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## Clean Energy States Alliance Honors Five State Clean Energy Programs

### CESA Releases New Research Data, Makes Policy Recommendations for Obama Administration

*Washington, DC, January 13, 2009:* Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) awarded five state clean energy programs with the inaugural **State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards** at the National Press Club today. The California Energy Commission's **Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS)**, the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund's **Clean Energy Communities Campaign**, the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust's **Solar Energy for Green Affordable Housing**, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities **Solar Renewable Energy Certificate Program** and Focus on Energy's **Wisconsin Biogas Digestion Program** were presented awards.

"States have taken the lead in funding clean energy projects throughout the United States," said **CESA Founder and President, Lewis Milford**. "We can honor their leadership with awards, but we can honor them best by using them as the most effective vehicles to deploy the economic stimulus to produce green collar jobs in our economy."

CESA also released a report, the first of its kind, which highlights its national **database of nearly 50,000 state funded renewable energy projects**. The projects in the database have a capacity of **1.7 gigawatts** and generate **5.3 million megawatt hours** of electricity each year, enough to power **500,000 homes**. **As of 2007, 12,000 state renewable energy projects have been completed and state clean energy funds have invested over \$4 billion, \$1.5 billion in public funds and \$2.5 billion in private capital.**

Much of the innovative and effective activity to advance clean energy has taken place at the state level. In many cases, the states have established special funds to promote renewable energy and other clean energy technologies. By supporting creative finance, policy, and market initiatives, the states are implementing clean energy projects and creating green collar jobs.

CESA's **State Leadership in Clean Energy Awards** recognize state-level programs that most effectively accelerate adoption of clean energy technologies and advance clean energy markets. CESA and this event exemplify the groundbreaking clean energy infrastructure work taking place at the state level. It is especially timely given the new Obama Administration's desire to identify and embrace policy strategies that can accelerate the transition towards an economy based on clean energy.

Nominations from across the country were reviewed to identify the most successful programs. **The panel of judges included: Glen Anderson** (Energy Policy Specialist, National Conference of State Legislatures); **Hans Detweiler** (Manager of State Legislation and Policy, American Wind Energy





Association); **Michael Northrop** (Program Director, Rockefeller Brothers Fund); **Rhone Resch** (Executive Director, Solar Energy Industries Association); **Julie Rosenberg** (Branch Chief for EPA's State and Local Clean Energy-Environment Programs in the Climate Protection Partnerships Division within the Office of Air and Radiation); **Gil Sperling** (Program Manager for the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the US Department of Energy); and **Ryan Wisner** (Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory).

### **CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING**

CESA also presented policy recommendations for a new federal/state partnership for green economic stimulus investment at the event. CESA and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) will hold a formal congressional briefing on the strategic role of states in supporting clean energy from **2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill.**

**The CESA and EESI briefing is open to press. Anyone interested in attending the event and scheduling interviews with CESA representatives must contact:**

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#### **About Clean Energy States Alliance**

Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national nonprofit organization that works with clean energy funds and state agencies to expand the nation's clean energy infrastructure and advance markets for clean energy technologies. CESA provides information and technical services to its members and shares its knowledge with the federal government and influential policymakers. CESA's member states manage programs that will invest nearly \$6 billion in the next ten years to support clean energy. Clean Energy Group (CEG) created CESA in 2002 and now manages it.

[www.cleanenergystates.org](http://www.cleanenergystates.org), [www.cleanegroup.org](http://www.cleanegroup.org)

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