

For Immediate release
March 29, 2010

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MEDIA RELEASE

NEARLY \$6 MILLION AWARDED FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Montpelier, Vermont – The Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund Board announced today that the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) will award \$5.8 million for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects throughout the state.

“The Clean Energy Development Fund is pleased to provide \$5.8 million for 147 grants to schools, towns, and cities for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects across the state.” said CEDF Board co-chair Sam Swanson. These grants allocate funds received by Vermont under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program and State Energy Program (SEP) from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). “We are excited to put these funds to work helping to stimulate the economy, create jobs and reduce energy costs in Vermont communities,” said Mr. Swanson.

The CEDF was created under Act 74 established by the Legislature in 2005 to increase the development of renewable energy and combined heat and power technologies. In 2009, Vermont received \$31.5 million from the US Department of Energy under ARRA for the EECBG and SEP. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program in the U.S. Department of Energy was created by U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) as part of the 2007 energy bill.

“We are fortunate in this economic climate to be able to support such a large number of school and municipal energy projects across the state,” said Robert Dostis, co-chair of the CEDF Board. “These projects will lead to energy and cost savings for these communities for many years to come.” Over 100 towns and schools received support for energy efficiency measures such as insulating their buildings and upgrading to more efficient lighting. Renewable technology awards included installation of wood pellet fired boilers in East Montpelier and Fayston, and a geothermal system at the Sutton School. In addition, four towns received support to develop financial incentive programs for energy efficiency.

The awards were made public at a press conference held on Monday, March 29th, 2010 at South Burlington High School. Speaking at the event were US Senator Bernie Sanders, Governor James Douglas, Speaker of the Vermont House Shap Smith, South Burlington School District Superintendent John Everitt and Sutton School Principal Roberta Stradling.

The CEDF received 323 pre-proposals in December 2009 requesting over \$13 million in funding. From this set, 162 applicants were invited to submit comprehensive proposals to support their energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Applicants submitted proposals for projects in the following categories: *Energy Efficiency Retrofits, Financial Incentive Programs for Energy Efficiency, Implementation of Transportation Projects, Renewable Energy Technologies, and Traffic Signals and Street Lighting.*