



## Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

*Saving Money and Reducing Pollution through Energy Conservation*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **EIGHT SOUTHWEST COMPANIES WIN NATIONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY AWARDS**

*(Boulder, CO)* – Eight companies located in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah won awards at the 2004 ENERGY STAR® Awards Ceremony held March 2<sup>nd</sup> in Washington, DC. The ENERGY STAR Awards are given annually by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy to outstanding companies in the area of energy efficiency.

Winners of 2004 Excellence in Efficient Homes Awards include Ence Homes from St. George, UT; Engle Homes of Colorado from Englewood, CO; Pulte Homes Nevada Operations from Las Vegas, NV; and the Nevada ENERGY STAR Partners program based in Las Vegas, NV. Also, D.R. Wastchak, LLC, a home energy rating firm from Tempe, AZ, won an award in this category as did Pardee Homes, a leading builder of energy-efficient homes in Nevada. Six of the ten award winners in this category were from the Southwest region.

The two main electric utilities in Nevada, Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power Company, won awards in the category of Excellence in Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education. The Architectural Energy Corporation from Boulder, CO won a Special Recognition award for its software that helps with the design and rating of energy-efficient homes.

“The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) commends all of these companies for their innovative efforts and leadership with respect to greater energy efficiency,” said Howard Geller, SWEEP’s Executive Director. “These companies are demonstrating that high energy efficiency makes good business sense even in states where energy prices are relatively low compared to others parts of the country.”

The Southwest region is especially noteworthy in the area of energy-efficient new homes. Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Tucson lead the nation in terms of the fraction of new homes meeting the ENERGY STAR criteria. ENERGY STAR homes have significantly lower utility bills than typical new homes, often with little or no first cost premium.

**About SWEEP:** SWEEP is a public interest organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. SWEEP helps to promote ENERGY STAR products and buildings. For more information, visit the SWEEP website at [www.swenergy.org](http://www.swenergy.org).