



**Mount Wachusett**  
*Community College*

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## Press Release

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***for immediate release***

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### **MWCC to Receive Clean Air – Cool Planet “Climate Champion” Award**

GARDNER—Mount Wachusett Community College has been selected to receive a Climate Champion Award from Clean Air - Cool Planet, a leading environmental organization in the Northeast dedicated to finding and promoting solutions to global warming.

MWCC is receiving the award in recognition of its commitment to the environment since the 1980s and its ongoing renewable energy initiatives. MWCC has garnered national and regional awards for its efforts, including the 2002 conversion of its all-electric campus in Gardner to a closed-loop, biomass-fueled hydronic heating system. The project has achieved a 38-percent reduction in electricity, a 52-percent reduction in water usage, and a 22.5 percent reduction in carbon dioxide, while trimming the college’s energy costs by more than \$2 million.

“Mount Wachusett Community College has been a tenacious advocate for renewable power,” said Clean Air - Cool Planet Executive Director Adam Markham, announcing the award. “This college serves as a big example of what is possible in moving forward on solutions to global warming,” he said.

“We’re proud to be recognized for our efforts to reduce the college’s carbon footprint,” said MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino. “We commend Clean Air – Cool Planet for raising awareness about the value of renewable energy and for its work promoting solutions to global warming.”

The award will be presented at Clean Air - Cool Planet’s Global Warming and Energy Solutions conference on October 12 and 13 in Manchester, N.H. Susan Tierney, chair of CA-CP’s Board of Directors, will present the awards at an evening reception.

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CA-CP, a science-based, nonpartisan non-profit organization, partners with campuses, communities and companies throughout the Northeast to help reduce their carbon emissions. CA-CP presents its Climate Champion Awards biannually to individuals, organizations or communities that played a leading role in advancing solutions to global warming. Past winners include Bank of America, Shaw's Supermarkets and the Timberland Company; University of New Hampshire, Middlebury College and Tufts University; the communities of Stamford, Conn. and Hull, Mass.; and Governors John Baldacci of Maine and George Pataki of New York.

“A solid majority of citizens consider global warming a serious threat that demands solutions,” Markham said. “This conference will be the best single opportunity to share solutions, communicate opportunities and challenges and thereby inform the global warming plans of the next President of the United States.”

The conference will feature experts on federal and state climate policy, alternative energy sources, and paths to climate neutrality. Guest speakers include former N.J. Governor and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, now co-chair of CASEnergy Coalition; and Ralph Izzo, chairman and CEO of Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG). Presidential candidates from both parties have been invited to attend and communicate their priorities for action on climate change and energy security.

Workshops will focus on adapting to a warmer climate; implications for wildlife; action in the retail sector; demand-side savings for residents and businesses; and renewable energy potential in the Northeast.

For more information about Clean Air – Cool Planet, or to register for the conference, visit [www.cleanair-coolplanet.org](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org).

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