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Contact:
Jeneane Harter
HiTech Communications
775.232.3567

John Sagebiel
775.813.3763

BIG THUNDER RECOGNIZED FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force Presents REACH Award

CARSON CITY, NV — October 4, 2006 — The Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force (Task Force) today announced Big Thunder will receive the Task Force's private sector Renewable Energy and Conservation (REACH) Award for outstanding contributions to renewable energy and energy conservation in Nevada.

Big Thunder is a zero-energy, ecologically sustainable home that reflects the ecotone in which the house sits. It is owned by environmental professionals John Sagebiel and Mary Cablk. The house is located in Reno, Nevada and is continually monitored on the Big Thunder web site www.big-thunder.com.

"Sustainable architecture, and the energy conversation and energy efficiency measures associated with it, can significantly reduce the amount of energy we use," said Mark Russell, Task Force Chairman. "The Task Force is pleased to recognize John and Mary as leaders in sustainable residential architecture in Nevada and look forward to working with them to encourage more Nevadans to look at designing sustainable homes."

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BIG THUNDER AWARD

PG 2 OF 2

Big Thunder's passive solar, solar heating and solar power generation capitalize on the area's annual 290 sun-days. Over 96 percent of the building is day lit. The home is also designed to have a "net zero" energy impact, i.e. to be CO₂ neutral. Thus any propane consumed is balanced by a CO₂ equivalent amount of photovoltaic electricity.

In the past year, the owners produced 1230 kilowatt-hours of electricity more than they consumed which is equivalent to 2337 pounds of CO₂. Over the same period they consumed 160 gallons of propane which resulted in the emission of 2035 pounds of CO₂. This means they "netted" 202 pounds of CO₂ **not** emitted to the air.

"The home was designed to be a beautiful example of the art-of-the-possible," said home owner Sagebiel. "At the same time we did not invent any of this technology; it is built from available off-the-shelf systems."

Big Thunder was designed to be efficient for general electrical use. The heating system is appropriately sized and the house is designed so that it does not need air conditioning. Most heat comes from the solar thermal system and the back up boiler is EPA Energy Star Rated, as are the major appliances. Efficient florescent and compact fluorescent lighting is used in many areas of the home. According to energystar.gov, the house is in the 2nd percentile in terms of single-family home energy use.

The Award will be presented October 7th at ceremonies held during the Pine Cone Ball <http://www.nevadaeconet.org/pinecone.html> immediately following the SmarLiving Expo. The Task Force is a SmartLiving Expo sponsor <http://www.smartlivingexpo.com/> .

About the Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force

The Nevada Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Task Force was created by the 2001 Session of the Nevada Legislature to advise the Nevada State Office of Energy in the development and periodic review of the comprehensive state energy plan with regard to the use of renewable energy and the use of measures which conserve or reduce the demand for energy, or which result in the more efficient use of energy.

The mission of the 11 member body is to identify and make recommendations for the removal of barriers to the development of Nevada's rich renewable resources achieving energy security, energy independence, economic development and a cleaner, healthier environment for all Nevadans.

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