



For Immediate Release

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**Clean Energy States Alliance Receives
Solar Energy Innovation Network Award**

CESA is partnering with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, five states, and the District of Columbia to identify locations for distributed energy resources that provide benefits to the grid.

Montpelier, VT – The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) was selected by the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to participate in a collaborative research effort to explore new ways solar energy can improve the affordability, reliability, and resiliency of the nation’s electric grid.

CESA will work with agencies in five states and the District of Columbia to identify locations for distributed energy resources (DER) that provide benefits to the grid. While CESA’s multistate initiative aims to help decisionmakers identify high-value locations for DER development, each participating state has its own specific approach and aims under the project. The agencies CESA is partnering with on this initiative are:

- Connecticut Green Bank
- Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia
- New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission – Sustainable Energy Division
- Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
- Washington Department of Commerce – State Energy Office
- Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovation

CESA is one of just nine teams selected to join the program, which is known as the [Solar Energy Innovation Network](#).

“We selected teams that are experimenting with promising ideas to use solar power to improve the future of grid security and reliability in their communities,” said Kristen Ardani, who leads the Innovation Network at NREL.

The CESA-led team will receive financial, analytical, and facilitation support as it works to anticipate and address new challenges and opportunities stemming from solar energy and other distributed energy technologies. The solutions developed and demonstrated by this multistate initiative will serve as a blueprint for other states facing similar challenges and opportunities.

Distributed solar and other distributed energy resources are playing an increasingly important role in electricity systems across the United States. “When distributed energy is deployed

optimally, it can offer benefits to the customer, to the grid, and to the other ratepayers,” says CESA Executive Director Warren Leon. “Well-sited DER can provide resiliency benefits, reduce grid congestion, and help defer or avoid distribution system upgrade costs.”

NREL is operating the Solar Energy Innovation Network with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. NREL pursues fundamental research and development of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies to transform the way we use energy.

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About the Clean Energy States Alliance: The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy. CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country. CESA works with state leaders, federal agencies, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to develop and promote clean energy technologies and markets. CESA facilitates information sharing, provides technical assistance, coordinates multi-state collaborative projects, and communicates the positions and achievements of its members. For more information, visit www.cesa.org.

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