



## Public Announcement



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **PA Home Energy Program is Transitioned to the Private Sector for Statewide Expansion**

GREENSBURG, PA – July 7, 2010 – The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) and AFC First Corporation (AFC) have entered into an agreement that will enable AFC First Financial to continue to offer the PA Home Energy program throughout Pennsylvania with ongoing support by Performance Systems Development (PSD). Under the agreement, AFC is charged with the day-to-day operations of PA Home Energy and the further statewide expansion of the program. PSD will continue to provide technical assistance, contractor mentoring, and quality assurance. AFC will administer the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program for the WPPSEF who retained the formal program sponsorship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. WPPSEF received EPA's ENERGY STAR Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Energy Efficiency in 2009 and 2010. This nationally competitive award recognizes the WPPSEF for its commitment to energy efficiency and environmental protection as an ENERGY STAR Partner.

Michele Ponchione, WPPSEF Board President, indicated that "AFC First has a demonstrated track record of operating successful, statewide residential energy efficiency programs in Pennsylvania and this agreement will strengthen both the PA Home Energy and Keystone HELP programs". Since its inception in 2006, Keystone HELP has worked with the PA Treasury Department, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Housing and Finance Authority, and the WPPSEF to place over 6,000 loans having a loan value of \$31,000,000. Peter Krajsa, CEO of AFC First Financial, remarked, "that the agreement will allow AFC to fully integrate the PA Home Energy program into our financial offerings and that this agreement is a natural extension of our core business model". The WPPSEF and AFC agreement will broaden the support for the PA Home Energy program and provide a sustainable model for continued program operation and expansion.

Since its inception in August 2007, the PA Home Energy program provided a framework by which the emerging Pennsylvania residential energy efficiency industry became established. "Prior to August 2007, there were only a handful of RESNET and BPI Building Analyst I certified individuals in the state. PA Home Energy has completely transformed the residential energy efficiency marketplace," remarked Kathy Greely, with PSD. PSD and the WPPSEF have worked closely to establish a well-trained, thriving workforce of RESNET & BPI Building Analyst I certified individuals in Pennsylvania. The program has trained over 150 individuals and credentialed more than 80 companies throughout Pennsylvania providing whole-house diagnostic energy audits and new home ratings to ENERGY STAR standards. Michael Sanjek, AFC Vice President of Home Performance and Marketing, will serve as the Director of PA Home Energy. Sanjek is an experienced energy industry marketing and management professional who will work with PSD's core Pennsylvania team of Greely, Alex Mordas, and Jim Phelps for program implementation and lead the expansion efforts of PA Home Energy.