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CONSERVATION SERVICES GROUP RECOGNIZED FOR HEATING OIL PROGRAM LEADERSHIP BY MASS ENERGY CONSUMERS ALLIANCE

Efforts will keep many Bay State homeowners warmer this winter

WESTBOROUGH, Mass., Nov. 22, 2011 -- Conservation Services Group (CSG) is the recipient of an Advocacy Award from the Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance. CEO Stephen Cowell accepted the honor on CSG's behalf during Mass Energy's 29th annual meeting at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on Nov. 9. Approximately 125 business and industry leaders attended this year's event, kicked off with a keynote speech from Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Mark Sylvia.

For the past 10 years, Mass Energy has recognized leaders in the energy world and the business community whose commitments to a better energy future are exemplary. The group's Advocacy Award is given to organizations that promote sound public policy in support of energy affordability and environmental sustainability. This year, CSG was honored, along with the Massachusetts Oilheat Council (MOC) and Environment Northeast, for leading the effort to establish an Oil Heat Efficiency Program. This initiative has been introduced through legislative efforts including the filing of House Bill 879. The pending legislation is modeled after the highly successful Massachusetts Oil Heat Efficiency Program (OHEP) that was managed by CSG.

When it was launched in July 2010, the OHEP was the nation's first comprehensive energy efficiency pilot program for homeowners with low to moderate incomes. Financed by ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) stimulus funds, the OHEP used the money to provide rebates for the installation of new, high efficiency heating equipment for homeowners using oil. Over the past year, CSG worked with MOC to train 51 oil heat service

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technicians in energy efficiency. A total of 516 new, high-efficiency heating systems and 302 newly-installed indirect-fired water heaters were subsidized by the program. These upgrades are expected to result in a total savings of 100,000+ gallons of home heating oil per year. This amounts to an average savings per homeowner of 210 gallons per year, which is more than 30 percent of their annual heating oil consumption.

Mass Energy Executive Director Larry Chretien, said, "CSG is a leader in our very large, diverse coalition. And about 40 percent of the homes in Massachusetts heat with oil, so the opportunities to help them save money and reduce their carbon footprints are huge. Thanks to CSG, we have a good chance of making something very important happen this year."

CSG was founded in 1984 and is headquartered in Westborough, Mass. The firm works with utilities, government agencies, public housing authorities and other groups nationwide to design and carry out energy saving programs and strategies. For more information, visit www.csgrp.com.

Mass Energy is a non-profit organization based in Boston that uses the buying power of thousands of state residents to shift oil prices and increase green power sources in New England. For more information, visit www.massenergy.org.

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