



For immediate release:

MEDIA CONTACT: Randy Hartford, Atmos Energy (512) 310-3805
Scott Ferguson, WBC Opportunities (512) 763-1400

Atmos Energy Partners With Local Nonprofit to Help Low-Income and Senior Citizens - Chairman Michael Williams of Railroad Commission of Texas Helps Program Launch

Company program reduces energy use and saves money

Georgetown (December 5, 2008) -- Atmos Energy Corporation (NYSE: ATO) has unveiled a new consumer program, called **Keeping the Warmth**, that will provide \$2 million for qualifying low-income and senior-citizen customers in North, Central and East Texas to help conserve energy and increase their homes' energy efficiency.

"With home energy prices remaining volatile, this program helps our customers save on their energy bills," said John Paris, president of Atmos Energy's Mid-Tex Division based in Dallas. *"At the same time, conserving energy extends our natural resources."*

The initial program funding of \$2 million will be contributed equally by Atmos Energy and its customers and will be distributed to customers throughout Williamson and Burnet counties by **WBC Opportunities**, a local nonprofit providing an array of social services for the past 42 years.

"We have partnered with WBC Opportunities for many years with their utility assistance program. Since they have six locations throughout the two counties, it was a natural partnership to work together on Keeping the Warmth," stated Paris.

The new conservation and energy efficiency program provides eligible customers up to \$200 in energy-saving materials and devices to help make their homes more energy-efficient and to conserve energy. A selection of caulking, weather-stripping, window sealing, water heater blanket, insulation and energy-saving devices will be offered to qualifying customers.

"The need to make cost-effective energy improvements has never been greater," added Paris. *"Our Keeping the Warmth program should help our customers save money and reduce energy use without sacrificing comfort."*

Etta Caldwell, a long-time resident of Round Rock, was the first person in Williamson County to benefit from the program. She, like future program participants, received nearly \$200 of energy efficient materials in weatherizing her home.

"WBC Opportunities is excited to partner with Atmos Energy in being able to help Mrs. Caldwell in getting her home more energy efficient. She is on a fixed income and has been in this home for many years. If we can help her and others like her to reduce energy costs, it is a win-win for everybody," commented Andrew Shell, Executive Director of WBC Opportunities.

-MORE -

The program launched in the communities of **Round Rock, Cedar Park, Leander, Taylor, Georgetown, Burnet, and Marble Falls** on December 9 and 10. Michael Williams, the recently elected **Chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas**, along with **Round Rock Mayor Alan McGraw**, were at Caldwell's home, the very first home to benefit from the new program.

With caulk gun in hand, Chairman Williams stated, *"I have to commend Atmos Energy for this program and initiative. It provides natural gas customers with a way to reduce their energy costs. It provides for us a way to save and conserve a very valuable commodity of natural gas and also, quite frankly, it is going to benefit the consumers' pockets. Their next gas bill at the end of the month will be less because they have done the right thing in terms of weatherizing their home and making it more energy efficient."*

In response to the help being provided by Atmos Energy and WBC Opportunities, Caldwell exclaimed *"I had tried once before, a long time ago, to get this house fixed. So I went and talked to WBC Opportunities about doing my house as I have heart problems. I want to stay here until I die and have someplace for my grandchildren to come and stay where it is nice and warm and appreciate what they have. My parents left me this home and I have tried to take care of it, but I got sick. I prayed each and every day that God would send somebody and He did. "*

To be eligible for Keeping the Warmth assistance, an Atmos Energy customer must be a qualified senior citizen or low-income residential service customer. To enroll in the program, Williamson County and Burnet County customers should call WBC Opportunities at 512-763-1400 to apply for this service. Visit www.atmosenergy.com for more information about the Keeping the Warmth program.

About Atmos Energy

Atmos

Energy Corporation, headquartered in Dallas, is the country's largest natural-gas-only distributor, serving about 3.2 million natural gas distribution customers in more than 1,600 communities in 12 states from the Blue Ridge Mountains in the East to the Rocky Mountains in the West. Atmos Energy also provides natural gas marketing and procurement services to industrial, commercial and municipal customers primarily in the Midwest and Southeast and manages company-owned natural gas pipeline and storage assets, including one of the largest intrastate natural gas pipeline systems in Texas. Atmos Energy is a Fortune 500 company. For more information, visit www.atmosenergy.com.

About WBC Opportunities

WBC

Opportunities is a private nonprofit charitable organization that has been serving the residents of Williamson and Burnet counties since 1966. WBC Opportunities manages 6 Senior Activity Centers, Meals-On-Wheels, 2 affordable housing complexes, 13 Head Start campuses, 6 Neighborhood Outreach Centers, utility assistance programs, homeless prevention programs, and budget counseling throughout Williamson and Burnet counties. For more information, visit www.wbco.net.



Chairman Williams & Mayor McGraw High-Five after completing the home.



Chairman Williams caulks window.



Etta Caldwell & Commissioner Williams talk about new program.

-END-