



## **Illinois Adult Communities Become a Green Model for USA at the 2008 Beijing Olympics**

*Alternative Energy Builders Wins MEEA's Inspiring Efficiency INNOVATION Award*

Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance announced today that George Bialecki, Jr. of Alternative Energy Builders (AEB), a corporation that builds energy efficient communities, won the Inspiring Efficiency INNOVATION Award for building high performance, non-toxic, affordable homes for seniors in Illinois. AEB also built curriculum around these accomplishments to share data and stimulate young students to participate in the further development of these energy efficient concepts.

AEB's communities include Arbor Village and Autumn Trails which have both independent living townhomes as well as an Amber Ridge Assisted Living Residence. They are the first facilities of this kind in the nation to be awarded the ENERGY STAR Certification. AEB homes include these Assisted Living Centers, and 50 one, two, three, four, and five-plex condo units.

AEB's innovative approach and the economic success of their senior living communities attracted the attention and interest of the 2008 Olympics Future House Community Project, which is ten houses, each built by a different country, to be showcased during the 2008 Beijing 'Green' Olympics. AEB will build, what the Chinese officials call, 'new generation homes.' These homes demonstrate the latest in sustainable and energy efficient building technologies and practices.

"In the next 10 years, our Chinese counterparts have told us that they plan to build 100 million new homes," said George Bialecki, Jr. "Our goal is for the US to participate in this unprecedented residential development project, by providing energy efficient technology, method, and products."

George Bialecki, Jr., understands that homes generate a large percentage of our emissions and pioneered and promoted a unique building practice. These principles view the home as a living organism, which breathes, absorbs environmental elements and produces waste. Bialecki, Jr. said, "By analyzing every detail of the home, we can now create a home that is energy independent, healthier, preserves the environment, and will offer a richer quality of life."

By the strict implementation of AEB's 'whole house system' building practice or Home Biology 101, the homes address energy efficiency, indoor air quality, water conservation, storm water management and recycling. Building to these standards costs less than conventional building practices and homeowners enjoy a more than 60% reduction in their carbon foot print and municipal water consumption, as well as a cleaner and healthier quality of air within their home. HB 101 also emphasizes American-made energy technology products and components that address housing and energy needs in the global housing market.

According to MEEA's president Alecia Ward, "AEB is being recognized for developing a housing solution based in American ingenuity, and for bringing their solutions to the global market with Future House USA in Beijing. Bialecki's dedication to sharing information and resources through the technical network and showcase in Beijing are critical to moving us towards a sustainable energy future."

**Summary of MEEA's 2008 Inspiring Efficiency Award recipients, recognizing the Midwest's efficiency leaders:**

**Inspiring Efficiency EDUCATION Award**—Schools for Energy Efficiency for implementing a program to save energy and money by changing behavior throughout school districts through increasing energy awareness among operations staff, students, teachers, and administrators. The program is in 400 schools, resulting in average energy savings of 10-20% and avoiding \$9.2million in energy costs in its first four years.

**Inspiring Efficiency IMPACT Award**—Miracit Development Corporation for developing Green View Estates. The first “green” subdivision of the City of Columbus, Ohio, the site upholds rigorous environmental standards while producing affordable homes. Homes in the subdivision are 25 to 40% more efficient than standard homes, saving \$900 per year.

**Inspiring Efficiency MARKETING Award**—Rochester Public Utilities for developing a Commercial Communications Plan to maximize commercial customers' participation in efficiency programs.

**Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award**—Minnesota: Senator D. Scott Dibble, Representative Jeremy Kalin, Sheldon Strom from Center for Energy and Environment, and Christy Brusven of the Department of Commerce for their coalition effort to lead the first, most comprehensive energy policy adoption in the Midwest.

**Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award**—Illinois: Senator Don Harmon and Anne Pramagiorre from Commonwealth Edison for their leadership to gain adoption of the Affordable, Clean Energy Standard, creating a 2% efficiency standard for Illinois.

**Inspiring Efficiency LEADERSHIP Award**—Ann Arbor, Michigan: The Ann Arbor Energy Office for its long-standing commitment to sustainable energy use. The Energy Office manages projects and programs, develops information resources, and provides expert advice to move the city toward more sustainable energy use.

**Inspiring Efficiency CHAIRMAN'S Award**—Sara Ward: Retiring Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Office of Energy Efficiency, a founding and active member of the MEEA Board of Directors and stalwart supporter of energy efficiency and renewable energy policy in the Midwest.

Winners will be honored at MEEA's **Inspiring Efficiency Awards Ceremony**, being held at the **Drake Hotel in Chicago, Illinois**, on **January 10, 2008**. Please visit [www.mwalliance.org/awards](http://www.mwalliance.org/awards) or [www.mwalliance.org/conference](http://www.mwalliance.org/conference) for more information on the Midwest Energy Solutions Conference.