



The New England Clean Energy Council Signature accomplishments: 2008

Clean Energy Roundtable

In June, we brought together 125 clean energy thought leaders from all six New England states in an effort to identify key cross-region initiatives for 2008 and 2009. The goal was to unite these disparate clean energy communities into one, and accelerate New England's clean energy economy.

Green Jobs Act

The Council worked with Massachusetts Speaker of the House Salvatore DiMasi to shape the Green Jobs Act, and to design the framework for a Clean Energy Seed Grant Program and a Green Jobs Initiative.

Fellowship Program

Over the summer, we launched a pilot of our Clean Energy Fellowship Program, an intensive, 3-month educational "boot camp" focused on transitioning entrepreneurs from other tech industries into the clean energy sector. Twelve Founding Fellows graduated in September—and are now hard at work on new clean energy opportunities.

Clean Energy Legislation

The Council applauds the efforts of the Massachusetts House & Senate leadership, the co-chairs of the Telecommunication, Utilities & Energy Committee, and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's Administration for their tireless work in passing the Green Communities Act, the Ocean's Act, the Clean Energy Biofuels Act, the Global Warming Solutions Act, and the Green Jobs Act. The Council's Policy Committee was proud to have provided input and support as this amazing array of legislation was signed into law, making Massachusetts a true leader in advancing clean energy policy.

Green Tie Gala

Our first annual Green Tie Gala was held in November at the Museum of Science in Boston. The event celebrated the clean energy community's accomplishments and milestones over the past year, and recognized specific companies and individuals for their outstanding efforts in helping to accelerate New England's Clean Energy Economy. The Gala brought together a diverse set of stakeholders and had more than 300 local clean energy thought leaders in attendance. Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Speaker of the House Sal DiMasi offered remarks, and technology exhibits featuring some of the Council's member companies were displayed throughout the Museum. The Council presented six awards – Breakout Company of the Year (A123Systems), Emerging Company of the Year (Aspen Aerogels),

Employer of the Year (GT Solar), Corporate Citizen of the Year (Staples), Clean Energy Hall of Fame Inductee (Mark Farber) and Clean Energy Council Leadership awards (Berl Hartman and Peter Rothstein). The Council itself received an Innovation Award from the Department of Energy.

Additional accomplishments: 2008

CEO Council

Early in the year the Council hosted a forum with Massachusetts Secretary of Housing & Economic Development Dan O'Connell, which offered an overview of state programs and incentives for growing clean energy businesses. In May, we hosted a National Policy Breakfast with Senator John Kerry. Early in 2009, we will be organizing a CEO trip to D.C. to meet with legislators and members of the incoming Obama Administration.

Workforce Development Committee

In the spring we launched this committee with the goal of helping to define and support the clean energy workforce of the future. The group is currently working closely with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), UMass' Donahue Institute, the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust and others on a comprehensive survey to identify the clean energy workforce needs over the next decade.

Adoption Task Force

Launched this past summer, the group's charter is to catalyze the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy throughout the region. The focal point of the Task Force will be the "Governor's Clean Energy Challenge," through which the Council will work closely with the administration to compel area businesses and institutions to work towards aggressive energy efficiency goals.

Briefing Session on Energy Storage

One of a series of events designed to help attendees climb the curve on clean energy technologies and topics.

Clean Energy for High Tech

In collaboration with the Mass High Tech Council, this event helped high tech company CFOs, facilities and sustainability executives better understand the and manage the energy challenges confronting their organizations.

Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems

The Council worked closely with Evergreen Solar, MIT and the MA EOEEA to help bring the Fraunhofer R&D Center to Massachusetts.

Babson/Tufts Energy Conferences

The Council was pleased to help enlist speakers and provide ongoing support for campus energy conferences at Babson College and Tufts University in March of this year.

Field trip to NREL

In order to better connect the venture capital community to federal clean energy research, we organized a field trip to the National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden, Colorado in April. This was followed by a second trip by our Clean Energy Fellows in July. Both efforts focused on knowledge and technology transfer.

Tax Incentive Recommendations

In response to a request from the MA EOEEA, our Policy Committee formed and presented a set of recommendations for clean energy tax incentives.

HBS/MIT Team Projects

The Council hosted two teams on two separate projects this past year. With a team from the Harvard Business School, we researched and quantified the number of jobs that might be created by a clean energy seed grant program. With a team from MIT's Sloan School, we interviewed clean energy CEOs to better understand the key factors in deciding where to locate a new manufacturing plant or operations facility.

Panel discussion on Carbon Policy

Working in conjunction with Panel Intelligence, we launched an online discussion in October to identify leading proposals for reducing carbon emissions. Then, just two days after the election, we gathered a number of local experts for a live panel discussion on what we might expect to see in the way of carbon legislation during the next administration.

New website

This fall we launched a new website for the Council with several significant modules, including: An up-to-the-minute summary of national and regional clean energy news; a resource page featuring hundreds of clean energy research reports; an updated cluster map with profiles of all Council members; and—coming soon—a comprehensive jobs board for both job seekers and employers.