



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

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**\*\*PHOTO OPPORTUNITY\*\***

**WESTAR ENERGY HOSTS SIMPLE SAVINGS OPEN HOUSE FEB. 21**

**Customers can make overall energy improvements to save money on total utility expenses while conveniently paying for upgrades to homes or small businesses through their monthly Westar bill.**

**Auditors to Use Displays to Demonstrate Blower Door Tests and Discuss Air Tightening and Insulation Measures with Participants**

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 17, 2011 — Westar Energy will host an open house Monday, Feb. 21, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel Emerald Ballroom, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd., from 4 to 8 p.m. to meet with customers about its Simple Savings program. Through Simple Savings, Westar Energy customers can now reduce their total energy expense by making approved energy efficiency improvements to their home or small business and then repaying the cost through monthly installments on their Westar bill.

Bill Moore, president and chief executive officer of Westar Energy, and Thomas Wright, chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission, will provide opening remarks at 5:30 p.m. During the course of the open house, auditors will use displays to demonstrate blower door tests and discuss air tightening and insulation measures with participants. EfficiencyWorks gift bags will

be given to the first 100 attendees, who can also register for a drawing for one free Efficiency Kansas audit.

The Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) recently approved Westar Energy's plan to be a partner utility in the state's Efficiency Kansas program. Federal funds are available through the Kansas Energy Office to promote the installation of energy measures in residential and small commercial premises, including adding insulation and updating heating and cooling equipment. Efficiency Kansas representatives and qualified energy auditors will be available at the open house 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. Participants must have a comprehensive home energy audit conducted by a qualified energy auditor listed on the Efficiency Kansas website. Auditors inspect interiors and exteriors, assess mechanical equipment and perform blower door testing before creating the customer's Energy Conservation Plan. The customer's Energy Conservation Plan must be approved by the Kansas Energy Office before any work is undertaken. Audits, typically valued at \$500 or more, are currently available for \$100 through Efficiency Kansas to encourage participation.

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. Customers who are on average pay and level pay plans are still eligible to participate in Simple Savings. 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.

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

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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>.