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PRESS RELEASE

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MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY COMPANIES TEAM UP TO HELP MAINE FAMILIES WITH HEATING COSTS

30 Organizations Contribute a Total of \$300,000 to Assist Maine Households

MAINE – Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP), a membership organization of the 10 Maine Community Action Agencies, is pleased to announce a partnership with renewable energy producers that do business in Maine to help Maine families who have struggled with heating costs this winter.

Community Action Agencies administer the [Home Energy Assistance Program \(HEAP\)](#) for [MaineHousing](#), and with prices for oil, gas and even wood up this year, many families and individuals are having difficulty paying for their home heat. For those who are above the federal HEAP income guidelines, choices are often difficult and few.

Thirty renewable energy companies are contributing approximately \$300,000 to Maine Community Action Partnership, which will provide assistance to Maine families who have been denied access through the HEAP program through local Agencies. The participating companies are involved in solar, wind, hydro, tidal, biomass, offshore wind, and energy storage, as well as firms that provide services to these companies.

On behalf of the contributing organizations, Jeremy Payne, Executive Director of the [Maine Renewable Energy Association \(MREA\)](#) said, “Renewable energy companies are eager to help Mainers in need. As they work in communities around the state, they often see how some families could benefit from a helping hand. We appreciate the leadership of Longroad’s Matt Kearns, who organized and led this effort.”

The Partnership allocated funds to each local agency, asking them to review their records for households that were in need of help but over the guidelines, or to address new calls for assistance. To date, \$160,000 has been credited to over 200 households’ home heating vendor.

“This is a great way to stretch resources and to ensure families that are on that edge are not pushed over,” said Megan Hannan, Executive Director of MeCAP. “We have been blessed with a lot of heating resources this year, from the federal government and our local partners. People who need heat right now will still have to go through the process, but we hope to be able to meet as much need as possible.”

Twenty-eight renewable energy companies contributed funds to the project, including: APEX, Arcadia, BlueWave, Borrego, Brookfield Renewable, Clearway Energy Group, BNRG Dirigo, EDF, EDP Renewables, ENGIE, Glenvale, Greenbacker, Longroad Energy, Maine Renewable Energy Association, Nautilus, New England Aqua Ventus, Nexamp, NextEra, Ocean Renewable Power Company, Onward Energy (Hancock, Evergreen, Blue Sky) , Patriot Renewables, Perch, ReEnergy, ReWild, Summit Ridge Energy, TurningPoint Energy, Verrill Law, and Walden Renewables.

“There was tremendous interest from these companies to get involved,” said Matt Kearns, Chief Development Officer of Longroad Energy. “Everyone wanted to pitch in to support the indispensable work the Community Action Agencies do to keep our fellow Mainers warm.”

“While HEAP can help pay for a portion of the heating fuel costs for many Maine households, many others are just beyond the federal income limits,” said Daniel Brennan, Director of MaineHousing. “We are grateful for this generous effort, which will help many additional households get through a what has been a long, cold and costly Maine winter.”

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