



WORCESTER LEADS THE WAY TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Kicks off Earth Day “Clean Energy Challenge”

For Immediate Release
March 31, 2005

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On March 29th, Worcester became the first city in Massachusetts to pass a Clean Energy Resolution. In a unanimous vote, City Council committed to have 20 percent of the electricity used in Worcester’s municipal buildings come from non-polluting, non-depletable resources by 2010.

The “20% by 2010” Clean Energy Resolution is the result of a grassroots effort to promote state and citywide support and development of clean, renewable energy. The Clean Energy Campaign is a collaboration of Clean Water Fund in Boston, the Regional Environmental Council in Worcester, and Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light in Worcester. Six communities in Connecticut have passed similar “20% by 2010” clean energy resolutions.

By supporting clean, renewable sources of electricity – such as wind, solar, and water power – local government is helping to reduce the amount of pollution in our communities, as well as reduce global warming pollution and develop an economically stable source of electricity that will never run out and is not reliant on foreign sources. Current methods of electricity generation – from coal, oil, and natural gas – are the single largest source of air pollution in the state and country

Mayor Timothy Murray is leading Worcester towards a better, cleaner energy policy. “Worcester has a long history of championing environmental causes. Today, we have an opportunity to become a pioneer in environmental advocacy by supporting the Clean Energy Resolution and committing to using non-depletable, clean energy as a source of 20 percent of the energy used in Worcester municipal buildings by 2010.”

“As New England’s second largest city, Worcester is pleased to be on the forefront of this important environmental issue,” said City Manager Mike O’Brien. “My administration has made it a priority to consider all options that will reduce pollution, ensuring a higher quality of life for our citizens locally, regionally and globally.”

The City of Worcester and local advocates announce this year’s Earth Day theme to be clean energy and will challenge Worcester residents to purchase clean, renewable energy during the month of April. City and state officials, including Mayor Timothy Murray, Senator Edward Augustus, Representative Vincent Pedone, and Worcester city councilors are showing their support by publicly signing up their own homes for clean electricity to kick off the Earth Day “Clean Energy Challenge”.

“By each taking this small step, we can really make a difference and better the health of our environment,” said Senator Edward Augustus. “Today, as I sign up for clean energy, I know that I am contributing to a larger effort for cleaner air, healthy communities and energy security.”

Advocates are calling on local residents to show their commitment to clean air and healthy communities by purchasing clean, renewable energy by April 22nd, officially recognized as Earth Day.

“Everyone has the opportunity to purchase clean energy, ” states Clean Energy Project Coordinator, Carissa Williams. “We encourage residents, businesses, and institutions to take the Clean Energy Challenge set forth by the City of Worcester.”

"Choosing clean electricity sources is an important step in seeking justice for God's children and caring for creation," said the Rev. Dr. Terry Fitzgerald of United Congregational Church – United Church of Christ of Worcester, office home to Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light. "I hope that our church and other congregations across Worcester will be among those leading the way toward a clean energy future."

“This vote by the Worcester City Council and the leadership of the Mayor clearly demonstrates the growing resolve of city and town officials to use clean energy and shows their residents and other cities and towns that clean energy is real, its here and it is working,” said SmartPower Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Edwards. “The Mayor of Worcester and the entire City Council deserve high praise for committing to this clean energy purchase.”