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*****For Immediate Release*****

**Three agencies win National Weatherization Projects Awards:
Model projects showcase innovative energy efficiency**

Bethesda, MD -- Three of America's most innovative energy-efficient low income housing projects were showcased at the National Association of State Community Services Programs ([NASCS](#)) Conference as winners of the 2nd Annual National Weatherization Projects Awards, presented by *State & Local Energy Report*. The Awards encourage innovation and replication among agencies that receive grants to build and retrofit homes for energy efficiency. In a year with record numbers of households applying for home heating assistance, weatherizing homes to reduce energy consumption is more critical than ever.

This year's 2nd Annual Weatherization Projects Awards winners are:

Best Multi-Family Building Project: Community Environmental Center, Long Island City, NY

The [Community Environmental Center](#) (CEC) installed solar hot water systems in two multifamily buildings in Brooklyn, New York, as a component of the weatherization of these buildings. CEC hoped to provide the families living in the apartments with a cheaper energy source and to open the gateway for other agencies to use renewable energy as part of their weatherization projects. "I had learned about solar hot water as an opportunity to save even more than we do with just regular weatherization work in terms of dollars spent on domestic hot water," said Richard Cherry, Chief Executive Officer of CEC. "But even more important was the idea that we need to use renewable energy wherever we can." The project has been a complete success on all levels. The building owner is already seeing the savings, and after enough time has passed to collect adequate data, the CEC plans to report their success as a kind of blueprint that others can use to follow suit.

Best Single Family Home Project: The St. Johns Housing Partnership, St. Augustine, FL.

Hancock Place, [SJHP](#)'s first foray into new construction, is a neighborhood of 36 affordable Energy Star-certified, water-conserving homes for low-income families. "If you're going to build new housing for working-class families, it needs to be as energy efficient as possible because that electric bill is a big part of their monthly income," said William Lazar, Executive Director of SJHP. "Let's set a higher standard...If you don't understand air infiltration measures, the use of a blower door, the value of having someone do an energy certification on your home, you're just going to get left in the dust."

Best New Construction: Lopez Community Land Trust: Common Ground, Lopez Island, Washington.

[Lopez Community Land Trust](#) (LCLT) built Common Ground, straw-bale, earthen-plaster, rainwater-catchment neighborhood that is the first net-zero energy neighborhood in Washington State. It was designed not only to provide affordable homes, but also to lower the costs of running and maintaining them. In June 2009, only fourteen months from the starting date, Common Ground was completed with eleven homes, two studio apartments, and an office. The homes received a full energy audit to verify energy efficiency and are governed by a 198-year lease that assures they will remain permanently affordable. LCLT attributes the project's success to a combination of vision, good design, generous donors, and dedicated volunteers and field workers.

Bob Scott, Director of Director of Weatherization Services for NASCSP, and one of the contest's judges, believes "these projects are prime examples of how weatherization agencies can coordinate and develop innovative community undertakings, and leverage additional resources to be an integral partner in community-based efforts to conserve energy, boost economic activity, and improve the environment. Each of the projects demonstrates the Weatherization Program's contribution to the economic and environmental health and sustainability of the nation's communities."

The Weatherization Awards are especially relevant in light of the unprecedented \$5 billion funding for Weatherization Assistance Program allocated via the 2009 ARRA Stimulus Bill. Congress estimates that, with the new funding, one million additional homes will receive weatherization assistance. **Energy inefficient homes contribute to over 20% of the nation's carbon pollution and use up to 40% of our energy nationwide. These innovations will help weatherization programs to use funding more efficiently and help save residents 30% on energy bills, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities and improve the health and safety of our nations' at-risk populations.**

The awards were made possible by the generous support of the industry's leading vendors: Retrotec, PSD Consulting, ACI (Affordable Comfort), Conservation Services Group, Fluke Corporation, The Building Performance Institute (BPI), Rinnai America Corporation, and Saturn Resource Management.

Complete details are available at <http://www.stateenergyreport.com/awards>

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