

Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center Dedicates Solar Electric System



Litchfield, Conn. – Wisdom House will host a dedication and activation of 80 solar photovoltaic panels, newly installed on the roof of Spruce Brook Barn. The event is planned for Thursday, August 11, 2011 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Wisdom House opened in 1949 as a novitiate for the Daughters of Wisdom and later for their college, Seat of Wisdom. The original house on the property dates back to 1770. Spruce Brook Barn was built around 1925 and now serves as a meeting space for the retreat and conference center.

In preparation for the solar panel installation, an energy audit was conducted and energy upgrades were made with an incentive from the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund. The solar panels were partially funded with a grant of \$50,500 from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, now known as the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority. The solar array will generate approximately 15,500 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy annually. This will displace the production of 10.7 metric tons of CO₂, the amount sequestered annually by 2.3 acres of pine forest. Together with other conservation measures being undertaken, it will offset nearly 25% of the total energy use of our entire campus of 6 buildings, 9 conference rooms and 73 bedrooms.

“With the installation of this efficient solar electric system, Wisdom House is taking another step to reduce the center’s carbon footprint and dependence on fossil fuels. The planet and all who live on it will benefit from a healthier and more sustainable environment,” said Sister Rosemarie Greco, DW, Administrator of Wisdom House.

The photovoltaic solar system was designed and integrated into the electric and structural systems at Wisdom House by Litchfield Hills Solar (West Cornwall, Conn.) with consultation from SantoDomingo Engineering, Inc., and CL&P.



The presentations and activation of the panels will begin at 6:00 p.m. Brief comments will be given by Senator Andrew Roraback (schedule permitting), Brian Garcia, President of Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, and Ray Furse, President of Litchfield Hills Solar. Information on these organizations as well as members of the Litchfield Energy Task Force will be on hand. The public is welcome. RSVP is appreciated by calling Wisdom House at 860-567-3163 or emailing programs@wisdomhouse.org.

About Wisdom House

Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center is an interfaith center in a country setting. The center presents programs on spirituality, education and the arts

and has a commitment to energy conservation and sustainability. The center welcomes not-for-profit groups, hosting events and offers hospitality. The center is a ministry of the Daughters of Wisdom. For more on Wisdom House, please visit www.wisdomhouse.org.

About the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority (CEFIA)

CEFIA was created by the Connecticut General Assembly in 2011. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. CEFIA’s mission is to promote, develop and invest in clean energy and energy efficient projects in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. CEFIA is governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed by the governor and the leadership of the State Legislature. As the nation’s full-scale clean energy finance authority, CEFIA will leverage public and private funds to drive investment and scale up clean energy deployment in Connecticut. For more information on CEFIA, please visit www.ctcleanenergy.com.