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**Media Contact:**

Warren Leon – Clean Energy States Alliance – (978) 317-4559

Edward Ortiz – California Energy Commission – (916) 654-4989

## **California Energy Commission Receives 2016 *State Leadership in Clean Energy Award* for New Solar Homes Partnership**

*The California Energy Commission's New Solar Homes Partnership program is helping to make new homes in California environmentally friendly, while reducing energy bills*

**Sacramento, CA** — The California Energy Commission was honored as a recipient of a 2016 State Leadership in Clean Energy Award for its New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP). This was one of six programs nationwide to win an award for its outstanding accomplishments. The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), a nonprofit coalition of public agencies working together to advance clean energy, established these biennial awards to highlight model programs and projects that have accelerated the adoption of clean energy technologies and strengthened clean energy markets. The recipients of the awards were chosen by an independent panel of five distinguished judges, each with years of experience in clean energy.

The NSHP, a component of the comprehensive California Solar Initiative (CSI), provides financial incentives and other support to builders, developers, and homeowners to encourage the construction of new, energy-efficient solar homes. The program focuses on new home construction as a way to lower the upfront installation costs of solar energy systems by incorporating these systems seamlessly into the design of a building and installing the PV system while all the other construction activities of the home are underway. The NSHP requires that projects meet minimum energy efficiency levels, which maximizes the project's impacts: environmental benefits, market development, and cost savings for homeowners. As of January 2016, the program has installed or reserved funds for 141.8 MW of solar capacity. It has already helped boost the new home solar penetration rate in the state from less than 1 percent to more than 20 percent.

“The New Solar Homes Partnership is an innovative and effective approach to mainstreaming solar,” said CESA Executive Director Warren Leon. “By focusing on new residential construction, the NSHP is fostering a housing market in which builders routinely construct energy efficient homes and install solar energy systems as a standard feature.”

“We're honored to get this award from CESA for our work on the New Solar Homes Partnership program,” said Energy Commissioner David Hochschild. “The award acknowledges the impact that the NHSP program has had in helping homebuilders build greener homes that use less energy, save money, and reduce pollution.”

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CESA member organizations from across the U.S. submitted nominations for the leadership awards. Entries were judged based on public benefits and results, cost effectiveness, leadership and innovation, and replicability. The five judges who reviewed all the nominated programs were: Todd Foley (American Council on Renewable Energy); Jenny Heeter (National Renewable Energy Laboratory); Brian Keane (SmartPower); Heather Rhoads-Weaver (eFormative Options); and Bill Ritter (Center for the New Energy Economy).

A case study with more information about the New Solar Homes Partnership is available on CESA's website at [www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016](http://www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016).

CESA will be hosting upcoming webinar presentation on the New Solar Homes Partnership with guest speakers from the California Energy Commission. This webinar will take place on Tuesday, July 26 from 11am -12:30pm PT. For more information on this free webinar and to register, visit [www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016](http://www.cesa.org/projects/state-leadership-in-clean-energy/2016).

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**About the California Energy Commission:** The California Energy Commission is California's primary energy policy and planning agency. Established in 1974, the Energy Commission is responsible for overseeing the following seven core responsibilities: advancing state energy policy, encouraging energy efficiency, certifying thermal power plants, investing in energy innovation, developing renewable energy, transforming transportation and preparing for energy emergencies. For more information, visit [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov).

**About the Clean Energy States Alliance:** The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) is a national nonprofit coalition of public agencies and organizations working together to advance clean energy. CESA members—mostly state agencies—include many of the most innovative, successful, and influential public funders of clean energy initiatives in the country. CESA works with state leaders, federal agencies, industry representatives, and other stakeholders to develop and promote clean energy technologies and markets. CESA facilitates information sharing, provides technical assistance, coordinates multi-state collaborative projects, and communicates the positions and achievements of its members. For more information, visit [www.cesa.org](http://www.cesa.org).