



**Town of Plymouth  
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**Press Release  
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## **Plymouth Awarded 2009 Leading by Example Environmental Innovation Award**

**Plymouth**-The Town of Plymouth was one of three communities given a 2009 Leading by Example Environmental Innovation Award yesterday at a State House Ceremony. Senate President Therese Murray, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles and State Representative Vinny deMacedo presented the award to Selectmen John Mahoney and Special Assistant to the Town Manager, Energy Officer Patrick O'Brien.

"The Town of Plymouth continues to set an outstanding example for other communities throughout Massachusetts," said Senate President Murray. "By taking the initiative Plymouth is changing the way we look at renewable energy, conservation, and environmental issues for the Commonwealth."

"This award is a recognition that The Town of Plymouth, lead by the Energy Committee, has worked very hard in the past 18 months to 2 years to change the way we look at Municipal energy use," remarked Energy Officer Patrick O'Brien. "With the rising cost of fuel and utilities we have been creative in using capital dollars to create operating budget savings while also providing a blueprint to show how a government must not operate status quo and find efficiencies to save taxpayer money."

Plymouth's work on the 2020 Energy Plan, to have all municipal power come from renewable projects by the year 2020 was the impetus for a lot of work on energy conservation and management. The Town worked with Scott Ridley

from Ridley and Associates to create energy policies and measures that have led to significant savings and changes in Town policy, beginning with the appointment of Patrick O'Brien as Energy Officer.

The Town has done lots of work to retro fit buildings and make smarter use of our energy dollars. Some of the achievements and progress made include.

We have worked hard to reduce energy use in town buildings, making some great strides forward since implementing our energy polices last fall in many buildings including:

- Reducing energy use in Town Hall 48,000 kilowatt hours from Aug 08-July09 vs. the previous 12 month period, a 13% reduction in use. (322,680 kw/h vs. 370,680)
- Reducing energy use in Police HQ by 78,720 kilowatt hours from Aug 08-July 09 vs. the previous 12 month period, a 12% reduction in use. (592,320 kw/h vs. 671,040)
- Reducing energy use in Fire HQ by 10,000 kw/h from Aug 08-July 09 vs. the previous 12 month period, a 14% reduction in use. (63,840 kw/h vs. 73,920)
- DPW has worked hard to reduce our vehicle fleet and use more fuel efficient cars. The two pooled Ford Focus have been getting approximately 33mpg vs. our Crown Vic's which average 12-15 mpg. These have proven reliable and show a replacement car for our future replacements.
- Solaya Renewable Energy has been awarded a 2 turbine wind project adjacent to the Waste Water Treatment Facility that will provide fixed price power at 12.5 cents per kw/h and a land lease of \$200,000 per year for 10 years.
- Plymouth has an RFP to be released on our 5 acre solar project in Cedarville on the capped landfill proving another example of sustainable power.
- Plymouth has been awarded free technical assistance by the Department of Energy Resources to help Plymouth meet the goals of becoming a Green Community.
- Finally Plymouth completed the work on the Library HVAC system this past June that was funding matched by NStar that will produce over \$70,000 in energy savings in this fiscal year, this is in addition to the \$40,000 dollars in similar work and saving in the water well system.