



News Release

September 4, 2003

ATCO EnergySense PREPARED TO COMPLETE 5,000 HOME ENERGY EVALUATIONS BY YEAR-END

Consumer patience appreciated as requests stream in

Edmonton, Alberta — ATCO EnergySense is moving quickly to address the overwhelming response to the Federal Government's Aug. 12 announcement of a \$73 million retrofit incentive for efficiency upgrades.

As part of the *Government of Canada's Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change*, the EnerGuide* for Houses Retrofit Incentive gives grants to homeowners who can show, through EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) evaluations, that they have increased their home's energy rating. The closing date for submissions to the grant program is March 31, 2007. ATCO EnergySense, as Alberta's delivery agent for EGH, conducts the evaluations.

"We are pleased that the federal incentive has generated so much interest in conserving energy and protecting the environment, and are doing everything we can to meet the phenomenal rise in requests for home energy evaluations," says ATCO Gas President Jerome Engler. "We are doing our best to answer inquiries within 10 days of receiving them."

Since the announcement, e-mail, web site and phone inquiries to ATCO EnergySense have jumped from about 80 a day to more than 400. To meet the growing demand, ATCO EnergySense has brought on additional office staff and evaluators. The number of specially-trained evaluators available to conduct evaluations increased from seven in August to 12 as of Sept. 1, and as of Oct. 1 there will be 17.

"We are prepared to complete 5,000 evaluations between now and the end of the year. That's more than we did in the last 15 months. On average we've been doing about 290 evaluations a month. We are now able to do four times that many — about 1,200 a month. And as of Oct. 1, we will be able to do as many as 1,600 a month," Engler says. However, consumers should be aware that even with additional evaluators and staffing, they may face a several month wait for their evaluation to be completed.

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ATCO EnergySense is provided by ATCO Gas and ATCO Electric. In addition to the EGH program, ATCO EnergySense provides tips and information to help residential and business consumers use energy wisely, which reduces their bills and their impact on the environment.

For more information about ATCO EnergySense or EGH evaluations, visit our web site at www.atcoenergysense.com, e-mail energysense@atco.com, or call ATCO EnergySense toll-free at 310-SAVE (7283).

For details about the federal incentive program, contact Natural Resources Canada by phone at 1-800-387-2000, by e-mail at energuide.houses@nrcan.gc.ca, or via the web, energuideforhouses.gc.ca.

— 30 —

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