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Timely New Video Shows Cities and Towns How Energy Storage Can Protect Critical Facilities During Extreme Storms while Saving Money

Sterling, MA Municipal Light Department's 3.9MWhr energy storage system will save over $400k per year while providing continuous power to first responders

Montpelier, VT – A new video showcasing the Sterling Municipal Light Department's award-winning energy storage system premiered yesterday at the Solar Power International/Energy Storage International conference in Las Vegas and at the Innovation Northeast's Energy Storage & Microgrid conference in Boston. The video highlights the municipal utility's energy storage microgrid, which is bringing both economic and resiliency benefits to the town of Sterling, Massachusetts. The groundbreaking energy storage project is the result of a collaboration among municipal, state, federal, industry, philanthropy, and nonprofit partners.

The video, produced by Clean Energy Group and the Clean Energy States Alliance, details the economic case for the battery storage system and includes an animation sequence on how the energy storage system works, how it is saving the town of Sterling money, and how it will provide backup power to the town's police station and emergency dispatch center in the event of a long-duration power outage. The video is available at http://bit.ly/CEG-Sterling.

The 2-megawatt, 3.9 megawatt-hour battery storage system, installed at the Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD) Chocksett Road Substation, is expected to save the town's ratepayers at least $400,000 per year by decreasing costs associated with capacity and transmission charges from the regional power services supplier, ISO New England. Sterling will be able to lower its demand for grid services from the ISO by discharging the battery system during times of regional peak demand. The project demonstrates a strong investment strategy for municipal energy storage: With the help of grants, this $2.7 million project is expected pay for itself in just

over two years; and even without the grants, the payback period would likely be fewer than seven years.

According to Sean Hamilton, general manager at SMLD, "Sterling's energy storage system is proving that energy storage works, and it can save a town substantial money. So far, the system has enabled savings in excess of $350,000 in nine months – these savings will directly benefit Sterling's ratepayers. More towns need to move in this direction, toward sustainable power; and now is not the time for government agencies to stop helping to make more of these systems possible."

In addition to the economic benefits, the system can "island" from the grid during a power outage and provide at least 12 days of resilient backup power to the town's police station and emergency dispatch center, a critical facility providing first responder services. Because Sterling's battery system is connected to a 2.4 MW solar array, the solar can charge the batteries when grid power is not available, providing an even longer period of energy assurance.

Dr. Imre Gyuk, Energy Storage Program Manager for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, said of the project, "There are monetized and unmonetized benefits. Resiliency is a benefit that is more difficult to monetize, but it is equally important."

The project received a $1.46 million Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, under Commissioner Judith Judson, with additional financial and technical assistance from the U.S. DOE Office of Electricity under the leadership of Dr. Imre Gyuk, and Sandia National Laboratories under the direction of Dan Borneo. Additional technical support was provided by the Clean Energy States Alliance through its Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP), and by Clean Energy Group's Resilient Power Project through a generous grant from Boston-based Barr Foundation.

"Success is never about a single player; it's about the team," said Sean Hamilton, referring to the unique collaboration that occurred to implement this project.

"It's increasingly important that energy systems are resilient to major storms and other impacts of climate change," said Mariella Puerto, co-director of Climate at the Barr Foundation. "Sterling is an exciting example of a community taking control and ownership of its system. Through storage, the town now has a clean, cost-efficient, reliable, and resilient energy source."

"Sterling is in the spotlight because its municipal utility can use the battery system to control rising power costs," said Clean Energy Group Project Director Todd Olinsky-Paul. "This benefits the town, but the project also provides environmental benefits for the entire New England region. By using batteries to curb electricity demand spikes, the need to call on expensive gas-fired peaker plants is reduced, and the region's air quality is improved. And when more municipal utilities install batteries, the grid will become more efficient and more resilient."

The Sterling project has been the recipient of many awards and accolades, including the No. 1 ranking for Utility Energy Storage Annual Watts Per Customer for 2017 in the Smart Electric

Power Association's top ten ranking of U.S. electric utilities, and a 2017 Grid Edge award from Greentech Media. The SMLD project has also garnered international attention with delegations from Europe and Asia visiting the installation.

Additional information on the SMLD project, including analysis, a fact sheet, a photo collection on the SMLD energy storage project, additional quotes about the project, and a link to the video, is available at: www.cleanegroup.org/ceg-projects/resilient-power-project/featured-installations/sterling. To sign up for CEG's newsletters and to receive additional information regarding energy storage and resilient power, visit http://bit.ly/EnergyStorageInfo.

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About Clean Energy Group
Clean Energy Group is a leading national, nonprofit advocacy organization working on innovative technology, finance, and policy programs in the areas of clean energy and climate change. Clean Energy Group, in partnership with Meridian Institute, founded the Resilient Power Project to help states and municipalities with program and policy information, analysis, financial tools, technical assistance, and best practices to speed the deployment of clean, resilient power systems in their communities. For more information, visit www.cleanegroup.org and www.resilient-power.org.

About the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA)
CESA is a national, nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy. CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country. CESA's Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP) is a federal-state funding and information sharing project that aims to accelerate the deployment of electrical energy storage technologies in the U.S. Learn more at www.cesa.org and www.cesa.org/projects/energy-storage-technology-advancement-partnership.

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MEDIA RESOURCES:

CEG/CESA has photos of the Sterling energy storage project and project partners. Members of the media are welcome to use and reprint these photos, with attribution to Clean Energy Group.

Photos from the groundbreaking ceremony, October 2016:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/cleanenergygroup/sets/72157684018743400

Project photos, March 2017:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/cleanenergygroup/sets/72157684018902160

A social media toolkit, which includes sample posts for Facebook and Twitter, is available for download at www.cleanegroup.org/wp-content/uploads/Sterling-Video-Announcement-Toolkit.docx.

Additional materials and interviews with project partners can be arranged upon request.