



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MCCA UNVEILS RENEWABLE ENERGY FEASIBILITY PROJECT AT BCEC
*Team of Experts Selected to Examine Placing Solar Panel Array on South Boston Facility with
Largest Roof in New England*

BOSTON- James E. Rooney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) together with Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian A. Bowles today announced that they have commissioned a study to examine the possibility of creating a solar energy production system on the roof of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC). The study will explore the feasibility of creating a huge solar panel array that will potentially lower the energy costs to the run the facility while contributing to the Commonwealth's commitment to finding and implementing renewable, environmentally-friendly energy solutions.

James Rooney said "The BCEC has the largest roof of any building in New England, and it only makes sense to utilize that asset by exploring the possibility of reducing our operating costs while at the same time decreasing the facility's environmental impact. It is my hope that in the future people visiting the BCEC from around the world will see solar panels on the roof as a working symbol of Massachusetts' commitment to the environment and renewable energy."

At more than 1,173,600 square feet – or almost 27 acres -- the roof of the BCEC is larger than the Boston Public Garden (24 acres) and equates to more than 20 football fields and is the largest roof in New England. The MCCA has assembled a team of renewable energy design and construction experts to asses the opportunities for the BCEC to use its potential to produce a percentage of the energy used by the building through solar power.

The Boston Convention & Exhibition Center uses 27,351,093 kilowatt hours of electricity annually of which 3.5% is derived from renewable sources. Preliminary estimates suggest that a solar generating system at the BCEC may be able to provide up to 600,000 kilowatt hours per year.

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Secretary Ian Bowles added, “With a roof the size of the BCEC’s, this has the potential to be the largest solar power installation in New England,” said Secretary Ian Bowles. “Governor Patrick has made a strong commitment to solar power, and an installation of this magnitude on the region’s largest roof will send that message to convention-goers from around the world.”

This feasibility project will provide the MCCA with essential information needed to guide the renewable energy project through design and construction. The four major criteria the team will analyze are:

- The feasibility for construction of a solar electric generating system on site at the BCEC
- A cost benefit and life cycle cost analysis, including the potential benefit of annual energy cost savings to the Authority from renewable energy implementations
- Identifying third party funding sources to assist in project development costs, including government, utility and industry incentive programs and related grant funds
- An analysis of project scalability to determine and evaluate the long-term opportunity of a renewable energy project that could be implemented in phases over several years

The project team includes member experts in the areas of architectural and structural design, mechanical engineering, financial analysis and modeling, code conformance, and construction cost estimation. The individual member firms include:

Solar Design Associates of Harvard, MA
Lemessurier Consultants, Inc. of Cambridge, MA
RG Vanderweil Engineers of Boston, MA
R.W. Sullivan of Boston, MA
Keville Enterprises of Boston, MA
Tom Lynott - A/E/C Resources of Cambridge, MA
Simpson, Gumpertz and Heger, Inc. of Waltham, MA

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About the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority owns and oversees the operations of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA and the Boston Common Parking Garage. In fiscal year 2008, the MCCA hosted 239 events at the BCEC and the Hynes with 915,616 attendees generating 627,413 hotel room nights and \$522 million in economic impact for Greater Boston.

About the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center

The Boston Convention and Exhibition Center forever changed the Boston tourism industry when it opened in 2004, creating hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact each year. With a 1.6 million square foot footprint, the BCEC is the largest convention center in New England. It has over 500,000 sq. ft. of exhibition space, 86 meeting rooms, 40 restrooms, 33 escalators, 22 elevators, 46 staircases. The BCEC's kitchen can accommodate 125 workers at once, holds 46 ovens, 36 refrigerators and 40 sinks. The BCEC is located in South Boston among a bustling waterfront of top-tier hotels and distinctive restaurants.

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