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Watertown's Siemon Company and Taft School Complete Solar PV Installations

Rural Connecticut Institutions Embrace Clean Energy Alternatives

Rocky Hill, Conn., April 9, 2009 — The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) today announced that solar photovoltaic (PV) systems at two of Watertown, Connecticut's, most recognizable business and educational institutions – the Siemon Company and Taft School – are completed and successfully operating. These two installations were supported with grants from CCEF's On-Site Renewable Distributed Generation Program.

The 217-kilowatt solar PV installation located at the Siemon Company World Headquarters, at 60 Echo Lake Drive, Watertown, Conn., consists of more than 700 roof-mounted solar panels. The panels have been installed on the company's 76,000 square foot manufacturing facility. Supplying approximately six percent of the electricity required at the headquarters site, the solar array is among several recent steps this network cabling solutions company has taken to improve its energy efficiency and reduce its carbon footprint. The solar panels were installed by Alteris Renewables (FKA: Solar Works Inc.) of Wilton, Conn., and the installation was made possible, in part, by a \$789,354 grant from the CCEF's On-Site Renewable Distributed Generation Program, which defrayed more than half of the total project cost.

According to Paul Knickerbocker, Siemon's plant engineering and facilities manager, implementing a solar energy system is just one step in balancing ongoing business needs with Siemon's ongoing environmental commitment. He said, "You have to approach green efforts like CO2 reductions from as many angles as possible. When we combine solar with Siemon's other efforts like more efficient power usage, increased recycling levels and forestland preservation activities, our carbon footprint really starts to shrink."

Knickerbocker went on to explain that by implementing these efforts in phases, Siemon was able to make huge environmental strides without disrupting core business activities and, in fact, most green programs offered opportunities to reduce operational costs.

This dual benefit is central to Siemon's environmental stewardship initiative. "We want this installation to be an example for other manufacturers," explained Knickerbocker. "We want to prove that renewable energy is not just smart environmental policy, but smart business. If our success can help convince other companies to implement greener energy practices, the positive impact could be huge."

Consisting of 72 solar panels, the 9.6-kilowatt solar array at Taft School is mounted on the roof of the school's Logan Field House. It supplies approximately seven percent of the electricity required by the school and yields data that the school plans to use to teach students about renewable energy. The data comes from a real-time, on-site data monitoring system that is connected to the solar array and measures the array's power output, cumulative energy production (kWh) and other information. This data is made available on the school's website. The Taft School solar array was installed by Pioneer Valley PhotoVoltaics of New Britain and made possible, in part, by a grant of \$52,517 from the CCEF's On-Site Renewable Distributed Generation Program, which defrayed nearly 40% of the total project cost.

Gil Thornfeldt, the business manager at the Taft School, states that "Taft is committed to renewable energy initiatives and is pleased to participate in this project. The school participates in the 'Green Cup Challenge' competition amongst private schools and this project will help focus our students, faculty and staff on energy use and the role that renewable initiatives play in preserving our resources and environment. We also will use the monitoring system for the solar project as a teaching tool within the school curriculum."

Lise Dondy, president of CCEF, said, "Schools, businesses and other institutions across the state continue to turn to solar energy technology to help control their energy costs, protect the environment and teach the benefits of clean energy alternatives," said Lise Dondy. "These two highly visible solar arrays are a great reminder of the power of solar and will benefit the Watertown community for years to come."

About the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)

CCEF was created by the Connecticut General Assembly and is funded by the electric ratepayers. CCEF's mission is to promote, develop and invest in clean energy sources for the benefit of Connecticut's ratepayers in order to strengthen Connecticut's economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. CCEF is administered by Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public authority. For more information on CCEF, please visit www.ctcleanenergy.com.

About Siemon

Established in 1903, Siemon is an industry leader specializing in the manufacture and innovation of high quality, high-performance network cabling solutions. Headquartered in Connecticut, USA, with global offices, manufacturing and service partners throughout the world, Siemon offers the most comprehensive suite of copper (unshielded and shielded twisted-pair) category 5e, category 6 (Class E), category 6A (Class EA) and category 7/7A (Class F/FA), and multimode and singlemode optical fiber cabling systems available. With over 400 active patents specific to structured cabling, from patch cords to patch panels, Siemon Labs invests heavily in R&D and development of industry standards, underlining the company's long-term commitment to its customers and the industry. For more information, please visit www.siemon.com.

About Taft School

Founded in 1890 as a private school for boys, Taft School is named for its first headmaster, Horace Dutton Taft, the brother of President William Howard Taft. With a mission of educating the "whole student," the school's 114 faculty members educate 570 boys and girls from 35 states and 28 countries. The 220-acre campus in western Connecticut features facilities that rival those of many small colleges, including a 45,000 square-foot science and mathematics building, a library with 53,000 volumes, two theaters, and two hockey rinks. For more information, visit www.taftschool.org or call 860-945-7777.