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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Colorado takes home Energy Stewardship Champion award**

**Louisville, KY**—The Energy Services Coalition (ESC) announced its Energy Stewardship Champions in recognition of states' outstanding accomplishments in leveraging Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contracting (GESPC) to achieve energy savings, infrastructure modernization, environmental stewardship, and economic development.

Colorado was among 10 state Champions recognized for this award during the closing ceremonies at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual ESC Market Transformation Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, August 24.

"GESPC is a financial strategy leveraging guaranteed future energy savings to pay for energy efficiency upgrades today," said Jim Arwood, ESC Executive Director. "Colorado has achieved considerable success in support of implementing energy efficiency projects in public buildings through the use of a GESPC."

Arwood added that the example Colorado has set through executive and legislative leadership, program design, and the investment in energy upgrades using a GESPC financing solution, is a prime model of using financial and energy resources wisely.

Colorado initiated its energy performance contracting program in the early 1990s, and soon after a public/private partnership formed the Colorado ESC chapter. Throughout their joint history, the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and the Colorado ESC Chapter have partnered to ensure that GESPC reduces the strain on taxes and supports a healthy environment for Coloradans by updating public buildings and reducing utility costs and energy and water consumption.

The Colorado Energy Office hit a significant program milestone earlier this summer when the state surpassed \$500 million in GESPC projects. To date, more than 140 public jurisdictions have executed nearly 200 energy performance contracts, leveraging over \$32 million in guaranteed utility savings to pay for energy efficiency improvements in administration buildings, schools, courthouses, jails and correctional facilities, libraries, health clinics, veterans housing, ballparks and other community facilities. A GESPC project is benefitting at least one community in 75 percent of Colorado's counties.

For more than 40 years now performance contracting has proven over and over again to be a smart solution for public organizations -- allowing them to pay for much needed energy upgrades using avoided future energy costs.

#### **About the Energy Services Coalition**

The Energy Services Coalition is a public private partnership promoting the benefits of, providing education on, and serving as an advocate for the widespread use of guaranteed energy performance contracting in public and private facilities. The ESC provides a unique forum in which all stakeholders can work together to address and overcome any barriers which are limiting the effective use of GESPC.