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Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School honored as ‘Business Leader for Energy Efficiency’

Achievements celebrated at Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit

May 31, 2007, LEXINGTON, Mass. – Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School located in Upton, Mass., was among nine organizations recently recognized as “Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency” by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP).

The Business Leaders Recognition program was presented as part of NEEP’s 2007 *Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit*, a daylong conference and exhibition held on May 10 in Providence, R.I. Blackstone Valley Tech was nominated by National Grid and was selected for recognition based upon its commitment to achieving energy savings through cost-effective investments; addressing comprehensive changes in major energy systems; improving energy performance through operational practices and management level support; and demonstrating leadership to advance energy efficiency.

Blackstone Valley Tech teamed with National Grid on a recently completed school building expansion and renovation project to address overcrowding, antiquated classrooms and high energy bills. The project incorporated several high-performance, energy-efficient features and earned acclaim as a Massachusetts Green School. Improvements to the school include an energy-efficient building envelope that uses solar power to generate electricity and preheat water. Other energy efficiency measures include the use of high efficiency lighting systems, occupancy sensors and daylighting in classrooms. In addition, indoor air quality has been improved with displaced ventilation systems that deliver fresh air and remove pollutants through a reduced fan load that saves energy. Energy-efficient boilers and a conditioned air system dehumidify the air and reduce the amount of energy required to heat and cool the building. As a result of these efficiency investments, Blackstone Valley Tech has reduced its annual energy consumption by 40 percent and is saving over \$57,000 in energy costs annually.

Energy efficiency at Blackstone Valley Tech goes beyond just building features. Students in the school's construction trade programs gain experience in these new technologies as they work and learn in the building. In addition, the Blackstone Valley School District has developed a model curriculum integrating renewable energy theory and concepts with state academic and vocational standards to teach the state's future workforce about energy-efficient building design.

"It's an honor and a privilege to recognize Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and National Grid for their commitments to energy efficiency," said Sue Coakley, executive director of NEEP. "Blackstone Valley Tech is a great example of the best practices in energy efficiency that can help organizations achieve competitive advantages across a variety of industries."

"National Grid is proud to have worked with Blackstone Valley Tech to reduce energy use in the school by implementing our award-winning energy efficiency programs. We worked closely with Blackstone Valley to provide the technical assistance and funding that allowed these innovative projects to become a reality," said Robert McLaren, National Grid regional president for Electricity Distribution in. "We applaud the school's commitment to saving energy and its leadership in advancing energy efficiency."

Other 2007 Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency include Clariant Corporation (Coventry, R.I.); Hines Interests supporting Morgan Stanley (New York, N.Y.); the Hotchkiss School (Lakeville, Conn.); King Kullen Grocery Company Inc. (Bethpage, N.Y.); Maine School Administrative District 17 (Oxford, Maine); Pfizer Inc. (Cambridge, Mass.); Southeastern Container (Hudson, N.H.); and Trinity Financial (Boston, Mass.).

All honorees were nominated by their utility company or energy efficiency program administrator and were celebrated at a dinner ceremony that capped the 2007 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit. For more information about the Summit and the Business Leaders Recognition program, please visit www.neep.org/summit

About NEEP

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) is a regional nonprofit organization founded in 1996 whose mission is to promote energy efficiency in homes, buildings and industry in the Northeast U.S. through regionally coordinated programs and policies that increase the use of energy efficient products, services and practices, and that help achieve a cleaner environment and a more reliable and affordable energy system. For more information, visit www.neep.org.

