

NEWS

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SunCache Selected As Top-10 Green Building Product for 2008

CORRAL DE TIERRA, CA, November 20, 2008 – The SunCache Solar Water Heating System from Harpiris Energy has been selected as one of BuildingGreen’s 2008 Top-10 Green Building Products by the editors of *Environmental Building News* and *GreenSpec®*. This seventh annual award recognizes the most innovative and exciting green building products added to the *GreenSpec® Directory* during the past year or covered in *Environmental Building News*. SunCache is the first renewable energy product to have been selected for this award.

“Our selections of the Top-10 Green Building Products represent a wide range of product types in many different application areas,” noted *GreenSpec* coeditor and BuildingGreen president Alex Wilson. Well represented this year are interior products, including first FSC-certified and formaldehyde-free bamboo flooring, doors made with wheat-straw particleboard, a line of zero-VOC paint, a transparent finish produced from a byproduct of cheese making, and a line of organic fabric. Three of the products this year save energy, including a **low-cost, solar water-heating system**; a combination heating, water heating, and heat-recovery ventilation system; and a system for monitoring real-time energy (and water) use in buildings. Water saving products are represented by a line of rainwater storage tanks – the first rainwater storage equipment ever recognized in our Top-10 lists. “Most of the Top-10 products this year have multiple environmental attributes,” said Wilson.

The SunCache integral-collector-storage (ICS) solar water heater uses a roof-mounted polyethylene panel and copper heat exchanger to pre-heat water for domestic use. Developed through research supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, the relatively inexpensive SunCache captures heat in 50 gallons of non-circulating water stored in the unpressurized rooftop panel. When a hot-water tap is turned on, cold water from the supply line flows through copper heat exchanger embedded in the panel, extracting heat from the stored water. The pre-heated water then flows, via cross-linked polyethylene (PEX) tubing, to a conventional storage or tankless water heater. As a passive system, no pumps, sensors or controllers are used. The acrylic glazing minimizes convective heat loss. People using hot water in the afternoon or early evenings will see the greatest energy savings. SunCache is affordable and easy to install,

making it appropriate for both professional and do-it-yourself installations. The water heater is designed for warm climates, including the Sun Belt, and is not intended for use in cold climates.

A big driver in the development of green products continues to be the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED® Rating System (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which awards points for the use of certain product types or for the energy or water savings that certain green products can achieve. "Designers of LEED buildings are looking for green products, and manufacturers are responding," said Wilson. In the online version of *GreenSpec*, users can find products organized by LEED credits.

GreenSpec is the leading national directory of green building products. Products are selected based on criteria developed over the past 15 years. Manufacturers do not pay to be listed in *GreenSpec*, and neither *GreenSpec* nor *Environmental Building News* carries advertising; both are supported by users of the information. "Our policy of not accepting money from product manufacturers allows us to be objective in our review of products," said Wilson. The *GreenSpec* product database this company maintains includes more than 2,000 product listings, representing several times as many actual products. *GreenSpec* is also available online. *Environmental Building News*, founded in 1992, is the oldest and most widely respected newsletter in the green building field. BuildingGreen celebrates its 23rd year in business this year. For information on BuildingGreen resources, visit www.BuildingGreen.com or call 800-861-0954.

For more information about SunCache and Harpiris Energy, please visit www.harpiris.com, or contact Eric Lee at 530-220-7000 or eric@harpiris.com.

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