

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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**CAPE & VINEYARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNOUNCES  
AWARD OF 18 MW SOLAR PV CONTRACT**

Barnstable, Mass. – Underscoring its commitment to renewable energy, the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CVEC) announced the award of its solar PV project to American Capital Energy (ACE). The 18.3 MW project will be located at 10 proposed sites in 7 CVEC member Towns on Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard. James Merriam, Harwich Town Administrators states, “the proposed PV project at the Harwich landfill is an excellent re-use of the town’s capped landfill.”

The 18.3 MW PV project is expected to produce 22,552,200 kWh per year; enough energy to power 3,132 Cape and Vineyard homes. The energy produced from the project represents 26% of the Cape & Vineyard municipal load and 1.1% of the total energy load for all customers on the Cape & Vineyard. The project will offset 15,584 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, which is the equivalent of taking 3,056 automobiles off the road every year.

This project along, with the existing renewable energy efforts of CVEC member towns, counties and the Cape Light Compact’s energy efficiency program, are significant contributions towards a sustainable Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard. CVEC recognizes that this project is the first of many steps towards sustainability and that achieving a sustainable Cape Cod & Martha’s Vineyard will involve multiple renewable technologies including wind.

CVEC selected American Capital Energy, Inc. (ACE) from 8 vendor bids that were submitted through a competitive bidding process conducted by CVEC in the Fall of 2010 because ACE’s proposal brings the most benefits to CVEC members. ACE is a Massachusetts company with headquarters in North Chelmsford, MA. As part of the contract negotiations, ACE committed to advertise locally for installation and/or maintenance subcontractors to install the solar PV systems. Under this contract, at the time of construction, ACE will be building the largest solar PV facility in New England.

ACE is estimating that nearly 500 full time workers will be employed during the development and construction of the ten arrays.

The project's estimated annual savings of over \$1.4M per year is a significant financial benefit to the participating CVEC member towns and counties remarked Charles McLaughlin, CVEC President and Town of Barnstable Director.

### **About Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative**

CVEC was organized on September 12, 2007. CVEC was formed under Massachusetts General Laws, c. 164, §136. Section 136 provides for the establishment of energy cooperatives. Section 136 cooperatives can, among other things: (1) purchase and own generation, transmission and other projects and property; (2) enter into contracts and incur liabilities; (3) borrow money, issue notes and bonds; (4) enter into private/public collaboration (contractual); (5) purchase, sell, and distribute energy; and (6) sell electricity to any consumers within CVEC member communities. CVEC's purposes include developing and/or owning renewable electric generation facilities and procuring or selling long term electric supply or other energy-related goods and services including renewable energy certificate contracts at competitive prices to member communities and consumers within member communities.

For more information on American Capital Energy please visit [www.cvecinc.org](http://www.cvecinc.org)

### **About American Capital Energy**

American Capital Energy is an award winning national solar engineering, procurement and construction contractor and solar developer. Specializing in large complex roof and ground mounted systems, ACE designs, finances, installs and operates solar systems for commercial and utility clients. Founded in 2005, the company has installed more than 35 large-scale PV projects in nine states. ACE is committed to changing the way electricity is made, and looks forward to working with CVEC to bring Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard closer to sustainability. ACE is proud to partner with The Real Thing Solar Energy Services for financing on the project, and the engineering firm Weston & Sampson, who is the industry leader in the permitting and design of landfill closures and post closure re-use, for permitting and design work.

For more information on American Capital Energy please visit [www.americancapitalenergy.com](http://www.americancapitalenergy.com).

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