



Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

50 Miles Street, Greenfield, MA 01301 p 413.774.6051 f 413.774.6053 www.nesea.org

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CONTACT
Chris Mason, (413) 774-6051
cmason@nesea.org

Opportunities for Youth Achievement in Renewable Energy

Greenfield, MA—For Massachusetts's students, teachers, and youth-group leaders looking for renewable energy learning experiences—with opportunities to earn awards and certificates—the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) announces several programs. Options range from essay and video contests to science fair and community service projects. Financial support will be available to youth organizations that wish to establish a renewable energy education kit to loan to their members or to individuals who wish to establish a public renewable energy display.

NESEA has received a grant of \$50,000 from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy Trust to support programs on renewable energy for Massachusetts's youth.

"These projects and resources are designed to help even those who know nothing about renewable energy to get started, and in turn to make a positive contribution to their own community." says Chris Mason, NESEA's Education Director. "On our web site, we have already posted learning activities, project suggestions, and nearly 100 potential field trip sites across Massachusetts. Resources include suggested starting points for writing contestants, glossaries of renewable energy terms, and helpful links to more information." NESEA aims to have a full suite of resources and information on two program web sites by the winter holiday school break.

For a second year, NESEA will offer *Clean Green Power* and *Wind Wisdom* award certificates (for ages 6-18 and 12-18 respectively) to help youth learn about current renewable energy use in their community and spread the news through a community service project. Last year participants responded by visiting renewable energy sites throughout Massachusetts and creating learning kits for a children's museum, making presentations to community and youth groups, and establishing displays in public settings such as libraries and schools.

NESEA will also host for a second year *IMAGINING TOMORROW: ALTERNATE ENERGY FUTURES™*, a creative writing program about clean energy and global climate, designed specifically for high school age students. This year, NESEA will add video as a second media with three different categories: PSAs, "shorts", and "features."

And new for this school year, NESEA will work with the Massachusetts State Science Fair to recognize projects related to clean energy and technology at spring 2007 competitions.

"NESEA encourages student collaboration between projects." says Chris Mason "For instance, an entrant in the *Imagining Tomorrow* video contest could document other kids or teens organizing a museum display, interviewing a neighbor who uses renewable energy, or working on a model solar car or wind energy education project. In addition, essay, video, and science fair contestants can use *Clean Green Power* and *Wind Wisdom* activities to learn more about renewable energy."



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Last year, NESEA collaborated with the Girl Scouts of Western Massachusetts to establish the *Clean Green Power* and *Wind Wisdom* certificates as Girl Scout Patch programs and posted on the Internet a guide for Massachusetts teachers wishing to use *Clean Green Power* activities to meet state learning standards.

This school year, NESEA will reach out to other youth organizations such as Boy Scouts, church groups, 4-H Clubs, school energy clubs, and Big Brothers Big Sisters as well as teachers and home school parents interested in providing students with extracurricular activities. If you or your organization is interested, call NESEA at (413) 774-6051 or visit their web site at www.nesea.org/education/youthprojects.html.

NESEA is the Northeast's leading organization of professionals and concerned citizens working in sustainable energy and whole systems thinking. NESEA facilitates the widespread adoption and use of sustainable energy by providing support to industry professionals and by educating and motivating consumers to learn about, ask for, and adopt sustainable energy and green building practices. NESEA accomplishes this through its Building Energy conference and trade show, K-12 resources, an advocacy network, high profile public events such as the Tour de Sol and the Green Building Open House, its chapters and members, and its Sustainable Yellow Pages.

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