

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 22, 2008

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### **Wilton Commits to 20% Clean Energy by 2010**

*Town's Board of Selectmen demonstrates that Connecticut is truly a leader in clean energy!*

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**(Wilton)** After months of hard work and dedication by many of Wilton's civic leaders, the Town of Wilton recently became the 65<sup>th</sup> community in Connecticut to commit to the **SmartPower 20% by 2010<sup>sm</sup>** campaign. The commitment to clean energy by the Board of Selectmen is the ultimate partner to the 127 residents of Wilton who have also signed up for the CTCleanEnergyOptions<sup>sm</sup> program.

The town will qualify as an official 'Connecticut Clean Energy Community' once the Board of Selectman make an initial purchase of clean energy showing progress toward the 2010 goal. After achieving this status the town will be provided with a 2-kilowatt solar PV system from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

**Mike Lindberg**, chairman of the Wilton Energy Commission, which played a key role in bringing the 2010 program to the town stated, "Clean energy is a growing movement that's picking up momentum all over the place. It's so exciting to see people from every age group, from every part of the political spectrum adopt this issue as their own. People are really coming together to make a change."

As the national leader in the marketing of clean energy, SmartPower has worked successfully with leaders in Wilton and the 64 other 20% by 2010 communities across Connecticut to clearly demonstrate the strength and availability of clean energy to both residential and institutional electric customers.

"Clean energy is becoming more instinctive for everyone – not just environmentalists," said **Rina Reichgut**, whose 10-year-old son Jordan and his friend Alex Scaperotta founded Little People Big Changes, a Wilton-based organization dedicated to changing attitudes about energy and the environment. "This is not a partisan issue," Reichgut said, "energy consumption and waste affects us all, and we can all take steps to conserve."

**Wilton's** commitment to clean energy strengthens Connecticut's role as a true leader in clean energy.

"Wilton leaders and residents have shown how important clean energy is to clean air and energy independence," stated SmartPower Connecticut Director, **Keri Enright**. "The Wilton Board of Selectmen and a dedicated group of citizens deserve tremendous credit for demonstrating to everyone in Connecticut that clean energy is one solution for a secure energy future."

"I am extremely proud of the progress that we are making in Wilton," said Wilton **First Selectman, Bill Brennan**. "We have achieved considerable energy cost savings and are committed to pursuing additional opportunities in the future," said First Selectman, Bill Brennan. "When you see something like this begin to take root, you have to feel good about your town. You have students, government leaders, businesses, homeowners - everyone's latching on to energy conservation. We still have some work ahead of us, but we're quickly becoming a leader on this important issue."

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund founded the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Campaign in November of 2004 and has been at the forefront of initiatives to provide communities incentives and tools to expand their commitment to clean energy. CCEF administers the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Program, which provides "earned" solar PV systems to cities and towns that first commit to

the 20% by 2010 campaign and then secure a threshold number of clean energy sign-ups through the CTCleanEnergyOptions program.

“We salute the many citizens of Wilton who stood up in support of clean energy and First Selectman William Brennan and the entire Board of Selectmen who listened carefully and, in the end, made the wise choice to invest in a sustainable energy future,” stated **Bob Wall**, Director, Energy Market Initiatives at CCEF.

The work of SmartPower and CCEF as national leaders in a voluntary market for clean energy has been enhanced by the collaborative marketing of a number of Connecticut state agencies, utilities, suppliers and the environmental community all helping to grow the voluntary market for clean energy in Connecticut. This unique marketing collaborative has been instrumental in making the 20% by 2010 program and the award-winning Connecticut Clean Energy Communities program recognized as on the cutting edge of clean energy marketing.

The total annual electricity demand for Wilton municipal properties is 9,200,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). When the city ultimately achieves its 20% by 2010<sup>sm</sup> goal, the town it will be responsible for the generation of 1,232,000 kWhs of clean energy on an annual basis. The voluntary portion of this commitment will be equivalent to 13% of the annual usage while the remaining 7% will be mandated by the Connecticut Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Over the past several months, several other Connecticut cities and towns have announced their support for clean energy including Granby, East Haven, Old Saybrook, Woodstock, and Washington.

For more information on the CT Clean Energy Communities program visit:  
**[www.ctinnovations.com/communities](http://www.ctinnovations.com/communities)**.

“The Clean Energy Communities Program has become a key collaborative effort between SmartPower and CCEF,” continued SmartPower’s Enright. “Our ultimate goal is to get all towns that have committed to our 20% by 2010<sup>sm</sup> Campaign to become clean energy communities. When we’ve done that, we will truly show the success of the voluntary market here in Connecticut.”

The CTCleanEnergyOptions program allows customers of Connecticut Light & Power and United Illuminating to sign up and support clean energy from one of the two state-sanctioned suppliers, Sterling Planet or Community Energy. Wilton residents or any Connecticut ratepayer can visit **[www.gocleanenergy.com](http://www.gocleanenergy.com)** to learn more about this program.

Let’s Make More!

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*SmartPower is a non-profit marketing campaign dedicated to promoting clean energy. SmartPower’s 20% by 2010 campaign encourages institutions, municipalities and individuals to make a commitment to obtain 20% of their electricity from clean sources by 2010. Please visit **[www.smartpower.org](http://www.smartpower.org)** or **[www.gocleanenergy.com](http://www.gocleanenergy.com)** SmartPower – leading the creation of a voluntary market for Clean Energy!*

*CCEF was created by the Connecticut General Assembly and is administered by Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public organization. CCEF promotes the development and commercialization of clean energy technologies; the creation of clean energy supply; and the demand for electricity from clean, renewable sources in Connecticut in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. CCEF’s funding comes from a surcharge on electric ratepayers’ utility bills. For more information on CCEF, please visit **[www.ctcleanenergy.com](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com)***

*The Wilton Energy Commission was founded to help the community lower its energy usage and adopt more alternative energy. Its mission is to promote resource conservation, energy efficiency and explore means to reduce the carbon footprint of the community through the use of renewable energy and other initiatives in public buildings, homes and local businesses. The Commission is comprised of town residents, and it serves in an advisory role in support of the Wilton Board of Selectmen.*