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NH Public Utilities Commission's Sustainable Energy Division Recognized for First-in-Nation Renewable Thermal Program

*New Hampshire Receives 2016 State Leadership in Clean Energy Award for Useful Thermal
Renewable Energy Certificate (T-REC) Program*

Concord, NH — The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Sustainable Energy Division was honored as a recipient of the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) 2016 *State Leadership in Clean Energy Award* for its useful thermal renewable energy certificate (T-REC) program. The program was one of six programs nationwide to win an award for its outstanding accomplishments. CESA, a nonprofit coalition of public agencies working together to advance clean energy, established these biennial awards to highlight model programs and projects that have accelerated the adoption of clean energy technologies and strengthened clean energy markets. The recipients of the awards were chosen by an independent panel of five distinguished judges, each with years of experience in clean energy.

New Hampshire's T-REC program is the first of its kind in the nation. In 2012, New Hampshire became the first, and remains the only, state to add renewable thermal technologies to its renewable portfolio standard (RPS). The T-REC program requires electricity providers to support a minimum amount of renewable thermal energy each year through eligible biomass, solar thermal, and geothermal systems. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission's Sustainable Energy Division developed rules to govern the metering, monitoring, and quantification of thermal renewable energy certificates (T-RECs). "Designing the T-REC program has been challenging, but it is truly rewarding to see the development of renewable thermal systems that support the New Hampshire economy and RPS goals," states Karen Cramton, Director of the Sustainable Energy Division. In its second year of operation, eighteen thermal facilities have been REC certified through the T-REC program. "We look forward to seeing many more thermal renewable projects being built in the state and participating

in the T-REC program,” adds Cramton. “Our program has provided substantial economic and environmental benefits for the state and is already being used as a model by other states.”

Warren Leon, CESA executive director and director of CESA’s RPS Collaborative notes, “New Hampshire’s T-REC program is a key component of the most comprehensive initiative to support renewable thermal technologies in the country. This program is having a substantial influence on renewable thermal policy in other states.”

CESA member organizations from across the U.S. submitted nominations for the leadership awards. Entries were judged based on public benefits and results, cost effectiveness, leadership and innovation, and replicability. The five judges who reviewed all the nominated programs were: Todd Foley (American Council on Renewable Energy); Jenny Heeter (National Renewable Energy Laboratory); Brian Keane (SmartPower); Heather Rhoads-Weaver (eFormative Options); and Bill Ritter (Center for the New Energy Economy).

A case study with more information about New Hampshire’s T-REC program is available on CESA’s website at www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016.

Members of the Sustainable Energy Division Staff will be participating in a webinar hosted by CESA and will be speaking about New Hampshire’s T-REC program. For more information on this free webinar, visit www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016.

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About the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and the Sustainable Energy Division:

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission is vested with general jurisdiction over electric, telecommunications, natural gas, water and sewer utilities. The Sustainable Energy Division was created in 2008 to assist the Commission in implementing specific state legislative initiatives focused on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency and to advance the goals of energy sustainability, affordability and security. For more information, visit www.puc.nh.gov

About the Clean Energy States Alliance: The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy. CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country. CESA works with state leaders, federal agencies, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to develop and promote clean energy technologies and markets. CESA facilitates information sharing, provides technical assistance, coordinates multi-state collaborative projects, and communicates the positions and achievements of its members. For more information, visit www.cesa.org.

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