

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release 1/15/10

Who: **Re-Powering the Flathead**, Advisory Committee

What: FREE evening presentation on **Building Green Homes for Today and Tomorrow**

Where: FVCC, Arts and Technology Building Room 139

When: Thursday, February 18, 2010, 7:00- 9:00 pm

Contact: Len Ford, Ford Construction, 755-5224

The public is encouraged to attend the fifth in the series of free community energy dialogue discussions on February 18, 2010 at FVCC Arts & Technology Building, Room 139 from 7:00-9:00 pm. This session is entitled: "Building Green Homes for Today and Tomorrow"

With growing interest in the cost savings possible through green home building or green retrofitting of existing homes, and additional concerns over Sick House Syndrome, and Climate Change, the concept of green building is one you literally can't afford to get behind on. During this program, sponsored by the Flathead Building Association's Green Team, presenters will explore just what defines green building and how can it have a positive effect on your monthly utility bills, resource consumption, carbon emissions, health, and on the Flathead's job market.

**David Bopp** of Harvest Moon Rating and Design will explore the general principles of green building and some of the reasons that it is important to us. David is a certified Home Energy Rater and does performance testing of homes. He also is a verifier for the Energy Star, Builders Challenge, and Indoor Air Plus programs.

**Mark Van Everen** of Bridgewater Innovative Builders will discuss performance testing and energy efficiency improvements for our existing stock of housing. There is tremendous potential to create jobs and reduce the energy consumption by upgrading the vast amount of homes in today's built environment. Mark recently won the 2009 FBA Parade of Homes Green Building Award and was a national finalist for the NAHB Energy Value Housing Award at this year's International Builders Show in Las Vegas.

**Bill Yarus** of AirWorks, a HVAC design/ build company in Kalispell, will present clarifying information about both air-source and ground source heat pumps, as well as strategies to improve or upgrade the performance of more typical combustion heating systems. There are many federal, state, and utility incentive programs to improve system efficiencies that will be discussed also. Bill is certified by the Building Performance Institute and North American Technician Excellence.

After the panel presentations there will be ample opportunity for the public to ask questions and offer feedback. The purpose of these dialogue sessions is to educate and engage the citizens of the valley in exploring ways to plan and prepare our community for greater energy independence and economic sustainability.

For more information contact Len Ford, Ford Construction, 755-5224. The Flathead Building Association's Green Team is proud to sponsor and host this community information session.

The next community discussion will be held on Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and is entitled "Alternative Energy: Emerging New Technologies for the Flathead."