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Clean Energy Group Applauds Massachusetts Community Clean Energy Resiliency Awards

Massachusetts DOER awards \$7.4 million to critical infrastructure resilient power projects

Montpelier, VT – Clean Energy Group applauds the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Patrick administration for its award of \$7.4 million to six community resilient power projects that will support critical infrastructure and services during natural disasters and other emergencies. These projects, once constructed, will keep electricity flowing to public shelters, wastewater treatment plants, and other critical community facilities when the electric grid goes down.

The awards are made by the Massachusetts Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, a \$40 million state grant program focused on using clean and renewable energy solutions to achieve municipal resilience. The program is funded by Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) funds, which are collected from electrical retail suppliers that are unable to meet their compliance obligations under the state's Renewable and Alternative Portfolio Standard programs.

The project implementation awards include one microgrid, three combined heat and power (CHP) projects, and two solar PV projects with battery storage. The critical facilities to be supported include schools and community centers that serve as public shelters, police and fire stations, wastewater treatment plants, a municipal fueling station, and a hospital. The projects are located in Berkeley/Taunton, Boston, Lawrence, Northampton, South Essex and Springfield.

“Massachusetts has demonstrated real leadership on resilient power,” said Lewis Milford, President of Clean Energy Group. “This shows what a state can do to protect its citizens from the devastating impacts of power outages in severe weather. Most important, we will now have more projects in the ground so other communities can learn the value of these distributed power systems and follow Massachusetts’ lead.”

Clean Energy Group has supported the DOER program, and similar programs in other states, as a response to Hurricane Sandy and other recent storms, which have exposed the vulnerability of electricity grids and the critical need for distributed resilient power systems. Through its Resilient Power Project, Clean Energy Group works to advance the deployment of resilient power technologies in states and local communities. The project will help communities to better prepare for, and more quickly recover from, damages caused by power outages during destructive weather events, with installations of cleaner distributed energy sources. Learn more about this project at www.resilient-power.org.

In addition to the six project grants, DOER has awarded 27 technical assistance grants to communities seeking funding to design resilient power projects. The communities receiving technical assistance awards may apply for project implementation grants in a second solicitation to be issued later this year. More details can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/renewable-energy/resiliency-initiative.html>.

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About the Clean Energy Group

Clean Energy Group (CEG) is a national, nonprofit organization that promotes effective clean energy policies, develops low-carbon technology innovation strategies, and works on new financial tools to advance clean energy markets. CEG works at the state, national, and international levels with stakeholders from government, the private sector, and nonprofit organizations. CEG promotes clean energy technologies in several different market segments, including resilient power, energy storage, solar, and offshore wind. Above all, CEG also works to create comprehensive policy and finance strategies to scale up clean energy technologies through smart market mechanisms, commercialization pathways, and financial engineering. CEG created and now manages a sister organization, the Clean Energy States Alliance, a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy through public funding initiatives. See <http://www.cleanegroup.org/>.

About the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) develops and implements policies and programs aimed at ensuring the adequacy, security, diversity, and cost-effectiveness of the Commonwealth's energy supply within the context of creating a cleaner energy future. To that end, DOER strives to ensure deployment of all cost-effective energy efficiency, maximize development of clean energy resources, create and implement energy strategies to assure reliable supplies and improve the cost of clean energy relative to fossil-fuel based generation, support Massachusetts' clean energy companies, and spur Massachusetts' clean energy employment. DOER is an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). See <http://www.mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/guidance-technical-assistance/agencies-and-divisions/doer/>.