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Date: June 1, 2009

TOUR ENERGY-SAVING 'GREEN' HOMES ON JUNE 20

- WHAT:** 2009 Tour of Green Homes
WHEN: Saturday, June 20 from noon to 4 p.m.
WHERE: Bus tour begins at the EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square in mid-town St. Louis; self-guided tour includes locations around metro St. Louis
COST: Bus tour tickets, \$20 (includes lunch, parking); self-guided tour is free.
SPONSORS: Produced by the Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center, the Home Builders Association of St. Louis and the U.S. Green Building Council-St. Louis Regional Chapter; sponsored by Laclede Gas, Closet Factory and GeoComfort.
INFO: www.greenhomesstl.org; www.stlgreenbuilding.com; (314) 577-0246

(ST. LOUIS): "Green" is growing in popularity in new and rehabbed homes throughout the St. Louis region. Witness the many benefits of building green during the **2009 Tour of Green Homes** on Saturday, June 20 from noon to 4 p.m. Explore the Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center, ride a soy-diesel fueled tour bus for an exclusive look at five owner-occupied homes that have earned certification or significantly embody sustainable construction and operational features, or download a self-guided directory to six certified-green new homes being offered for sale. Cost is \$20 per person (including lunch) for the bus tour; admission to the self-guided tour is free.

New this year, Home Green Home and Mosby Building Arts will offer demonstrations of **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR** energy audit processes at the EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square, one block north of the Fox Theater in mid-town St. Louis. See how a blower door, thermal imaging camera and other professional testing equipment are used to conduct a complete energy audit. Energy audits qualify for a Missouri state tax deduction and also provide homeowners with whole building science data and planning help to cost-effectively improve any existing home.

Enjoy free **tours of the EarthWays Center** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The EarthWays Center is a sustainably renovated Victorian-era home filled with information about solar electricity, geothermal heating and cooling, native plant landscaping, super

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ADD ONE: Tour of Green Homes

insulation, non-toxic and sustainable home maintenance products and other features.

Hop aboard the **ticketed bus tour** for a private exploration of five owner-occupied homes, led by local green homebuilding experts. Sustainable features of the residences include both newly-planted and mature rain garden landscapes; a home powered by efficient solar and geothermal energy systems; and two Certified Green Homes. See Habitat for Humanity's summer volunteer-powered "build blitz" in action and a triple-certified affordable home in the redeveloping JeffVanderLou neighborhood in the City of St. Louis.

Bus tour homes represent the work of Belcher Homes, Butterfly Energy Works, Habitat for Humanity, Hartke Nursery, Mary Ann Fink Landscaping, Sage Homes and Trumpet Builders.

Bus tour tickets are \$20 per person, including lunch and free parking. Seating is limited and advance tickets are recommended; purchase online at www.greenhomesstl.org or at the Garden Gate Shop of Missouri Botanical Garden. Tickets will also be available at the EarthWays Center on the tour day, subject to availability. Bus tour patrons are invited to arrive at 11 a.m. to tour EarthWays Center and see the energy auditing demonstrations. The bus departs the EarthWays Center at noon and returns at 4 p.m.

Visit the St. Louis Home Builders Association's Green Homes website at www.stlgreenbuilding.com or www.greenhomesstl.org to download a free **self-guided tour** map of six new custom homes. Each was built to achieve significant energy efficiency using materials and construction practices that safeguard indoor air quality, including water-conserving fixtures and landscaping. Special features include geothermal heating and cooling, tankless water heating, and maximized daylight combined with efficient indoor lighting and high-performance windows. Many finishes and fixtures also demonstrate sustainability. Homebuilders, owners and trained volunteers will be on hand to interpret features of each site and answer questions about practical resources, building materials, methods and the cost benefits of owning a green home or improving an existing one.

Self-guided tour homes represent the work of Belcher Homes, Benchmark/Cachet, Blue Brick Renovation & Construction, Consort Homes, Pagano Development and Suelmann Group.

Dwellings on the 2009 Tour of Green Homes demonstrate conservation of energy, water and building materials and other criteria necessary to achieve certification from nationally-recognized green building standard programs, including LEED-Homes, ENERGY STAR Homes, the National Association of Home Builders Model Green Building Guideline, and the St. Louis Home Builders Association's Green Building Initiative. Extra planning and documentation and independent third-party verification is required to earn these certifications. Products and systems installed in the home must meet rigorous standards designed to protect human and environmental health. By investing in the certification process,

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ADD TWO: Tour of Green Homes

the builders and owners participating in this house tour demonstrate the value-added potentials of green within our local homebuilding industry.

The 2009 Tour of Green Homes is sponsored by Laclede Gas, Closet Factory and GeoComfort. The tour is presented by the St. Louis Home Builders Association, Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center, and U.S. Green Building Council-St. Louis Regional Chapter.

For more information, bus tour tickets and self-guiding tour maps, visit www.greenhomesstl.org or www.stlgreenbuilding.com, or call (314) 577-0246.

For general information about the Missouri Botanical Garden's EarthWays Center, visit www.earthwayscenter.org.

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NOTE: Digital images are available upon request. News releases are available for download as .pdf files at www.mobot.org/press.