

Cape Light Compact to receive Innovation Award for Solarize Our Schools Program

Each year, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) recognizes state and local governments, schools, non-profits and community groups that have implemented innovative projects during the past year that promote and accelerate the adoption of renewable energy technologies. Each project, in the judgment of IREC has demonstrated a measurable positive impact that is replicable and innovative.

The Cape Light Compact's project "Solarize Our Schools" was chosen from multiple entries to receive an IREC Annual Innovation award for 2007.

With the help of the Massachusetts Technology Colaborative, the Cape Light Compact placed a 2.0 kWh PV system on a school in each town on the Cape and on Martha's Vineyard with the exception of West Tisbury and Aquinnah whose solar electric systems were placed on the town library and fire station, respectively.

The purpose of the project was to bring education and awareness of renewable energy systems to students, their teachers and parents. Along with the solar arrays, each building also received a data acquisition system which monitors the energy output and conditions at each site. Data can be observed by going online to www.capelightcompact.org and clicking on the Solarize Our Schools button at the top of the page.

"The 'Solarize Our Schools' project and website has been a wonderful tool showing our area school students the effectiveness and workings of a proven renewable energy resource such as an electric solar PV system" said Deborah Fitton, Education Coordinator of the Cape Light Compact.

For more information on the "Solarize Our Schools" program, please go to: www.capelightcompact.org or call 508 375-6703.