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CHARLOTTE COUNTY BECOMING ANOTHER MODEL FOR SWIMMING POOL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

LOCAL POOL COMPANY TO MAKE NEW POOL ENERGY EFFICIENCY LAW A PRIORITY

Charlotte County, Fla.—with a new law mandating energy efficiency standards in Florida swimming pools a year away, Charlotte County has already become a model of pool efficiency thanks to the efforts of a handful of passionate, local pool professionals.

“Charlotte County is really ahead of the curve,” said Jeff Fallow, manager of energy initiatives for Pentair Water Pool and Spa, Inc. and a founding member of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals Energy Efficiency Committee. “They’ve recognized that there is a less expensive and more environmentally friendly way to own a pool, and they’re embracing that.”

Howard’s Pool World Inc, in Port Charlotte is continuing the trend as one of the sellers of a new variable speed pool pump that uses hybrid car technology to cut energy use by up to 90 percent.

“Most Florida residents don’t realize that under the new law you won’t be able to purchase those inefficient single-speed filtration pumps starting in July 2011,” said Fred Terhune, owner of Howard’s Pool World, Inc. referring to a section of the 2008 Florida Energy Bill (House Bill 7135) that requires that all new pool filter pump(s and) motors rated at 1 horsepower and greater sold in Florida after July 1, 2011 must be capable of operating at two or more speeds.

“Why would you want to invest in a technology that is so inefficient the state is effectively banning it? And what if that new single-speed pump breaks in two years? Do you want to roll the dice on whether you’re even allowed to fix it? That seems like a pretty big risk for a product that will cost you a lot more in the long run.”

The Natural Resources Defense Council estimates that Florida home owners can save an average of \$621 a year by upgrading their pool equipment, roughly equal to the utility savings a Florida home owner can expect by purchasing an Energy Star-labeled home. Pentair, manufacturer of the equipment Terhune recommends to his customer’s, estimates that replacing a conventional pump with its IntelliFlo variable speed pump will deliver savings of more than \$600.00 by itself.

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“Considering that the electricity savings from one of the new pumps will quickly pay for the investment, going green becomes an easy decision,” Terhune said. “If you need to replace a pool pump this year, the combination of energy cost savings and the new law make it incredibly hard to justify purchasing a single-speed pump.”

He explained that while the law does allow the installation of two-speed pool pumps, the savings available from premium variable speed pumps such as the IntelliFlo pump also make two-speed pumps a poor investment. Terhune said that he has proven this with many customers. Some recent examples include:

George DeMicco of Port Charlotte has noticed a savings of \$50.00 a month, and some months as much as \$70.00. He states he is very pleased with his IntelliPro 4 x 160. “You don’t even know it’s running, its noise-less”

Bonnie Elliot of Riverside RV Resort has noticed a huge savings in her electric bill. “My guys working around the pump house can’t believe how quiet it is”.

Joe and Liz Luksha of Port Charlotte when asked how they felt about their IntelliPro VS3050 “Does more than we ever expected”. “During peak summer months when the a/c is running, we have noticed a savings of \$100.00 a month.” FP&L came out and let the Luksha’s know that the pump is costing them .05 cents a day to run. “My guests sleeping in the back bedroom don’t even here the pump kick on”. “We are looking to make our money back in less than two years”.

***Charlotte County pool owners are investing in technology to make their new pools more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.**

***State standards for pool equipment energy efficiency will go into effect on July 1, 2011, effectively banning the sale and repair of certain pool pumps and heaters in Florida.**

***Upgrading pool equipment can save more money than building a home to Energy Star standards.**

***Local firm Howard’s Pool World Inc., is tracking the electricity savings of its customers.**