



## NEWS RELEASE

MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE ELECTRIC COMPANY

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### **MMWEC adds solar photovoltaic project at Stony Brook Energy Center site**

LUDLOW, Mass. – July 1, 2009 – Electricity produced with solar energy is powering part of the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) office building, which is drawing energy from the 48 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels recently installed at MMWEC's Stony Brook Energy Center site.

While the 9.6-kilowatt solar array is capable of meeting only a portion of MMWEC's electricity needs, it is another new source of clean, renewable energy that offsets carbon dioxide emissions, reduces fossil fuel consumption and provides a measure of economic stimulus.

"In addition to capturing the environmental benefits of renewable energy, the major components of this project are manufactured in Massachusetts and installed by a Massachusetts contractor," said MMWEC's Chief Executive Office Ronald C. DeCurzio. "We're not only generating clean electricity, we're generating business for the kinds of firms that are repowering the Massachusetts economy," he said.

The PV panels are manufactured by Evergreen Solar of Marlboro; the project's electric current inverter is manufactured by Solectria Renewables of Lawrence; and the installation contractor is Allain & Sons of Danversport. All three also are participating in an MMWEC program that provides services needed to develop solar energy resources in communities served by the 40 Massachusetts municipal utilities.

The approximate \$70,000 cost of the MMWEC project is offset in part by a rebate from the Commonwealth Solar Program, an initiative of the Patrick Administration and the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust intended to accelerate PV project development and spur growth of the solar industry in Massachusetts. MMWEC is receiving a Commonwealth Solar rebate of \$41,280 for its project, including a base incentive of \$3.15/watt and incentive adders because the installation is for a public building and uses Massachusetts-manufactured components.

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“As the solar industry grows and the benefits of scale and new technology take hold, the cost of solar power is expected to become more competitive with other energy resources,” DeCurzio said. “The Commonwealth Solar rebates make these projects more affordable and provide support for an industry that has an important role in meeting the state’s renewable energy goals,” he said, referencing the Patrick Administration’s goal of having 250 megawatts of solar power in the state by 2017.

The MMWEC installation includes a system for Internet monitoring of the PV panels and the energy they produce, with real-time production data available for viewing on a public website. Operating data for the MMWEC project can be seen online at [www.solrenview.com](http://www.solrenview.com).

Under the MMWEC-sponsored solar energy program for municipal utilities, MMWEC is the single source for solar PV equipment and services, including Evergreen Solar panels, Solectria inverters and project installation services. In addition to the MMWEC project, PV panels and inverters to provide 56 kilowatts of solar energy have been provided through the MMWEC program. Projects in other communities are in various stages of development, including a 360-kilowatt project in West Boylston.

MMWEC is a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that provides a variety of power supply, financial and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities.