (LEEP) in four Ontario regions and Technology Adoption Pilot (TAP).

The LEEP technology review process and the installation of technologies in TAP Discovery homes, aims to accelerate the adoption of builder-selected, energy-efficient technologies and best practices across Ontario. It addresses the issue of builders who, swamped with information about new products, must decide which are the most market ready, offer the greatest value and fit best into the housing development system.

EnerQuality President Corey McBurney said, “New technologies and practices are expected to be a major part of a future in which homes consume much less energy. But for that to happen, we must find ways for those technologies to enter the marketplace more smoothly.

“LEEP offers an approach for builders to work together to review and select technologies while TAP demonstration homes help builders install the best energy-saving technologies for their customers. The partnership will result in increased knowledge and capacity that can be shared with other home builders,” he added.

The four participating Ontario home building associations are BILD - GTA, London, Sudbury and Hamilton-Halton and Niagara (who have partnered for this initiative). This will lead to the building of 40 demonstration homes over the next two years, in these four regions.

Stephen Dupuis, President of the Greater Toronto Area Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) said, “We are enthusiastic about the LEEP process because it is builder-centred. It gives leaders in the home building industry an opportunity to come together and choose energy saving and renewable technologies in a streamlined, non-pressured environment. It is different from other initiatives, because we start with a blank slate.”

Added Dupuis, “Here’s how it works. Through a series of facilitated meetings, using well-organized and credible technology information, we start to cull a broad spectrum of technologies down to a few that we build into our homes. The process gives us confidence in technologies that we can integrate into our mainstream production housing rather than ones that will only be offered as upgrades.

“This is the kind of partnership that works well for builders. Using the strengths of different groups, and underpinned by EnerQuality and CanmetENERGY, it will bring builders and subcontractors together with city building officials in a collaborative environment to consider key technologies,” he added.

The LEEP process is not untested. Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY, which has a long history of providing energy solutions in the housing sector, including facilitating

technology to market activities through testing, energy modeling, and education, recognized the need for such a process and piloted it four years ago in partnership with the City of London, its HBA, and local building leaders. The successful pilot has shaped the LEEP structure, and the London HBA will participate again in the new LEEP and TAP initiatives.

EnerQuality and its consultants will facilitate the local LEEP processes and TAP demonstration homes, building on their successful facilitation on Energy Star Homes and Building Canada in Ontario. CanmetENERGY, as the LEEP technical authority, will provide a single point source of credible information about leading-edge energy efficient technologies, further refined and organized by class of product and decision structure.

Builders want to provide innovation solutions to help their clients reduce their energy costs. Natural Resource's Canada's CanmetENERGY London pilot showed that builders can reduce their risk and save time when selecting and installing new technologies by working together to evaluate options and share knowledge. CanmetENERGY's LEEP enables builders to gain confidence in their choice of new technologies, allowing for broader installation of the 'most ready' new technologies for their local markets.

"We're excited to be a part of piloting LEEP and TAP through the OPA's Conservation Fund," said Paul Shervill, Vice-President of Conservation, Ontario Power Authority. "If we can accelerate the penetration of new technologies into new homes, we can help Ontario meet its aggressive electricity conservation targets more quickly. If this initiative is successful, it is our hope that it can expand across Ontario."

Funding for this LEEP and TAP initiative has been provided by Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY, the Ontario Power Authority, Enbridge, and Union Gas.

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Contacts:

David Eisenstadt/Gea Koleva
The Communications Group Inc.
416-696-9900 ext 36/26

deisenstadt@tcgpr.com/gkoleva@tcgpr.com

Julia Kierans
EnerQuality Corp.
(416)447-0077 ext 5

juliak@enerquality.ca

Media Relations
Natural Resources Canada
Ottawa
(613) 992-4447

Mon.–Fri., 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. EST
Telephone: 613-995-0947
TTY: 613-996-4397
(teletype for the hearing-impaired)
E-mail: questions@nrcan.gc.ca

