# CHP Regional Application Center and Initiative







# Northeast CHP Regional Application Center and Initiative *Fact Sheet*

## **About Us**

RAC: The Northeast CHP Application Center (NAC) was established in October 2003 with a mission to provide CHP application assistance, technology information, and educational support in the seven Northeast states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. A critical objective of the Center is coordination across states within the region, across technologies, across upstream and downstream business sectors and end-use applications, and across nationwide DOE resources leading to the development of more favorable market conditions throughout the entire northeastern United States. The NAC serves as a focal point for communication among key stakeholders in the Northeast Region. A core constituency of the NAC is the Northeast CHP Initiative (NECHPI), an alliance of more than 40 organizations, which formed in 2001 as an outgrowth of DOE Regional CHP Roadmapping workshops. A critical element of the NAC's start-up activities is the identification, by and through our State Advisory Board, of a finite set of State Priority Areas (SPAs). These include:

- **★** Food processing
- **★** Wastewater treatment facilities
- ★ Wood products (pulp and paper, sawmills)
- ★ Biomass applications (biodiesel, methane, and woody biomass)
- ★ Agriculture
- ★ Multi-unit residential buildings
- ★ Healthcare
- **★** Institutional buildings
- ★ Facilities in grid congested regions

*Initiative:* The Northeast CHP Initiative (NECHPI) was formed in 2001-2002. NECHPI's region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. Our activities also include New Jersey as needed. The group adopted bylaws in 2005 and undertook a road mapping workshop in 2004. Meetings are held every other month in locations throughout the region and include site visits when possible. Visit www.northeastchp.org for our meeting schedule.

# **Recent Activities**

- ★ Combined Heat and Power: Reducing Energy Costs Through Recycled Energy, the third annual conference of NECHPI, co-hosted by the NAC, was held on May 11, 2006 at the University of Southern Maine, with speakers including Maine Governor John Baldacci, CHP users and manufacturers, and officials from several northeast states.
- ★ Met with Massachusetts DEP in support of the addition of a thermal credit for CHP systems to the state's new output-based emissions standards for small generators.
- ★ Participating in the Massachusetts Distributed Generation Collaborative's development of a new interconnection standard.

#### RAC:

- ★ Provided site technical and regulatory assistance to 30 facilities.
- ★ Submitted comments to the Vermont Public Service Board offering support for the development of a new CHP program and addressing the policy barriers and market issues.
- ★ Study on current and potential use of CHP in Northeast agricultural industry
- ★ Working with the New York Farm Bureau, Department of Agriculture & Markets and Cornell University to promote CHP on farms.
- ★ Study on the technical potential for CHP in Massachusetts facilities.
- ★ Study in progress on the reliability of existing CHP systems in the Northeast.
- ★ Developing a searchable database of federal and state financial incentives for CHP.

#### Initiative:

- ★ Submitted letter to the New York Public Service Commission in support of continuing the extension of the exemption from standby rates for CHP and renewable energy.
- ★ Submitted letter to New York legislative leadership in support of the successful effort to continue NYSERDA's management of the system benefits charge and renewable portfolio standard for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.
- ★ Signed on, along with 12 member organizations, to a letter from the United States CHP Association in support of funding for the DOE distributed energy budget.
- \* Assisted with the development of a bill to support distributed generation in Rhode Island.

### News

**Connecticut:** In July 2005, Governor Rell signed Public Act Number 05-1, An Act Concerning Energy Independence, which includes a range of incentives and programs to reduce costs for Connecticut residents and businesses in response to high energy prices and federally imposed congestion charges. Some of the important elements of the bill are:

- ★ Incentive payments, financing, and preferred rate structures for distributed generation and efficiency projects.
- ★ CHP and waste-heat recovery power systems are now classified as Class III renewables in Connecticut and may participate in state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) markets.
- ★ Utilities are required to serve at least 4% of their load from conservation measures and/or customer-sited distributed generation as of 2010.

Rhode Island: In February 2006, Senate Bill S2734, An Act Relating to Public Utilities – Distributed Generation, was filed. Passage of this bill would support use of CHP and renewable energy distributed generation systems in the state.

**Vermont:** In June 2005, Governor Douglas signed Act 61, Renewable Energy Efficiency, Transmission, and Vermont's Energy Future. Highlights include:

- ★ Establishing a renewable energy requirement for electricity sold in the state.
- ★ Establishing efficiency standards for selected commercial and residential products.
- ★ Requiring the establishment of standards for interconnection of distributed generation.
- ★ Measures to encourage CHP.

The Department of Public Service is studying the state's CHP market potential, following a public comment period on the next steps for implementation of Act 61.

#### CONTACT US:

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