



State Leadership in **Clean Energy**

2009 AWARDS

Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) established the *State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards* to recognize state programs that are most effectively accelerating adoption of clean energy technologies and advancing clean energy markets.

In recent years, much of the most innovative and effective activity to advance clean energy has taken place at the state level. By implementing creative finance, policy, and market initiatives, the states have been serving as laboratories where ideas for implementing clean energy can be tested and proven in the real world. In many cases, the states have established special funds to promote renewable energy and other clean energy technologies.

During the fall of 2008, state funds and agencies from across the country nominated programs for *State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards*. A team of seven distinguished judges then selected five programs from among all the award nominations. The winning entries exemplify the ground-breaking work being done by the states. The awards were given out at the National Press Club on January 13, 2009.

Clean Energy States Alliance is proud to announce the following five winners of the 2009 State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards.

The **Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Program** uses creative marketing, multi-sector collaboration and grassroots action to build a large voluntary market for clean energy in Connecticut. The program rewards communities with solar photovoltaic systems when (1) a town commits to obtain 20% of its electricity from clean energy sources by 2010, (2) its citizens sign up for clean energy through the CTClean-EnergyOptions program, and (3) a town purchases clean energy. Because of the program, 87 towns have committed to obtain 20% clean electricity by 2010 and more than 18,000 electricity customers have voluntarily chosen to pay a premium on their electricity bills for clean electricity. The program was developed and funded by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

In Massachusetts, the **Solar Energy for Green Affordable Housing** is an affordable housing program that brings the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy to low and moderate-income residents of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust has worked with and provided grant funding to leading affordable housing developers and financiers to help them pioneer third-party ownership of solar energy systems. The program is attracting significant interest from other affordable housing developers, owners, and public agencies in the state.

New Jersey's **Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) Program** is an innovative way to help the state meet its significant long-term commitment to solar energy. The NJ Board of Public Utilities (BPU) first instituted SRECs in 2004. Three years later, the BPU established an SREC-Only Pilot Program as an efficient, market-based financing approach to provide solar developers and building owners with financial incentives to install solar electricity systems. The program has 39 megawatts of solar capacity in the pipeline, demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach and helping to make New Jersey a national leader in solar electricity. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, through its Office of Clean Energy, created and administers the program.

The California Energy Commission initiated and funded the **Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS)** as essential infrastructure for a working market for renewably generated electricity. WREGIS serves as essential infrastructure for a working market for renewable energy generation. It tracks renewable energy credits from participating facilities over a large region that includes all or part of 14 states and three Canadian and Mexican provinces. It is the only system that spans the territories of multiple authorities that manage the transmission system and the electricity market. WREGIS was created through a partnership among the California Energy Commission, the Western Governors' Association, the Western

Regional Air Partnership, and WECC. California Energy Commission benefited that entire region by initiating and providing the early funding for the launch and operation of the tracking system.

Because of the **Wisconsin Biogas Digestion Program**, implemented by Focus on Energy, Wisconsin leads the nation in the number of farm-based anaerobic biogas digesters producing electricity, heat, and pipeline-quality gas. Biogas digester systems enable farmers to produce distributed energy for a reasonable return on investment while controlling dairy manure odors, pathogens, and flies. The Wisconsin program provides information, education, technical assistance, and financing to promote digester installations. Focus on Energy encouraged biogas information exchange among the various stakeholders and developed a carefully crafted measurement and verification program. Technologies developed in Wisconsin have been used in Indiana and Vermont.

Judges

The judges for the *State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards* represented federal agencies, national associations, and other organizations important to the implementation of clean energy. CESA would like to express its sincere thanks to these judges for their time and careful consideration of all the nominated CESA-member programs.

Glen Andersen is an energy policy specialist at the National Conference of State Legislatures' Energy Project. He conducts legislative outreach on issues such as climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. He has worked for over eight years assisting state legislators in their efforts to address energy and environmental concerns, providing them with policy information and analysis, and facilitating communication between legislators, regulators, industry, and advocates.

Hans Detweiler is Manager of State Legislation and Policy for the American Wind Energy Association. He previously was Deputy Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, administering the state's renewable power, renewable fuels, and energy efficiency programs. Earlier, he was a Policy Advocate at the Environmental Law & Policy Center, focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and he also worked with organized labor and other nonprofits.

Michael Northrop has played a leading role in encouraging the philanthropic community to address global warming. He directs the sustainable development grantmaking program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York City, where he focuses on climate change. He is also a Lecturer at Yale University's Forestry and Environmental Studies School and at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School, where he teaches graduate courses on environmental campaigns.

Rhone Resch is President of the Solar Energy Industries Association, the industry's voice and lobbying advocate for expanding the US market. He is on the Business Council for Sustainable Energy board and the Global PV Solar Energy Council, and also chairs the Western Governors Association Solar Energy Task Force. He previously worked for the Natural Gas Supply Association and EPA's Climate Protection Division.

Julie Rosenberg is Branch Chief for EPA's State and Local Clean Energy-Environment Programs in the Climate Protection Partnerships Division within the Office of Air and Radiation. Her programs provide state and local governments with policy guidance, technical and analytical support, and peer exchange opportunities that link energy and air quality policies and programs to voluntary greenhouse gas reductions and other benefits. She has been with EPA for over 20 years.

Gil Sperling is Program Manager for the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the US Department of Energy. He previously served as Executive Vice President of Verdant Power, which develops projects that generate electricity from water currents of rivers, tides, and man made waterways, and as Vice President and General Counsel of the Pipeline Research Council International. Earlier, he practiced energy-related law.

Ryan Wiser is a staff scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He leads research in the planning, design, and evaluation of renewable energy policies, and on the costs, benefits, and market potential of renewable electricity sources. He is a well-known expert on both system-benefits charge and renewables portfolio standard policies, and he regularly advises and consults with state and federal agencies in the design and evaluation of renewable energy policies.

More information about Clean Energy States Alliance and this year's award winners can be found at www.cleanenergystates.org.