



Town of Wellesley Designated as the First Green Power Community in Massachusetts by the Environmental Protection Agency

**EPA's Ira Leighton Presented Awards and EEA Secretary Richard Sullivan Jr. Gave Recognition from the Commonwealth
Sen. Creem, Sen. Ross and Rep. Peisch Shared Remarks as Well**

Wellesley, MA September 4, 2012-

Wellesley, MA was named by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as the first Green Power Community in Massachusetts, and the second in all of New England today at a ceremony at Wellesley's Town Hall. EPA Region One Deputy Regional Administrator Ira Leighton presented awards; Massachusetts, State Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Richard Sullivan, Jr. gave recognition to Wellesley from the Commonwealth.

"We applaud Wellesley for increasing their use of clean and renewable energy sources," said Curt Spalding, regional administrator of EPA's New England office. "This is a great example of a community working together to help ensure a cleaner environment for us all. Wellesley's example can be replicated all over New England," Spalding said.

"We congratulate Wellesley for receiving the EPA's Green Power Community designation," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan. "The clean energy revolution begins at the local level, and we are pleased to see Wellesley taking the initiative and committing to using renewable energy."

To achieve this designation, the Town-appointed Sustainable Energy Committee coordinated the [POWER TO CHOOSE](#) campaign to encourage rate payers to voluntarily pay a modest premium to purchase all or part of their electricity

through Wellesley Renewable Energy, power produced by the Spruce Mountain wind farm in Maine.

Wellesley's municipal government led the way by committing to 5% Wellesley Renewable Energy for its power needs. Rate-payer participation increased by 88% in the first half of 2012 to 1,146 accounts. Now 11.8% of the accounts of Wellesley's Municipal Light Plant, the Town-owned local utility, participate in POWER TO CHOOSE. When compared to the most recent published participation rates from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (2010), this would place Wellesley's participation rate third in the country after Palo Alto, CA and Portland, OR for voluntary renewable energy programs.

The success of the POWER TO CHOOSE campaign was significantly boosted by the participation of Babson College, MA Bay Community College, Sun Life Financial and Wellesley College, all of which, along with the Town of Wellesley, have received the Green Power Partner designation by the EPA. Starbucks, TD Bank and Whole Foods Market, which were already Green Power Partners, also added to the success of the campaign.

For the Town to be designated a Green Power Community at least 3% of the community-wide electricity use must be "green power," according to the EPA. The Wellesley community usage is now 4.12% green power, far exceeding this requirement

Green power is electricity generated from renewable resources such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydropower.

"We succeeded because we found a way to unlock latent support for sustainability among many electricity customers in Wellesley," said Ellen Ledley Korpi, Chair of the Town's Sustainable Energy Committee. "This was a collaborative effort by the Town government and many of the organizations in town including civic, faith, environmental, garden groups as well as the business community," Korpi said.

Wellesley residents can sign up and/or increase the amount of renewable energy they are currently using at <http://www.WellesleyRenewableEnergy.com>.

More on EPA's Green Power Partnership: www.epa.gov/greenpower.

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