



INTEGRATED RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFIED TO OFFER HOME ENERGY RATING SERVICE (HERS)

Seattle, April 9, 2008: Integrated Renewable Energy (IRE) of Seattle, WA announced today that it received certification from the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) to provide Home Energy Ratings Service (HERS) to builders, realtors, mortgage professionals, and homeowners.

A certified Home Energy Rating is required for builders to receive the Federal tax credit for building energy efficient homes. A home with a certified Home Energy Rating also enables buyers to obtain an Energy Efficiency Mortgage (EEM), increasing the likelihood of a sale. Buyers qualifying for an EEM are approved to borrow a larger amount since their monthly energy expenses will be lower than typical.

In its announcement, IRE noted that the Portland Multiple Listing Service (MLS) now includes an entry for a property's certified energy rating so that buyers can make better informed decisions. In addition, the City of Portland is considering legislation that will mandate that by 2010 any residence being put up for sale within the city have a certified home energy rating.

"This is clearly the wave of the future in residential property transactions," said Paul Birkeland, Integrated Renewable Energy founder and principal. "Home energy costs are significant and rising, and buyers are demanding to know how different properties will perform."

A home energy rating involves an assessment of a home's thermal envelope, negative pressure testing of the home to determine leakage rates, and pressure testing of any forced air ducts to determine losses to unconditioned space. The results of these activities along with the physical description of the home itself enable the calculation of a HERS home energy rating.

"The real estate industry has always been one of the first to respond to societal trends," said Birkeland. "We want to support the industry as they address this new demand from buyers and implement this new tool to encourage sales."

Contact: Paul Birkeland • 206-517-2875 • pbirkeland@IntegratedRenewableEnergy.com
www.IntegratedRenewableEnergy.com



Integrated Renewable Energy
Member of the US Green Building Council.