



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 5/15/14**

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## **First Contracts Signed in Dartmouth Solar Challenge**

Dartmouth MA – Southcoast Energy Challenge is pleased to announce that the first two contracts for home solar PV (photovoltaic) systems have been signed as part of the Dartmouth Solar Challenge, a time-limited residential solar program offered to Dartmouth residents in partnership with the Town of Dartmouth and RGS Energy, a nationwide leader of turnkey solar energy solutions.

“The Town of Dartmouth is pleased to see residents becoming participants in this program. This assists them in moving towards renewable energy and reinforces the Town’s focus on Sustainability.” states Town Manager David Cressman. Lara Stone, Dartmouth Selectwoman added: “I’m pleased with initial resident response and hope these first two customers will be among the many that take advantage of this cost-saving opportunity.”

With electricity rates soaring, the town-sponsored program offers Dartmouth residents a very affordable way to reduce their carbon footprint and their electric bills by switching to solar. RGS Energy, the chosen solar installer for the Challenge and one of the nation’s pioneering solar energy companies, offers customizable solar solutions for homeowners that fit nearly any budget.

Gail Kooch, the program’s first adoptee stated: “Right from the first meeting with RGS, I was hooked, their no-pressure approach and willingness to answer any question was impressive and the entire process was very easy. Lowering my electric bills using solar energy just made sense to me.” RGS Energy will install a 6kW solar electric system that will cover approximately 70% of the Kooch’s household electrical usage.

“The signing of the first two contracts jump-starts the Tiered Incentive Rebate and gets the rebate ball rolling,” said Karen Stewart, Assistant Director of the SouthCoast Energy Challenge. “Right now the tiered rebate is \$500 for each homeowner. The Dartmouth Solar Challenge is exciting because the rebate increases as more people sign on. When we reach our goal of fifty solar projects,

Dartmouth residents who sign solar contracts can earn up to \$1,000,” adds Stewart.

The Dartmouth Solar Challenge is a time-limited offer and to take advantage of the tiered incentive rebate, commitments must be made by July 31, 2014. During this time Bay Coast Bank is offering special solar financing as well. 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](mailto:Karen.Challenge@gmail.com).

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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