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Green home-building workshop offered

A workshop on green home construction and the new Massachusetts Residential Energy Code will be offered by the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) on Wednesday, April 23 from 8:30 to 10 a.m., at the Lenox Town Hall. The workshop is free for residential contractors and related trades people. Sign-in and refreshments will begin at 8 a.m. The workshop will help builders comply with energy code measures and be able to better respond to the growing demand for green home construction.

Peggy MacLeod is the marketing director for Green Building Programs at CET. She says CET has seen an upsurge in interest among people wanting to lower their energy costs and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. "Meeting the new energy code and incorporating green building techniques into new homes or renovations can achieve these benefits. It can also lead to healthier indoor air quality, greater durability and increased comfort," she said.

Jay Walsh, a CET energy analyst and HERS rater, will discuss requirements of the new Massachusetts Residential Building Code version 7, Chapter 61 that went into effect on January 1. Walsh will also explain core elements of green home construction that are key components of the Massachusetts ENERGY STAR for Homes Program and the LEED for Homes program established by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

The workshop will be hosted by the Town of Lenox and sponsored by National Grid, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, NSTAR, the Home Builders Association of Western Massachusetts, and the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Other supporters include S & A Supply in Pittsfield and Herrington's in Lenox.

This is the last of three western Massachusetts workshops in 2008 that address the new energy code and green building topics. Previous workshops were held in Amherst and Belchertown in March.

Pre-registration is strongly recommended for the Lenox workshop. For more information or to register, contact Peggy MacLeod at 800-369-3333, ext. 26 or send email to peggym@cetonline.org.

CET is a non-profit energy and resource conservation organization that has served western Massachusetts since 1976. CET provides technical assistance and verification services to home builders for both the Massachusetts ENERGY STAR for Homes and LEED for Homes programs. CET's work focuses on energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste management, and environmental education. CET is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. CET is an equal opportunity service provider.