

## Agreement Creates Research Partnership Between New York City & Broader Solar Industry

*Bronx, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined officials from The City University of New York (CUNY) to announce a new partnership between the college's Center for Sustainable Energy and The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC). The agreement between CUNY and TSEC -- a new industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York -- creates a partnership that will enable research and development activities being conducted at the consortium to be delivered and implemented in the New York City market, which is in need of alternative energy sources.

CUNY is the sixth higher education institution in New York to partner with TSEC. Binghamton University, Clarkson University, Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and SUNY New Paltz are already partnered. The universities will work with TSEC to solve technical problems from within the solar industry preventing more efficient and cheaper solar technology from going to market. The university coalition will also be available to assist TSEC in consulting public and private organizations who wish to incorporate solar technology into their facilities.

"The partnership between TSEC and CUNY opens up a very big and critical door of opportunity for solar energy products and devices being researched and manufactured upstate to be used and become more mainstream in New York City," Hinchey said. "With a pressing need to shift away from greenhouse gas-producing forms of energy, New York City, which is a U.S. Department of Energy Solar America Initiative city, is an ideal market for the use of solar products. By adding CUNY as a TSEC partner, we now have a direct link to New York City as we expand the consortium's reach into a critical market for solar energy products and devices. TSEC is truly becoming a statewide initiative that is drawing on the talented minds at CUNY and other universities across New York to help solar manufacturers at TSEC develop premier solar products."

"CUNY's researchers from several of our campuses will be part of the solution to creating a robust solar market in New York State," said Iris Weinshall, CUNY's vice chancellor for facilities, construction planning and design. "The goals of this consortium are just what New York needs

to capture the power of sunlight, our greatest untapped resource, leading the way to energy independence, a healthier environment and increasing the number of green collar jobs.

The CUNY Economic Development Corp., created to link academic research, workforce development and economic development, recently partnered with the Center for Sustainable Energy at CUNY's Bronx Community College to develop a new Sustainable Energy and Technology business incubator on the Bronx campus, said said Frederick Schaffer, CUNY's senior vice chancellor for legal affairs and the economic development corporation's chairman. The incubator "will provide a springboard for businesses that will be generated as a result of today's collaboration," Schaffer said.

"The crucial role that the Center for Sustainable Energy plays is to take vision, policy, initiatives, and turn them into implementation strategies, and make them work." said Tria Case, the Executive Director of the Center for Sustainable Energy. "That means supporting the advancement and commercialization of emerging technologies, training the green collar workforce, and fostering sustainable businesses with our new incubator. Through the TSEC partnership, CSE and CUNY will help create a viable path from the lab to the roof top."

Hinchey helped organize and create TSEC, which is a new industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York. TSEC is the first organization of its kind for the photovoltaic (PV) industry, encompassing research and development, manufacturing facilities, industry promotion and market development. While there are several examples of a single university partnering with a single corporation to conduct solar industry-driven research and development and there are examples of universities collaborating on particular research problems, to TSEC's knowledge there is no precedent of a relationship between multiple research universities and manufacturers aimed at solving technical problems within an industry.

Hinchey has already secured final approval of \$3.2 million for C9 Corporation to conduct solar research and development in conjunction with TSEC. The congressman has also secured final approval of nearly \$1.5 million for TSEC to bring new solar manufacturers into the consortium. Additionally, Hinchey helped convince Empire State Development to contribute a \$1.5 million grant to attract solar energy companies to TSEC. The congressman is continuing to work to secure additional state and federal funds for the consortium.

During the past decade, CUNY has taken a strong lead in fostering the use of alternative energy, particularly solar, within New York City. The Center for Sustainable Energy has played a key role in the effort. Established with the support of Rep. José E. Serrano, D-Bronx., the Center promotes the use of renewable and efficient energy technologies in urban communities through education, training, workforce development, research and project facilitation. The Center supports clean energy development and conservation as the means to protect the environment, enhance public health, and position New York City to capture emerging economic development opportunities in the energy sector.

As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs Initiative, CUNY has set a target of 500 solar roofs installed in New York City by 2010. To meet this target, CUNY has planned an outreach and education campaign that includes an assessment of the solar energy market in New York City, the identification of barriers to solar energy development, and the facilitation of solar projects throughout the city.

CUNY and the Center are also partners in the Solar America Initiative. The Department of Energy Solar America Initiative seeks to form strategic partnerships with U.S. cities. Through these partnerships, the Solar America Cities program (New York was one of the first 13 cities to participate) intends to help accelerate the adoption of solar technology at the local level. This includes engaging city governments as important end users of energy, key intermediaries to other end users within their jurisdiction, and regulatory entities.