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**SOLAR LOAN FROM NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY MAKES SOLAR AFFORDABLE
FOR MORE MASSACHUSETTS HOMEOWNERS**

HUDSON, Mass., March 27, 2014 – Massachusetts homeowners now have another way to pay for solar electric systems that does not require money down, but allows them to own the system and benefit from the financial incentives available in the Commonwealth, New England Clean Energy President Mark Durrenberger announced today.

When the company introduced its Clean Energy Combo Loan in June 2013, it was only available for systems with high-efficiency SunPower panels. Now, the Clean Energy Combo Loan is also available for homeowners purchasing systems with standard-efficiency panels, making solar affordable for even more people.

The Clean Energy Combo Loan provides 100 percent financing for solar electric systems costing between \$10,000 and \$45,000. In most cases, the monthly loan payment is less than the homeowner's projected electricity savings plus Solar Renewable Energy Certificate (SREC) income, so the homeowner is in the black from the beginning.

"Leasing a solar system was very popular in 2012 but has fallen out of favor as people become more reluctant to give up the financial incentives of solar ownership. The Clean Energy Combo Loan is the best of both worlds, because the homeowner gets the full benefit of the incentives like tax credits and SREC income, but doesn't have to come up with the upfront investment required to buy solar with cash," Durrenberger said.

Massachusetts residents who buy solar electric systems benefit from reduced electric bills, SREC income, federal and state tax credits, and a state rebate. Ownership delivers Return-On-Investment of approximately 150 percent over 20 years based on New England Clean Energy's calculations.

"We offered a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which is similar to a lease, for a year but no one ever signed up for it. Based on that experience, we sought out new financing products that allowed more people to purchase solar, but with a low cost of entry," Durrenberger said.

The Clean Energy Combo Loan has two pieces: a 12-month Same-As-Cash piece and a 12-year piece at a fixed 2.99 percent interest rate.

The Same-As-Cash portion equates to an advance on the federal tax credit of 30 percent of the system cost. No payments are required for 12 months and no interest accrues as long as the amount is re-paid by the end of 12 months, after the customer receives the IRS tax credit.

The remainder of the system cost is financed at a fixed 2.99 percent interest rate for 12 years. Payments for this portion of the loan start 30 days after the solar system is approved for interconnection by the customer's utility.

The loan is unsecured, meaning the buyer's home is not used as collateral and there is no lien placed on the home. Primary and vacation homes are eligible for the Clean Energy Combo Loan. The loan does not have pre-payment penalties.

Founded in 2006, Hudson, Mass.-based New England Clean Energy has installed more than 350 solar energy systems, and put more solar on Central Massachusetts homes than any other local installer. The company designs, engineers and installs solar electric systems for homes and businesses. MassSolarInfo.com recently awarded the company five honors, including Highest Customer Satisfaction among Massachusetts solar installers.

For more information, visit <http://NewEnglandCleanEnergy.com> or call 978-56-SOLAR. Visit Durrenberger's blog, The Energy Miser, at <http://theenergymiser.net> for an article comparing the costs and benefits of various solar ownership models.

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