



Berlin Becomes 53rd in 'Clean Energy' Campaign

By SCOTT WHIPPLE, Herald Press staff
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BERLIN - The town has committed to SmartPower's "20% by 2010" campaign. In doing so, it becomes the 53rd community in the state to commit to clean energy. Once Berlin reaches the threshold number of 100 CTCleanEnergyOptions program customers, the town will qualify as an official "Connecticut Clean Energy Community."

"We need to do more here in the Northeast about the environment," Mayor Adam Salina said. "Our long-term goal is to become a more environmentally friendly community. [This] campaign is consistent with our town's ongoing energy conservation goals."

Officials from SmartPower, a nonprofit marketing campaign dedicated to promoting clean energy, worked with Berlin town leaders to demonstrate the strength and availability of clean energy to residential and business electric customers. "It's wonderful to see Berlin join its neighboring towns by making a commitment to the campaign," said SmartPower state director, Keri Enright. "The leadership demonstrated by municipal leaders and residents to pass a resolution to join the campaign will certainly help the town achieve Clean Energy Community status."

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is a supporter of the campaign. Created by the state General Assembly and administered by Connecticut Innovations, the fund serves as a founder and lead financial sponsor of SmartPower in Connecticut. The fund offers communities incentives and tools to expand their commitment to clean energy.

"Connecticut's cities and towns are setting an example for the nation with their strong support for clean energy," said Robert Wall, director of Energy Market Initiatives. Wall called it "critical that we conserve our resources and accelerate the use of renewable technologies to ensure our energy, economic and environmental security."

"With the nationwide concern about increasing energy usage and the cost of fossil fuels, electricity sources are in ever-decreasing supply," said Art Simonian, Berlin's director of Public Works. "Berlin is doing its part by promoting the use of renewable clean energy sources."

The total annual electricity demand for Berlin municipal properties is 3,014,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). When Berlin achieves 20 percent usage by the year 2010, Simonian said, the town plans to buy 404,000 kWh of clean energy annually.

In the past few months, Weston, Redding, Danbury and Lebanon have announced

support for clean energy, and a citizen group in Plainville is pushing for the status for the town. To date, Berlin has 40 customers for the program. When the town exceeds 100 customers, the fund will provide them with a solar energy system.

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