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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2009

**Loos Homes and TECO — Green Building for the Mainstream**

**Sun Prairie, WI** — TECO is pleased to announce that Loos Homes of Johnson Creek (WI) will be achieving Bronze certification status through the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) National Green Building Standard™ on their two parade homes located within the Autumn Ridge subdivision in Ixonia, Wisconsin. Many of the homes in the Metropolitan Builders Association's Parade of Homes, scheduled for August 22 through September 13, have a focus on being environmentally friendly, and these two homes are a great example of what it means to mainstream green building. The NAHB National Green Building Standard is the newest and most widely approved green building standard applicable to new single-family construction, multi-family construction, renovations, additions, and subdivisions. This recently released Standard made its debut in Las Vegas during NAHB's International Builders' Show in late January 2009 and approved its first home on ABC's popular television program *Extreme Makeover: Home Addition* in late March with a home built in Tucson, AZ. Loos Homes is excited to be claiming two of the first few NAHB Green Standard homes built in Wisconsin.

Jed Hannemann, Green Building Specialist with TECO and NAHB Approved Verifier, has been working with Greg Loos, President/Owner of Loos Homes, in verifying these two residential homes to NAHB's Standard. This green certification may be new to the nation but Loos Homes is no stranger to high-performance, environmental friendly construction. Loos Homes has been an Energy Star™ builder since 2006 with over 130 Energy Star approved homes built. Mr. Loos is familiar with Wisconsin's Green Built Home™ Program, a regionally accepted green home program more than a decade old. "I just wanted to put another feather in my hat to show again that I'm a builder who goes above and beyond, and what better place than in this Autumn Ridge Development where community and nature are the main focus," explains Loos.

Autumn Ridge is a unique development—the first ever Parade of Homes site with a 'green' focus—by incorporating environmental friendliness, high performance, and community integration. For the homes that Loos is building 'green,' it starts with design phase and a goal to minimize the disturbance of the existing landscape. This is done by choosing a site with less slope disturbance and incorporating erosion controls. High-performance comes with each home's Energy Star package; building and testing for air tightness, and utilizing highly rated Energy Star lights and appliances. To benefit the entire community, Autumn Ridge incorporates many community and pedestrian-friendly aspects, like a shared water system, community biking trails, a basketball court, several ponds and acres of open space. Helping the community and its residents understand the connection to nature and the outdoors is an integral part of the green building process.

TECO provides a summary of the green building landscape at its website at [www.TECOtested.com](http://www.TECOtested.com), and also has a site dedicated to its Green Building Verification services at [www.TECOverified.com](http://www.TECOverified.com). Also visit the NAHB Green website at [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org) to find information on green building certifications and for more information about the NAHB National Green Building Program.

Loos Homes of Johnson Creek, Wisconsin, is a member of the Metropolitan Builders Association; website at [www.looshomes.com](http://www.looshomes.com). Founded in 1997, Loos Homes has helped over 800 families in southeastern Wisconsin realize their dream of home ownership.

TECO is based in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and in addition to Green Building Verification offers certification and testing services for a wide variety of engineered wood products. Founded in 1933, the company is recognized to certify products for use in the U.S., Canada, and Japan, and operates testing laboratories in Oregon and Louisiana.

For additional information, please contact:

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