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SouthCoast Energy Challenge Hosts Successful Solar Tour

Raw spring weather didn't keep SouthCoast residents from visiting local solar installations on Sunday, April 27, in Dartmouth. A group of fourteen residents visited four homes and one small business to view the variety of solar panels residents are using to make their own clean electricity.

Tour participants were able to see solar PV (photovoltaic) designed for rooftops as well as small ground mounts, located on previously cleared land. "Some roofs are split-leveled or have different pitches," said Karen Stewart, Assistant Director of the SouthCoast Energy Challenge. "By talking to homeowners directly, the tour allowed participants the opportunity to see first-hand how a custom-designed system can meet their unique location as well as their household electric needs."

Artie Leonard of RGS Energy, formerly known as Real Goods Solar, lent his technical expertise to the tour along with Gene Plunkett, RGS Energy's Master Electrician. RGS Energy is the chosen solar installer for the town-sponsored Dartmouth Solar Challenge as well as many successful *Solarize Mass* programs in other communities in the state.

If you didn't get a chance to attend the tour, other educational events are being planned for residents during the Dartmouth Solar Challenge, which ends on July 31st. For more information, please call the Southcoast Energy Challenge at (508) 910-1871 or visit <http://www.DartmouthSolarChallenge.org>

SouthCoast Energy Challenge is 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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Photo #1: Jay Medeiros, Dartmouth homeowner, talks to tour participants about his recently installed solar array

Photo #2: Gene Plunkett, Master Electrician for RGS Energy points out the 2 solar arrays on the Monteiro home in Dartmouth