BACKGROUNDER

- *Begun as a pilot project in London, ON in 2006, Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY's **Local Energy Efficiency Partnership (LEEP)** has brought together local Ontario homebuilders to identify "best practices" in energy efficient home construction, and "best of breed" options in energy-related technologies for Ontario home building.*
- *Since November 2009, EnerQuality working with Natural Resources Canada, regional Home Builders Associations, and with support of the Ontario Power Authority, Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas, has successfully promoted adoption of the highest standards for energy efficient new home construction across Ontario.*
- *In 2010, local Home Builders' Associations (HBAs) across Ontario are called to participate in a world class "**Local Energy Efficiency Partnership/Technology Adoption Pilot**" (LEEP/TAP) to achieve the EnerQuality goal of transforming Ontario's new homebuilding industry into the most energy efficient and sustainable in the world.*
- *Following a program of homebuilder consultation seminars and green homebuilding training sessions, **40 DISCOVERY HOUSES** are to be designed and built across Ontario, showcasing the homebuilding industry's best green technology and construction practices.*
- *The leading-edge HBAs participating in the program will receive local and national media exposure through advertising and public relations events, be among the first to develop industry-leading knowledge and installation expertise of new energy efficient technologies, and receive access to unbiased technical expertise which will allow them to make well informed decisions about adopting technologies that are well suited to their specific market.*

ABOUT ENERQUALITY

EnerQuality Corporation (www.enerquality.ca) is the market leader in green building services. Founded in 1998 as a partnership between the Ontario Home Builders' Association and the Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, EnerQuality's mandate is to develop the programs and infrastructure to transform Ontario's housing market into the most energy efficient and sustainable in the world. EnerQuality's core services focus on capacity building, market development and stakeholder engagement. EnerQuality has labeled 20% of the total housing market under its industry leading selection of voluntary green initiatives including ENERGY STAR[®] for New Homes, GreenHouse[™] Certified Construction, R-2000, EnerGuide Rating System and LEED Canada for Homes.

ABOUT CanmetENERGY

Natural Resources Canada's CanmetENERGY is established nationally and internationally as a leader in providing energy solutions in built environments. CanmetENERGY's clean energy project analysis, modelling and simulation software tools are key enablers of industry's ability to optimize integrated energy efficient design, comply with code requirements, and qualify for funding and incentives programs. CanmetENERGY is recognized nationally and internationally for its ability to assemble collaborative teams made up of leading edge industry, academics and other experts to provide research, development and deployment of innovative solutions and as one of the most effective shepherds in accelerating the development of energy efficiency, load management, and renewable energy solutions.

ABOUT the Ontario Power Authority

The Ontario Power Authority is responsible for ensuring a reliable, sustainable supply of electricity for Ontario. Its four key areas of focus are: planning the power system for the long term, leading and co-ordinating conservation initiatives across the province, ensuring development of needed generation resources, and supporting the continued evolution of the electricity sector.

The Conservation Fund provides support for new and innovative electricity conservation initiatives that build the ability of Ontario's residents, businesses, and institutions to reduce their demand for electricity. The results from these initiatives help to inform the development of new conservation programs.

ABOUT Union Gas

Union Gas Limited is a major Canadian natural gas storage, transmission and distribution company based in Ontario with nearly 100 years of experience and service to customers. The distribution business serves 1.3 million residential, commercial and industrial customers in more than 400 communities across northern, southwestern and eastern Ontario. Union Gas's growing storage and transmission business offers premium storage and transportation services to customers at the Dawn Hub, the largest underground storage facility in Canada and one of the largest in North America. It offers customers an important link in the movement of natural gas from Western Canadian and U.S. supply basins to markets in central Canada and the northeast U.S. A Spectra Energy (NYSE: SE) company, Union Gas has assets of \$5 billion and approximately 2,200 employees. Visit uniongas.com for more information.

ABOUT Enbridge Gas Distribution

Enbridge Gas Distribution has a 160-year history and is Canada's largest natural gas distribution company. As a leader in energy efficiency, between 1995 and 2008, Enbridge Gas Distribution's energy efficiency programs saved 8.3 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and 4.4 billion cubic metres of natural gas. That's the equivalent to taking about 1.8 million cars off the road for a year or serving about 1.4 million homes for a year. Enbridge Gas Distribution is owned by Enbridge Inc., a Canadian-based leader in energy transportation and distribution and one of the 2010 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations. The Company is expanding its interests in renewable and green energy technologies including wind and solar energy, hybrid fuel cells and carbon dioxide sequestration. Enbridge Gas Distribution and its affiliates distribute natural gas to about 1.9 million customers in Ontario, Quebec, New York State and New Brunswick.



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