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## **HUNTER HOMES JOINS EPA's VOLUNTARY ENERGY STAR® PROGRAM**

**Huntsville, Alabama May 3, 2005** - Hunter Homes announced today that it has joined a nationwide effort to help the environment through participation in the ENERGY STAR program. This voluntary partnership sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps homebuyers, businesses, and other organizations save money and reduce air pollution by upgrading their homes to use energy more efficiently. Hunter Homes has joined EPA and more than 2,400 builders, manufacturers, and retailers throughout the United States to help reduce pollution by building more efficient products.

According to EPA representatives, Hunter Homes is the only production homebuilder in the state of Alabama with this designation. "We felt it was important to provide homes that were not only affordable to purchase, but were affordable to heat and cool. Homes using the ENERGY STAR PROGRAM allow customers to see a dramatic reduction in their utility bills, therefore making the homes more cost efficient." - Shawn Fairburn, President of Hunter Homes

Hunter Homes' plans have an assortment of energy-efficient features including increased levels of insulation, efficient windows, high-efficiency heating and cooling equipment, and tightly sealed air ducts. Such features can reduce heating and cooling costs by as much as 30 percent, according to Sam Rashkin, Director of ENERGY STAR for New Homes. This translates into substantial utility bill savings every month. Additional benefits to homebuyers are the innovations that lead to a more energy-efficient, quieter, healthier and comfortable home. Improved indoor air quality, soundproofing, and the lack of drafts and uneven temperatures across rooms are among the advantageous results of energy-efficient construction

According to EPA estimates, 20 percent of all air pollution results from home energy usage. Introduced in 1995, ENERGY STAR for homes currently has more than 2,400 partners nationwide. For more information about ENERGY STAR labeled homes and other ENERGY STAR labeled products, please call 1-888-STAR-YES, or visit the Web site at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).