



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 6/5/14**

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***SouthCoast Energy Challenge presents: Growing Solar in Dartmouth at Dartmouth Grange on Monday, June 30 at 7:00 pm***

The Dartmouth Solar Challenge, which aims to double the current amount of residential capacity for solar electricity, is presenting a community talk at the Dartmouth Grange on Monday, June 30, beginning at 7:00 pm. *Growing Solar in Dartmouth* will discuss how the Dartmouth Solar Challenge, a partnership between the town of Dartmouth and the Southcoast Energy Challenge, can help to bring affordable renewable energy to rooftops that will provide long-term benefits to the community.

The town is the leading municipal solar energy provider in the state with a capacity of 9.3 MW and has planned for residential solar by adopting the necessary zoning by-laws. Dartmouth is now looking to match its municipal efforts by encouraging residents to explore solar options for their homes. The Dartmouth Solar Challenge, which will continue through July 31, offers residents special tiered rebates that increase as more eligible homes choose to go solar. Dartmouth, with its unique historic and rural heritage, has a number of farmers who have installed solar, harvesting the sun's energy through their crops *and* their panels!

US solar energy capacity has quadrupled in 4 years - growing 418 percent from 2010 - 2014. Massachusetts ranks fourth in the nation for PV (photovoltaic) solar installed in 2013 – most of that was by the commercial and utility sector. Residential solar capacity can catch up now that there is a winning formula for growing solar for the average homeowner! Come hear about *Growing Solar in Dartmouth* at the Dartmouth Grange, 1133 Fisher Rd. in North Dartmouth on Monday, June 30 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Artie Leonard of RGS Energy will cover how solar PV (photovoltaic) works, what incentives and financing options are available and how easy it is to go solar and save money. This free community talk will take place in historic Patron's Hall of award-winning Dartmouth Grange 162, an organization whose mission includes acting as a catalyst for sustainable positive change. For more information, please call the Southcoast Energy Challenge at (508) 910-1871 or visit [www.DartmouthSolarChallenge.org](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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