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Contact: Jim O'Reilly
781-860-9177, ext. 18
joreilly@neep.org

Claremont honored as 'Business Leader for Energy Efficiency'

To be feted as part of Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit

May 12, 2006, LEXINGTON, Mass. – The City of Claremont, N.H. is among eight organizations selected for recognition as “Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency” as part of a conference and awards program to mark the 10th anniversary of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP).

The Business Leaders Recognition program will be presented as part of the *2006 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit*, being held on May 17 in Boston. Claremont, which was nominated for the honor by Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), was chosen based upon its commitment to energy efficiency as evidenced by a series of factors, including documented energy savings; energy efficiency investment and cost-effectiveness; comprehensiveness; commitment from management to continued energy performance; proven operations and practices; and overall organizational leadership.

The Claremont Department of Public Works worked with PSNH over the last three years to improve the energy efficiency in 15 city buildings, including City Hall and five public schools. Lighting audits were performed, improvements recommended, approvals were secured from city leaders, and retrofits completed at the many diverse city buildings.

The biggest project, converting 1,016 streetlights to energy efficient models, was completed at the end of 2005. During the conversion, PSNH removed 892 mercury vapor lights and upgraded them with more environmentally friendly high pressure sodium (HPS) lights.

The projects are estimated to save Claremont \$27,000 per year. Once Claremont repays PSNH's for the improvements (via a revolving loan program called Smart Start), their savings will increase to \$118,000 per year. Over the life of these lighting improvements, Claremont will save an estimated \$1.9 million dollars.

“It’s an honor and a privilege to pay special recognition to the City of Claremont, as well as to PSNH for supporting Claremont in its commitments to energy savings,” noted Ashok Gupta of the Natural Resources Defense Council, president of NEEP and, along with Penni McLean-Conner of NSTAR, co-chair of the 2006 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit. “The city and PSNH are truly models of ‘best practices’ that set a fine example of how energy efficiency can achieve affordability, reliability and sustainability.”

Other honorees at the Efficiency Summit include The Albanese Organization (Garden City, N.Y.); Brown University (Providence, R.I.); Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, Maine); New Atlantic Development Corp.(Boston, Mass.); New York Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.); Raytheon Co. (Woburn, Mass.) and Whitman-Hanson (Mass.) Regional High School.

“We are so pleased to partner with the City of Claremont to make their buildings more energy efficient,” said Sue Blothenburg, PSNH’s Community Relations Manager. And the pride of accomplishment is shared by Claremont, as indicated by Norma Limoges, Office Manager at the city’s Department of Public Works, who said: “It has been my privilege to be involved with PSNH’s energy saving programs during the past three years. As a life long citizen of Claremont, I feel honored to have had the opportunity to work with PSNH and ultimately give something back to the community in terms of energy efficiency, upscale lighting, and enormous savings to the taxpayers. Indeed, we will be leaving a legacy for the next generation.”

As 2006 marks its 10th anniversary, this year NEEP will combine its annual conference with exhibits and a gala evening awards and recognition program when it hosts the **Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit on Wednesday, May 17**, at the **Hyatt Harborside Hotel in Boston**. This year’s summit theme is “*Best Practices for Reliability, Affordability, and Sustainability.*” For information see <http://www.neep.org/conference/index.html>.

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.