



Media contacts:

Kim Gronniger
Manager, Consumer Services
Westar Energy
Phone: 785.217.7197
Kimberly.n.gronniger@WestarEnergy.com

Cara S. Sloan-Ramos
Director of Communications
Kansas Corporation Commission
Phone: 785.438.9699
c.sloan-ramos@kcc.ks.gov

**EFFICIENCY KANSAS AUDITS AND WESTAR ENERGY REPAYMENT OPTION
OFFER CONSUMERS A WAY TO SAVE ENERGY, MONEY**

**Consumers can repay cost of energy efficiency upgrades to homes or small businesses through
Westar utility bill**

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 3, 2011 — The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) has approved Westar Energy’s plan to be a partner utility in the state’s Efficiency Kansas program. Westar Energy customers can now repay the cost of approved energy efficiency improvements to their home or small business through monthly installments on their Westar utility bill.

Federal funds are available through the Kansas Energy Office to promote the installation of energy measures in residential and small commercial premises.

“Efficiency Kansas equips Kansans with the knowledge they need to make smart decisions about the energy upgrades necessary to make their homes more comfortable and more economical to live in,” said KCC Chairman Thomas Wright. “The addition of Westar’s program gives consumers another path to making energy-saving improvements and assures their dollars are going toward cost-effective, energy-smart upgrades.”

“This program provides an opportunity for customers to make their homes and small businesses more energy efficient by adding insulation, replacing outdated heating and cooling equipment or implementing other improvements,” said Bill Moore, Westar Energy president and chief executive officer.

The Efficiency Kansas comprehensive audits are conducted by qualified energy auditors who inspect interiors and exteriors, assess mechanical equipment and perform blower door testing before creating a customized Energy Conservation Plan for the home or business owner. The customer pays an audit fee upfront and upon receipt of the plan contacts contractors to collect bids. Audits are currently available for \$100. Based on Efficiency Kansas cost-effectiveness calculations, customers then receive a form with the allowed repayment amount. At that point, the customer can determine whether to implement the upgrades using the Westar Energy repayment program or another funding option. The improvements may be made by a contractor or undertaken as a do-it-yourself project with funding covering the cost of the materials.

The Simple Savings repayment program is open to Westar Energy customers who meet qualifying criteria. To qualify, customers must have 12 months of service at the address and be current on their utility payments. Additionally, participants must not be on a payment agreement or have had service disconnected within the past 12 months. The program has a \$20,000 limit on residential improvements and a \$30,000 limit on small business upgrades. The term is 180 months with a \$250 Westar administrative fee and a \$2 per month Efficiency Kansas administrative fee folded into repayment installments. Participants must have a home energy audit conducted by a qualified energy auditor listed on the Efficiency Kansas website and an Energy Conservation Plan approved by the Kansas Energy Office before proceeding with the work.

Westar Energy will host open houses from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel Emerald Ballroom in Topeka and from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Cessna Activity Center in Wichita. Efficiency Kansas representatives and qualified energy auditors will be available to answer questions and register people interested in participating in the program. Westar representatives will be available to pre-qualify participants for the Simple Savings repayment program.

For more information, call Westar Energy EfficiencyWorks at 888.WORKS50 (967-5750).

- 30 -

Westar Energy, Inc. (NYSE: WR) is the largest electric utility in Kansas, providing electric service to about 679,000 customers in the state. Westar Energy has about 6,800 megawatts of electric generation capacity and operates and coordinates approximately 35,000 miles of electric distribution and transmission lines.

For more information about Westar Energy, visit us on the Internet at <http://www.WestarEnergy.com>.