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Governor Doyle Honored for Commitment to Clean Energy

Wins Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance's 2009 Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award

MADISON – The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) announced today Governor Jim Doyle is the recipient of its 2009 *Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award*. The annual award is presented to the organization or individual who has served as a strong leader in support of energy efficiency in their city, state, region, company, or community.

"I am honored to receive this award in recognition of the state's efforts to reduce our energy consumption and move toward energy independence," Governor Doyle said. "From manufacturing wind turbines and solar panels to retro-fitting fuel pumps and exploring the latest clean technologies, Wisconsin's future lies in seizing green opportunities that will create good jobs for our citizens and add billions of dollars to our economy."

This year marks the MEEA's 5th annual *Inspiring Efficiency Awards* competition recognizing leaders who deliver groundbreaking advancements in energy efficiency across five categories: Education, Impact, Marketing, Innovation and Leadership.

Since coming into office, Governor Doyle has worked to advance energy efficiency and make Wisconsin a clean energy leader. In 2006, Governor Doyle signed the Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act into law (2005 Wis Act 141), which requires key state agencies and university campuses to purchase 20 percent of their energy from renewable sources by the end of 2011.

Governor Doyle also created the Office of Energy Independence in 2007 to promote efforts to reduce dependence on foreign oil and advance renewable energy initiatives. Last spring, the Governor released *Clean Energy Wisconsin*, his strategy to strengthen Wisconsin's energy future. This comprehensive plan moves Wisconsin forward by promoting renewable energy, creating new jobs, increasing energy security and efficiency, and improving the environment.

As part of the plan, Governor Doyle launched the Wisconsin Energy Independent Community Partnership with local leaders committed to working towards the Governor's goals of generating 25 percent of the state's electricity and transportation fuels from renewable resources by the year 2025. Governor Doyle also announced \$7.3 million in grants and loans from the Wisconsin Energy Independence Fund (WEIF) for research and development and commercialization or adoption of new clean energy technologies.

Governor Doyle will be honored with other winners at a special Inspiring Efficiency Awards Dinner and Gala on January 8, 2009, as part of MEEA's *Midwest Energy Solutions* Conference taking place January 7-9, 2009 in Chicago.

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance is a collaborative network advancing energy efficiency in the Midwest to support sustainable economic development and environmental preservation. MEEA promotes the market transformation of energy efficiency technologies, processes and best practices within a 12-state area, through policy advocacy, program design and facilitation and piloting of energy technologies. For more information, please visit: www.mwalliance.org.