



# Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership

For Immediate Release

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## **Hydro and Wind Alliance To Promote Benefits of Clean, Reliable and Affordable Electricity in Massachusetts**

*Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership launches campaign to advocate for competitively-bid hydro and wind power*

(Boston, MA) –The **Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership (MCEP)** today formally announced the creation of a coalition to advocate for affordable hydropower, onshore wind and other clean energy resources, focusing on the environmental and economic benefits of clean electricity, including price stability for ratepayers.

The partnership represents a diverse group of regional wind, hydro and transmission companies. It will work with business, consumer, environmental, and governmental stakeholders to support adoption of new laws that enable long-term access to supplies of much-needed clean electricity.

“Without prompt legislative action, Massachusetts’ electricity customers could miss an excellent opportunity to secure long-term supplies of affordable, clean and reliable energy that not only provides clear environmental benefits, but also ensures ongoing electricity rate affordability for the state’s business and residential customers,” said Donald Jessome, CEO of Transmission Developers, Inc. (TDI).

“The Commonwealth needs new laws to access sustainable supplies of clean energy and due to the pending closure of Pilgrim Power Plant in Plymouth, which provides 84 percent of the clean electricity and 17 percent of the total electricity that is generated here in Massachusetts, there is an urgent need,” said Ahmad R. Chatila, President and CEO of SunEdison.

“Recent research shows that more than 80 percent of Massachusetts residents want more affordable, reliable clean energy resources for the long term. The significant hydro and wind resources that exist in Canada, as well as wind resources in northern New England, can play a significant role in helping to meet the Commonwealth’s carbon reduction objectives,” said Chris Huskison, President and CEO of Emera Inc.

“The Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership will work with stakeholders to address issues related to the Commonwealth’s need for new reliable, affordable and clean energy. Residents and businesses benefit from a supply of clean, competitively-priced electricity that will help diversify the state’s energy supply and that can be attained through a competitive process that allows the state to choose the most viable and affordable clean electricity options,” said Ed Martin, President and CEO of Nalcor Energy.

In a November 2015 poll commissioned by MCEP, residents of the Commonwealth expressed support for bills under consideration in the Legislature that would establish a process to consider competitive bids for the supply of affordable, clean and reliable hydro and wind power. According to the poll of 500 Massachusetts likely voters, 81 percent of respondents said Governor Baker and the Legislature should



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create new laws and regulations to ensure long-term availability of clean, affordable and reliable hydro and wind power for the state's homes and businesses. The poll also showed overwhelming support for increased use of clean energy sources to generate electricity for Massachusetts, with 89 percent in favor of more clean electricity in order to reduce increasing regional dependence from electricity that is generated through the use of natural gas.

In addition, 84 percent of respondents said they support new legislation in Massachusetts if it ensures an ongoing, sustainable supply of clean and affordable electricity resources, including North American hydropower, onshore wind resources from Massachusetts and neighboring New England states as well as offshore wind within New England. Further, 83 percent of respondents support action by the Legislature in response to the pending closure of the Pilgrim Power Plant, the state's only nuclear power plant.

The telephone survey was conducted between November 9 and November 14, 2015 by Opinion Dynamics, a leading consulting firm that specializes in energy advising and market research. The overall margin of error for the poll was  $\pm 4.39$  percent.

The MCEP's advocacy for access to clean and reliable electricity resources is part of a broader effort to support the Commonwealth's achievement of aggressive emissions reduction standards under a series of benchmarks, including the [2003 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard](#), [the Green Communities Act of 2008](#), the [Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008](#), and the [Massachusetts 2020 Clean Energy & Climate Plan](#). Together, these plans mandate legal requirements for Massachusetts to significantly increase the state's access to clean electricity in the short term, and through to 2050.

For more information about the MCEP and long-term economic and environmental benefits associated with hydropower, wind power and other renewable sources of energy, please visit [www.masscleanelectricity.org](http://www.masscleanelectricity.org).

## **About Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership**

The Massachusetts Clean Electricity Partnership is dedicated to the delivery of affordable, clean and reliable energy to the Commonwealth. The partnership is comprised of Brookfield Renewable Energy Partners, Emera Inc., Hydro-Québec, Nalcor Energy, New Brunswick Power, SunEdison and TDI New England. The members are committed to help Massachusetts meet or exceed GHG emissions reduction goals established by the Massachusetts' Global Warming Solutions Act and to ensure that Bay State electricity customers have a plentiful, sustainable supply of clean energy resources for generations to come.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Scott Farmelant, (617) 939-6582; Gerald Weseen, (617) 530-1309.