



Press Release

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## Bringing Comfort & Energy Savings to Residents, Beginning with "Savings on a Stick" at the Great Minnesota Get Together

### CERTs Honeywell Programmable Thermostat Giveaway & Exclusive Rebate Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Monday, August 23, 2010, Saint Paul, MN** – The Clean Energy Resource Teams and Honeywell are coming together to offer Minnesota residents *Come Home to Comfort and Energy Savings*, an exclusive rebate program for up to \$10 back on a new Do-It-Yourself programmable thermostat.

**To kick off the fourth CERTified Campaign, CERTs will be handing out free Honeywell programmable thermostats to the first 100 interested homeowners visiting the Eco Experience Building at the Minnesota State Fair, beginning at 9am on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.**



A programmable thermostat allows you to pre-set your home's heating and cooling system to work around your schedule, providing ultimate comfort for your household. Honeywell, who employs thousands of Minnesotans and commits more than half of its portfolio to energy efficiency, is a leading designer and manufacturer of programmable thermostats.

"We're really excited that Minnesota residents have this opportunity to increase their home comfort, save energy, and lower their energy bills with a new Honeywell programmable thermostat. It's an easy and convenient way to save money around your schedule," said Michelle Vigen, CERTs Campaign & Metrics Coordinator. "And we can't wait to give *Savings on a Stick* away to the first 100 homeowners on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Fair."

The average household in Minnesota that sets back their thermostat in the summer and winter using default settings could save around 15% on heating and 25% on cooling costs, saving over \$215 annually. If just half the homes in Minnesota install a programmable thermostat, it could save around \$95 million in home energy costs across the state.

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When asked about programmable thermostats, Joshua Davis, Home Energy Squad Manager with the Neighborhood Energy Connection, had this to say: "These are the biggest energy savers we install. It can save a lot of money on your heat and cooling bill, and makes your home more comfortable."

Programmable thermostats are an easy way for homeowners to begin taking action. Honeywell's Do-It-Yourself programmable thermostats are specially designed to install in less than 15 minutes and in four simple steps. Well-labeled buttons and touch screens allow for straightforward interaction and programming.

Jason Carlson, a homeowner in McIntosh, MN, installed a programmable thermostat in his home in 2006. "We have saved over \$200 a year on heating and cooling bills since we installed our programmable thermostat," says Carlson. "It's so nice how it automatically adjusts the temperature in our home so that it's comfortable when we wake up or come home at the end of the day, and helps us save energy while we're sleeping and at work."



**On Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, CERTs and Honeywell representatives will be handing out 100 free programmable thermostats at the Eco Experience Building at the Minnesota State Fair, beginning at 9am. Members of the media are invited to join the excitement and to chat with homeowners, as well as CERTs and Honeywell representatives.**

Residents can get their rebate form in person at the Eco Experience building at the Minnesota State Fair on the corner of Randall and Cosgrove August 26 through September 6. The rebate can also be downloaded and printed out at <http://thermostat.mncerts.org>—the webpage where residents should also visit to learn more.

High-resolution graphics and more quotations available upon request.

*Come Home to Comfort* is the fourth in a series of "CERTified Campaigns" from the Clean Energy Resource Teams to provide Minnesotans with clear and actionable ways to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in their community. To learn about other campaigns, visit <http://act.mncerts.org>.

The Clean Energy Resource Teams connect Minnesotans with resources to identify and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. CERTs is made up of community members across Minnesota who share a bold vision for Minnesota's energy future: to foster strong communities, to create local jobs, and to develop clean and reliable energy from clean sources. CERTs is a partnership of the University of Minnesota's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, the Green Institute, Southwest Regional Development Commission, The Minnesota Project, and the Office of Energy Security, Minnesota Department of Commerce.

The Eco Experience is a partnership between the Minnesota State Fair, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and dozens of organizations and businesses across the state. It has become the second most popular exhibit at the fair and is the largest environmental event of its kind in the country in the last two decades. Since 2006, more than one and a half million visitors have attended the 25,000 square-foot exhibit to learn more about clean air and water, saving energy, climate change, healthy local food, transportation, green building and remodeling, and other ways to lead more eco-friendly lives.

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