



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
SOUTHWEST ENERGY CONSERVATION, LLC
DBA Southwest Home Energy Raters
L. Javier Ruiz
5400 Suncrest Dr. C-6
El Paso, TX. 79912
915-613-4168 505-635-4320
www.swher.com
jruiz@swher.com

Maria Vargas, (202) 343-9451
vargas.maria@epa.gov

EPA NAMES SOUTHWEST HOME ENERGY RATERS 2007 ENERGY STAR[®] PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Southwest Home Energy Raters earns award for protecting the environment through energy efficiency

[El Paso, Texas March 1st]– The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named Southwest Home Energy Raters as a 2007 ENERGY STAR *Partner of the Year* for its outstanding contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through its work as a home energy rater analyzing and testing the energy efficiency of homes. Southwest Home Energy Raters's accomplishments were recognized at an awards ceremony in San Diego, CA on February 19, 2007 and will be recognized also at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 21, 2007.

Southwest Home Energy Raters, an ENERGY STAR partner since 2004, is being honored for their work in qualifying new homes to earn the ENERGY STAR. Home energy raters provide the independent third party verification required for ENERGY STAR qualified homes. An ENERGY STAR home gets its qualification thru a building analysis and inspection process which has to comply with the EPA's building guidelines for Energy Efficiency; elements like insulation, windows, heating and cooling equipment, air sealing and other aspects of the home are inspected, concluding with a final diagnostics and tests.

"Through our work with ENERGY STAR and local home builders we have seen a growing interest in the ENERGY STAR labeled homes," said L. Javier Ruiz, President of Southwest Home Energy Raters. "More and more homebuyers are realizing that by buying a home that has earned the ENERGY STAR they are getting a comfortable and more durable home that lowers their utility bills while protecting the environment."

The 2007 Partner of the Year Award is given to a variety of organizations to recognize their contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by promoting energy-efficient homes in their community. Award winners are selected from over 9,000 organizations that participate in the ENERGY STAR program. Southwest Home Energy Rater's accomplishments help homeowners enjoy quieter and more comfortable homes while

saving money on utility bills. ENERGY STAR qualified new homes use substantially less energy for heating, cooling, and water heating – homeowners can expect to save about \$200-\$400 annually on their utility bills on an average home. Currently over 3,500 builders across all 50 states are constructing homes that meet EPA's strict guidelines for energy efficiency. More than 670,000 families now live in ENERGY STAR qualified homes.

Last year alone, Americans with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved \$14 billion on their energy bills and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 25 million vehicles.

"Partners like Southwest Home Energy Raters are essential to bringing ENERGY STAR qualified new homes to communities across the country," said Bill Wehrum, acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "With the knowledge and expertise that leading home raters provide, we are rapidly increasing the number of families that live in homes that offer the best in efficiency, comfort and durability—all while protecting the environment, since each ENERGY STAR qualified new home prevents an average of 4,500 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year."

About SOUTHWEST HOME ENERGY RATERS

Southwest Home Energy Raters a dba of SOUTHWEST ENERGY CONSERVATION, LLC (SENERCON) started introducing the Energy Star program to El Paso, Tx. and Las Cruces, NM. in 2004 with great success. Currently SENERCON assist's homebuilders and architects with the necessary consulting, training and required inspections and testing in order to make homes more energy efficient and environmentally friendly. The Company also assists homeowners to inspect and diagnose their existing homes in order to choose the right upgrades for energy efficiency and higher levels of comfort.

SENERCON strongly believes that by making homes more comfortable and efficient not only benefits the homeowners with low energy bills but they also help our environment by reducing the green house gases produced by power plants.

Energy Efficiency is for everyone, for new and existing homes, for low income as well as higher income families and for commercial and apartment buildings as well.

About ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR was introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 1992 as a voluntary market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency. Today, ENERGY STAR offers businesses and consumers energy-efficient solutions to save energy, money and help protect the environment for future generations. More than 9,000 organizations are ENERGY STAR partners committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR, visit www.energystar.gov or call toll-free 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).



David Lee EPA's Director for the Residential Branch for the ENERGY STAR Program presents Javier Ruiz from SOUTHWEST ENERGY CONSERVATION with the prestigious ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year AWARD 2007