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State, partners announce extension of Solarize RI program to Aug. 19

Providence, R.I., – The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER), the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, and SmartPower today announced they are extending the deadline for participation in the Providence, Bristol and Warren Solarize Rhode Island programs, which seek to connect more homeowners and business owners with solar power.

Solarize Rhode Island aims to increase the adoption of small-scale solar electricity in participating communities through a competitive tiered pricing structure that increases the savings for everyone as more homeowners sign contracts.

“Community-based adoption of solar energy is a key piece of our strategy to further expose Rhode Islanders to the tangible benefits of clean energy alternatives,” said Rhode Island Energy Commissioner Carol Grant. “We have been seeing great results with the Solarize Rhode Island program. I look forward to seeing how much more we can do to lead Rhode Island to a secure, cost-effective and sustainable future.”

Solarize Rhode Island team members have participated in more than 45 community events since the launch of the Providence, Bristol and Warren campaigns on March 31. Now in its third year, the Solarize Rhode Island campaign has resulted in more than 400 residents and business owners signing contracts for small-scale solar electricity systems across 12 communities.

The program has not only been successful in helping Rhode Islanders adopt clean energy alternatives, but has also educated hundreds more about the economic and environmental benefits of solar electricity, energy efficiency and other clean energy technologies.

“Solarize Rhode Island is increasing Rhode Islanders’ accessibility to low cost power and more sustainable energy alternatives,” said Darin Early, President of the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation. “The clean energy sector of the economy has seen unprecedented growth. Programs like this offer new opportunities for green businesses in the state and foster economic growth.”

“Solarize Rhode Island continues to roll across the Ocean State,” said SmartPower President Brian F. Keane. “We could not be happier to be a part of the team that is bringing residential solar to all corners of the state. From Providence to Bristol to Warren to your own community, people are responding to the same cheer — ‘Let’s Solarize!’”

For more information on the Solarize Rhode Island program, please contact Shauna Beland of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources at (401) 574-9111.

About Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) is the lead state agency on energy policy and programs. OER’s mission is to lead Rhode Island to a secure, cost-effective, and sustainable energy future. OER works closely with private and public stakeholders to increase the reliability and security of our energy supply, reduce energy costs and mitigate price volatility, and improve environmental quality. www.energy.ri.gov

About Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation is the official economic development organization for the state of Rhode Island. The Commerce Corporation’s mission is to work with public, private and non-profit partners to create the conditions for businesses in all sectors to thrive and to improve the quality of life for our citizens by promoting the state’s long-term economic health and prosperity. The corporation manages the state’s Renewable Energy Fund, which provides grants and loans for renewable energy projects with the potential to make electricity in a cleaner, more sustainable manner, while stimulating job growth in the green technology and energy sectors of Rhode Island’s economy. www.commerceri.com

About SmartPower

SmartPower is the nation’s leading non-profit social marketing firm dedicated to promoting clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Named the “Best Non-profit Marketing Firm in the U.S.,” SmartPower’s mission is to help Americans make smart energy choices by creating

on-the-ground campaigns that engage the public and generate measurable energy actions.
www.smartpower.org