

News Release

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact:

Deborah Shiflett-Fitton, Education Coordinator, Cape Light Compact
508 375-6703

Cape Schools Receive State Awards for Energy Education Community Outreach

A special recognition ceremony was held Wednesday, June 4, 2008 for three Cape School Programs who focus their efforts to better their communities by educating others about energy and the environment. The State NEED Awards Ceremony was held at the Massachusetts State House in Boston and hosted by Representative Sarah Peake and Eileen McHugh of the State Department of Energy Resources. NEED is the National Energy Education Development Project based in Washington DC with state programs delivered throughout the country, including locally through the Cape Light Compact. The mission of NEED is to help mold an energy literate society through curriculum and support to educators and their students.

The schools who were congratulated were Eastham Energy Savers from the Eastham Elementary School (MA State Elementary School of the Year), Chatham NEED Club from the Chatham Middle School (MA Rookie of the Year), and the Bourne Energy Savers, Bourne Middle School (National Finalist, Jr. School of the Year, State Middle School of the Year).

Senate President Therese Murray presented the Bourne Middle School Energy Savers with a certificate of thanks for their hard work and introduced them to the senate floor. State Senator Robert O'Leary presented the Chatham NEED Club and Eastham 5th Grade Energy Savers with certificates and congratulated them for a job well done.

The NEED Energy Education program is supported in the Cape and Vineyard schools by the Cape Light Compact's energy efficiency program. Schools, over the past five years, participate through classroom lessons on energy efficiency, energy sources, forms of energy and the "Solarize Our Schools" program as well as teacher training and clubs. The award winning school programs were involved with projects such as all-school recycling initiatives, "Change A Bulb" pledge drives, LED Christmas Light sales for fundraising and teaching classes on energy to younger students in their school and school districts. Outstanding projects included The Chatham NEED Club's workshop last April for teachers on how to teach the forms of energy to students, Bourne Energy Savers all-school birthday party for the school's PV (solar) panel and Eastham 5th grade Energy Savers all-school Energy Carnival.

“We are very proud of our Cape and Vineyard schools and their continuing efforts in community outreach” said Kevin Galligan, Energy Efficiency Program Manager and NEED Board member. “It is this extraordinary effort that will help make our world a better place”.

The Cape Light Compact, as administered through Barnstable County, is a regional inter-municipal energy services organization made up of all 21 towns of Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard and Barnstable and Dukes counties. The purpose of the Compact is to represent and protect consumer interests in a restructured utility industry. As authorized by each town, the Compact operates the regional energy efficiency program and works with the combined buying power of the region’s electric consumers to negotiate for lower cost electricity and other public benefits. For more information, go to the website, www.capelightcompact.org.

The National Energy Education Development project promotes an energy conscious and educated society by creating effective networks of students, educators, business, government and community leaders to design and deliver objective, multi-sided energy education programs. For more information, please visit: www.need.org