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For Immediate Release

HEMPSTEAD HOMES FEATURED on NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR

Seven solar-powered homes and three other buildings in the Town of Hempstead on City of Long Beach will be open to the public for free visits on Saturday, October 3rd from 10 AM to 4 PM as part of the National Solar Tour & Green Buildings Open House on Long Island. Tour visitors can learn about solar and other forms of clean energy directly from the people in their community, watch electric meters run backwards, and see the actual savings on utility bills.

These open houses are part of an island-wide tour of about 90 sites that use solar energy or other green building features. The National Solar Tour is organized on Long Island by the non-profit Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI) and by the American Solar Energy Society at the national level. Last year's tour attracted 140,000 visitors nationwide and has been billed as the largest public renewable energy education event in the world.

One home available to tour, the Davis residence in Island Park, features a 7 kW solar electric system which has drastically reduced the owners' electric bill. Another, the Miller residence in the City of Long Beach, installed a large 9.7 kW system last year. Other sites on the Tour within the Town of Hempstead are located in Hewlett Harbor, Garden City, East Rockaway, Atlantic Beach, Point Lookout, Long Beach, Island Park, Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Merrick, Valley Stream, Lido Beach, and Hicksville.

"We are very pleased with our panels", said Virginia Davis. "It will be a year on September 29, 2009. They have covered all of our electrical needs. At this point we have produced a little more energy than we have used!" "It works beyond my expectations", said Michael Miller, the Long Beach homeowner. "My electric bill will probably be a big zero by the end of the year – I think we sized it just right."

LIPA currently offers substantial, upfront cash rebates (up to \$35,000) for the installation of solar electric systems. Combined with increased federal income tax credits and state tax credits, these incentives can reduce the cost by 2/3.

"The Solar Tour is really the best way to see first-hand what solar is all about and to talk directly to the owners to find out whether solar energy will work for you", said Gordian Raacke, Executive Director of Renewable Energy Long Island (RELI).

"The tour provides a unique opportunity to learn about the benefits of going solar," said LIPA President and CEO Kevin S. Law. "LIPA's nationally-recognized *Solar Pioneer and Entrepreneur Program* continues to help our customers reduce energy consumption and lower electric bills, diversify Long Island's energy portfolio, strengthen the local economy, and to transform the solar photovoltaic marketplace to help reduce our dependency on costly fossil fuels."

Visitors are encouraged to first visit one of the central tour hubs where they can pick up materials and participate in educational activities. The Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways on Lido Boulevard in Point Lookout is the central hub location for Hempstead and features a shellfish hatchery powered by a wind turbine and solar panels, an experimental solar home, and a hydrogen-fueled bus that will shuttle visitors to nearby tour sites.

The self-guided tour is free of charge but visitors will need to obtain a free Visitors Pass from RELI. Every visitor will receive a free copy of the Long Island GreenGuide, a 64-page publication with handy information and a green business directory. The Visitors Pass and more information on the tour and clean energy technologies & incentives are available at RenewableEnergyLongIsland.org or by calling (631) 329-8888.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

Davis residence in Island Park: <http://lishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1223413183.jpg>

Miller residence in Long Beach: <http://lishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1233849830.jpg>

To arrange pre-tour interviews and for location information, call the RELI Media Line at 516-313-6611.