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September 24, 2009
For Immediate Release

SMITHTOWN HOME FEATURED on NATIONAL SOLAR TOUR

A solar-powered home in the Town of Smithtown 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.

The home available to tour, the Harvey residence in Kings Park features a 6 kW solar electric system which generates most of the home's power and has drastically reduced the owners' electric bill. The owner, Kevin Harvey, also sells solar electric systems.

"My solar electricity system took just one day to install and it has eliminated 90 percent of my LIPA bill!", said Kevin Harvey. "With the rebates and tax credits the system will pay for itself within 5 years, a better than 20 percent return on our initial investment."

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 central hub location closest to Smithtown is the New York Institute for Technology campus in Central Islip which features a 10 kW solar electric system.

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.

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD:

Harvey residence: <http://lishines.org/solarregistry/propertyimages/1233774980.JPG>

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