

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:	Lee Dillon Tompkins Community Action 701 Spencer Road Ithaca, NY (607) 273-8816 lee.dillon@tcaction.org	Event details:	83 Main St., Trumansburg Friday Oct. 28th 1:30-3:00 PM, remarks at approx. 2:00 PM
----------	---	----------------	---

Tompkins Community Action celebrates Weatherization Day with NY State Officials by Showcasing Innovative Solar Hot Water Installation

Ithaca, NY—

On October 28th, Officials from New York State Homes and Community Renewal will come to Trumansburg to help celebrate the combination of innovation with energy efficiency. Tompkins Community Action has successfully combined solar domestic hot water technology with energy efficiency measures at a 4-unit affordable rental complex owned and operated by Better Housing for Tompkins County.

The presentation is being made in concert with other Weatherization Day celebrations nationwide, as well as in honor of Energy Awareness Month. Since the year 2000, Tompkins Community Action has weatherized over 2,900 houses, mobile homes and apartments in Tompkins County under the Weatherization program.

In 2010, the US Department of Energy (DOE) made grants to 120 organizations nationwide under the Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) program. TCAction is one of three participating organizations in New York State. These grants are intended to drive innovation under the DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program by supporting new pilot projects and enabling successful weatherization agencies such as TCAction to expand their current programs.

"We're excited about the opportunities that SERC has brought to partner with owners of properties that serve households with low incomes," says Lee Dillon, Executive Director. These upgrades mean that Better Housing and their tenants will be able to save, at minimum, 50% of the energy used to heat the water for the buildings over the course of a year.

Rick Cowan, Better Housing property manager adds, "Better Housing has other energy conservation renovations in progress as well. New siding to shore up the exterior envelope and new furnaces will help to sustain this property as an affordable housing option. We are working to turn 83-85 Main Street into something we can all be proud of, and look forward to seeing the results of the weatherization and renewable work".

The project also affords green job skills for the energy services team. The crew is trained and experienced in all areas of energy efficiency and many members hold certifications from the Building Performance Institute (BPI). "Advancing their skills in renewable technologies will help them, and us, be prepared for what we see as a growing field. In 2009 and 2010, we increased our green workforce working in weatherization and related programs. With rebates from NYSERDA, solar projects like these are becoming a reality for more and more people seeking to reduce their energy bills, but the prices and technology aren't there yet for our lowest income residents. This project will help DOE figure out how to break more of those feasibility barriers in the weatherization program", reports Dillon.

TCAction's Energy Services helps consumers save money on their housing costs by improving the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. TCAction has been providing weatherization services in Tompkins County for over 30 years, as well as helping moderate income families regionally through NYSERDA programs for the last six years.

For more information, contact Tompkins Community Action at 607-273-8816 or visit our website at www.tcaction.org.

Members of the press are invited to join us at 83/85 Main Street from 1:30-3:00 on Friday, October 28th. Remarks from officials including NY State Homes and Community Renewal Regional Director Daniel Buyer anticipated at approximately 2:00 pm.