



NECHPI HONORS NEW ENGLAND COMBINED HEAT AND POWER LEADERS

Annual Meeting Gives Platform to Honor Acushnet, John Ballam, UMASS Medical, Rob Thornton

The Northeast Clean Heat and Power Initiative (NECHPI) has awarded its annual “Clean Heat and Power Champion” awards to four outstanding leaders in the Clean Heat and Power (CHP) community. The awards were presented on March 24th, 2015, at NECHPI’s Spring Meeting in Boston. State energy leaders, NECHPI’s regional membership, and numerous attendees to the meeting joined NECHPI in recognizing John Ballam, Rob Thornton, John Baker on behalf of UMASS Medical, and Bob Espindola as a representative of Acushnet Company, as Champions of the development of Clean Heat and Power in New York and throughout the Northeast.

Bob Espindola, Acushnet’s Energy Systems Program Manager, accepted the award for his Company’s work advancing the combined heat and power market in Massachusetts. Acushnet Company, best known for its market leading Titleist golf ball brand, is currently working with Power Secure to develop a 2 MW CHP project at its Ball Plant 3 manufacturing facility in New Bedford, MA. Acushnet Company will own and operate the system once the project is completed this fall. The \$5 million CHP system will provide enough electricity to power approximately 50% of the manufacturing facility load, as well as serve as the primary source of heat for the building throughout the winter months. The project is the first in Massachusetts to capitalize on a new program offered by Eversource whereby “bonus” rebates are paid for combining CHP development with extensive conventional Energy



Bob Espindola accepting the award for himself and Acushnet Company with NECHPI Chair John Rathbun.

Efficiency projects (LED Lighting, Compressed and Chilled Water plant upgrades, etc.) at the same facility.

In 2008, Acushnet was also the first approved Alternate Energy Portfolio Standard (APS) facility to qualify for CHP, creating Alternative Energy Credits (AECs) under the Massachusetts APS program out of a 2 MW CHP project at its Ball Plant 2 golf ball manufacturing facility. For this, the company was awarded the Beacon of Energy Award by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Since 2010, Acushnet's AEC's alone have generated an average of \$200,000 of income for the Company annually.

"We are proud to lead the way in certain aspects of CHP development," Bob Espindola, Project Manager for Acushnet, noted. "The timing of our project allowed us to capitalize on the new incentive program offered by the utility. Both of our two CHP projects have a very high return on investment, will continue to pay dividends for many years to come and will have a very positive environmental impact as well."

Also honored by NECHPI with a CHP Champion Award was John Ballam, Mass. DOER's technical resource for the administration of the state Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (APS) incentive program for qualifying CHP. John has worked in conjunction with the DOER's Renewable and Alternate Energy Division, where he coordinates the development of standards, outreach and strategic policy related to the DOER's overall program goal of enabling the further deployment of quality CHP projects. His background in energy includes over 30 years' experience and direct involvement with the realization of projects and programs related to renewable energy, efficiency, CHP and utility scale power generation. His influence on the CHP market in Massachusetts has been a great boon to the industry. He spoke to NECHPI's audience on the "Regional Update" panel after being surprised by the award during opening remarks.



John Ballam accepts his award with DOER Acting Commissioner Daniel Burgess.

Accepting an award for his work as the President and CEO of the International District Energy Association (IDEA) was Rob Thornton. IDEA is a 100-year-old U.S. non-profit association based in Westborough, Mass. Rob Thornton is a nationally recognized leader in the district energy industry. He has been president

of IDEA since 2000, a member since 1987, and previously served on the board of directors, including as IDEA's chairman. For more than 20 years, Thornton has been at the forefront of energy issues and energy business development and management with a focus on district energy and combined heat and power. In his role as an industry advocate, he has briefed President George W. Bush, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, EPA Administrator Christine Whitman, Congressional staff, governors and mayors on the benefits of district energy. He continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency, Green Building Council and many other federal and international agencies and industry organizations. His work with IDEA has helped spur the implementation of CHP in many settings, including new cutting-edge applications like microgrids, where the Northeast is leading the nation. He spoke to NECHPI's audience earlier in the day on this topic before being surprised with the award.



Rob Thornton accepting his award with NECHPI board member and past Champion award winner Tom Bourgeois.

Also receiving an award was UMASS Medical Center in Wooster, a 60 acre campus comprising a medical trauma center, school and medical research center, which operates a combined heat and power system featuring 17.5 MW total generation between new installations and a sophisticated existing central plant. Four representatives of the Medical Center accepted on behalf of their industry-standard facility:

- John Baker, the Associate Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management, manages facilities for this academic medical institution, and also provides facility operational and maintenance support for the 400 bed Level 1 Trauma hospital.
- Mark Armington, the Sr. Director of Facilities Engineering & Construction has overseen the majority of the campus infrastructure improvement projects and two major expansions to the power plant. His Facilities Engineering group of registered architects and engineers is responsible for all design, renovation and construction for the over 3 million square feet of buildings making up the main campus and off-site facilities.
- Joseph Collins, the Director of Energy Resources and Chief Engineer for the past twelve years, has overseen two startup and expansions to the original power plant, which supplies the campus with electricity, steam, and chilled water to all buildings, managing

the UMass Medical School Power Plant operations for the medical school, hospital and other buildings on campus.

- Suzanne Wood, the Sustainability & Energy Manager for UMASS Medical School, is focused is on increasing recycling and waste diversion rates and reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to her appointment as Sustainability & Energy Manager, she worked for the university's Environmental Health and Safety Department concentrating on chemical and laboratory safety.

UMASS Medical's system utilizes a district energy loop connects approximately 3 million square feet of buildings. In 2011, the system expanded with the addition of a 7.5 MW Taurus 70 gas turbine, with heat recovery that operates at 60,000 lb of steam output. The system operates at 80% efficiency. The thermally driven plant provides 58,000 MWh of annual electricity savings, or \$6.2 million, creating a payback period of less than 3 years. The system was financed as part of a \$450 million campus capital campaign, a result of integrating the system into the hospital's long-term master plan years prior.

"The project is designed to be supportive of campus sustainability goals," stated John Baker. "The school and hospital operations continue to grow, but we want to do so in ways that limit our carbon footprint."



From Left to right, the UMASS team with their award: Mark Armington, Suzanne Woods, Joe Collins, and John Baker.

To get in touch with NECHPI or our award recipients for comment, please contact:

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