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Solar Challenge Kick-off in Dartmouth

Dartmouth MA – The SouthCoast Energy Challenge will launch the Dartmouth Solar Challenge, which was approved by the Dartmouth Select Board at its February 24 meeting. .

The program will offer Dartmouth residents a chance to save thousands on their electricity costs by switching to solar along with a tiered incentive rebate.

“I’m thrilled that the SouthCoast Energy Challenge has chosen to launch a solar focused program in Dartmouth this year,” said Select Board Member Lara Stone. Ms. Stone had energy efficiency and solar audits performed at her home several years ago, and encourages other Dartmouth residents to learn more about the benefits of solar.

The community is invited to attend the **Dartmouth Solar Challenge Launch event on Wednesday, March 26th from 7-8:30pm at the Dartmouth Town Hall** (Marland Room, 3rd floor). Ms. Stone will welcome attendees by explaining Dartmouth’s municipal solar strategy and will welcome representatives from the SouthCoast Energy Challenge and the chosen solar installer, RGS Energy, formerly Real Goods Solar.

Residents will learn about the programs benefits, purchasing and leasing options, and how to access state and federal incentives and rebates under this program. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions and get answers from solar experts and technicians. Residents who have had solar installed will be on hand to share their experiences and offer insights to attendees.

Rooftop residential solar projects are becoming increasingly popular in Massachusetts, and Dartmouth is currently #1 for solar in Massachusetts..

“We are very pleased by the show of support for our program, which will enable us to bring the most current information about residential solar options to homeowners,” said Karen Stewart, Assistant Director of the SouthCoast Energy Challenge. “The Dartmouth Solar Challenge is an exciting way for residents to benefit from the lowest solar pricing in years and a unique, tiered incentive rebate that increases as more people sign on. Dartmouth residents who sign solar contracts between March 26th and July 31st will be

eligible for rebates of as much as \$1,000 each if the goal of signing up at least 50 people for solar projects is reached.

“There’s no better time than now to go solar. We are excited to help more Dartmouth residents stop wasting money,” said Kevin Clark, Regional Manager at RGS Energy.

RGS Energy has installed solar systems for many homeowners in Dartmouth and hundreds throughout the state. RGS was chosen for their excellent customer service record and ability to offer a range of technical and financial choices to homeowners. They have also been the chosen installer for many successful Solarize Mass programs, including Solarize Northampton, where over 100 new solar projects were contracted during the program.

Dartmouth resident Noah Kaput met Energy Challenge staff last year and signed up for a solar assessment for his newly constructed, energy efficient home.

“When we factored in the tax, rebate and SREC incentives here in MA, we knew that installing solar would save us money and meet our needs for an efficient, low-impact home. Real Goods (RGS Energy) did a great job simplifying the paperwork and making sure we had a clear understanding of our system.”

BayCoast Bank is in partnership with the SouthCoast Energy Challenge to help people gain access to financing once they have taken the Solar Challenge. We are excited that energy efficiency lending is a place where we can ‘do well by doing good’,” said BayCoast Bank Senior Vice President Dan Briand “We’ve already done over 5 million dollars in loans for people in the SouthCoast to help them save energy.”

The Dartmouth Solar Challenge is a limited time offer and to take advantage of the incentives, commitments must be made by July 31, 2014. To sign up for a free solar site assessment for your Dartmouth home or for more information visit <http://www.DartmouthSolarChallenge.org> or contact Karen Stewart at Karen.Challenge@gmail.com.

SouthCoast Energy Challenge a program of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL). SEEAL is a coalition of 25 of the region’s core environmental organizations. It was established by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts in 1997 and is the Foundation’s longest-running program fund.

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