



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **NRG and Isles Kick Off Expansion and Renovation of YouthBuild Institute in Trenton**

**—Funded by NRG's \$1 Million Donation—**

**Princeton, NJ, February 8, 2008**—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE:NRG) and Isles, Inc. kick off the renovation of Isles' YouthBuild Institute, a former paint warehouse now used for New Jersey state high school education and vocational training. NRG partnered with Isles in 2006 by committing \$1 million to the organization's YouthBuild Institute to enhance its future programming for at-risk youth. Isles is a Trenton-based nonprofit community development organization that provides low income families with a source of job training, affordable housing, financial literacy and home-ownership counseling.

"Isles provides a non-traditional education for kids who, due to exceptional family circumstances and personal challenges, could not succeed in a public school setting. Their value to the students and their families, and to the community, is immeasurable," said David Crane, President and CEO, NRG Energy, Inc. "Those who graduate from YouthBuild receive New Jersey State high school diplomas, and often leave with viable trade skills to earn a good living," added Crane. "By supporting Isles, we are contributing not only to the success of the organization, but to the economic and educational future of those who participate in the programs."

NRG's donation will fund the expansion of the YouthBuild library, computer room and woodworking area on the first floor. The second floor, previously used for storage only, will house climate-controlled classrooms, breakout rooms and restrooms. The funds also will enable the building to be 100 percent handicapped accessible, and renovations are expected to be complete by late summer.

"NRG recognizes the challenges of our future labor force and quality of life. They are investing in youth today – when it matters most," said Marty Johnson, Isles' founder and CEO. "We are fortunate to have NRG here in Mercer County," he added.

Since 1993, Isles' two-year program for young adults ages 16 to 24 has been providing a caring, peer-based setting for young adults who want a high school diploma, career education, counseling, employment training, construction education, job or higher education placement. Trainees attend both academic and vocational classes and rehabilitate at least one abandoned home in Trenton each year. The Institute also offers life skills and leadership training, individualized counseling and case management, and financial literacy.

"We've been making a difference in people's lives for nearly 27 years. Through the outstanding generosity of companies like NRG, we provide students and their families with the tools and skills

they need to succeed—and give them a chance to fulfill their dreams,” commented Linda Revelle, board chair of Isles.

Isles’ YouthBuild is located at 33 Tucker Street in Trenton. Each year, the organization reaches thousands of central New Jersey residents with opportunities for at-risk youth. Isles broadens its impact by developing easily replicated programs, assisting other community groups and institutions, and advocating for improved public policy.

### **About NRG**

A Fortune 500 company, NRG Energy, Inc. owns and operates a diverse portfolio of power generating facilities, primarily in Texas and the Northeast, South Central and West regions of the United States. Its operations include baseload, intermediate, peaking, and cogeneration and thermal energy production facilities. NRG also has ownership interests in generating facilities in Australia, Germany and Brazil. More information on NRG is available at [www.nrgenergy.com](http://www.nrgenergy.com)

### **About Isles**

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc., is a nationally recognized nonprofit community development and environmental organization with the mission to foster more self-reliant families in healthy, sustainable communities. Each year, Isles reaches thousands of central New Jersey residents with opportunities for at-risk youth job training, affordable housing development, financial literacy training, homeownership counseling, community gardening, environmental health and education, community organizing, and regional planning. Isles broadens its impact by developing easily replicated programs, assisting other community groups and institutions and advocating for improved public policy. More information on Isles is available at [www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org).

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