



# Competitive Energy Services, LLC presents the GridSolar Project

## COMPANY:

Competitive Energy Services, LLC

## LOCATION:

Portland, ME

## INDUSTRY/SECTOR:

Energy / Electricity

## COMPANY INFORMATION:

CES procures energy for industrial, commercial and institutional customers throughout the northeast. CES helps their customers meet GHG reduction targets. GridSolar is developing a solar energy-based alternative to the development of large transmission lines to ensure grid reliability.



## Reducing Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels

CES has assisted a dozen of its customers in converting from fuel oil to natural gas, in part to reduce GHG emissions and meet corporate carbon targets. CES has also developed the Beaver Ridge Wind project in Freedom, ME. This project is a 4.5 MW operation and was the second on-shore wind development in Maine beginning commercial operations on November 1, 2008. The GridSolar Project - at full buildout - will provide the largest reduction in GHG emissions of any project ever built in Maine.

## An Updated Electric Grid

The most important changes in the country's electric grid over the next 25 years are going to come from the introduction of intelligence and communications at the distribution level that will enable end users to adjust their electricity consumption in response to conditions on the electric grid; that will allow small-size distributed generation (mostly solar PV) to deliver electricity into the grid when available; and that will facilitate the operation of new storage technologies to balance solar generation and customer load requirements. In a word - this is called "The Smart Grid" and the GridSolar Project is at the forefront of this effort.

## Grid Reliability

The application of distributed solar generation to address grid reliability concerns is on the cutting edge of where the electric industry and so-called 'smart grid' technologies are heading in this country. By moving forward with the GridSolar Project, Maine will be well-positioned to attract federal and private research and development money to jump-start this new industry and the tens of thousands of jobs that will be created.

## Advantages of a Clean Energy Economy for Maine

A clean energy economy reduces energy imports from hostile foreign countries, lowers levels of GHG emissions, reduces risks of human and environmental damages and allows Maine to produce what has previously been imported from outside the state and to create employment opportunities.



*"The GridSolar Project represents an innovative use of distributed solar generation in combination with Smart-Grid technologies to meet the impacts that peak load growth may have on the reliability of our utilities' bulk power systems. The GridSolar Project is a game-changer for the development of solar power and for Maine's future economic development, by altering in a fundamental way the economics of solar power development. The use of distributed solar generation to provide grid reliability services is a cost-effective alternative to spending billions of dollars on transmission reliability upgrades, while providing significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and serving as the catalyst for the creation of thousands of "green" jobs in Maine."*

— Rich Silkman, Co-Founder, The GridSolar Project

