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## **Derby and Willimantic BJ's Wholesale Clubs Unveil "Twin" Solar PV Arrays – Largest Retail-based Installations in Connecticut**

**Rocky Hill, Conn., April 11, 2007**– The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF), BJ's Wholesale Club and Conservation Services Group (CSG) today hosted a dedication ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of two 82.8-kilowatt<sub>DC</sub> commercial solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that have been installed on the rooftops of two Connecticut BJ's Wholesale Clubs – the 80,160 square foot retail store in Derby and the 68,160 square foot retail store in Willimantic. The installations were made possible, in part, by a combined grant of \$742,000 from CCEF through its On-Site Renewable Distributed Generation Program. The balance of the system cost is being financed by the system developer and owner, Conservation Services Group (CSG).

The solar arrays in Derby and Willimantic, together covering nearly 16,000 square feet of roof space or one third the size of a football field, are the largest solar PV installations at retail sites in Connecticut and will have a measurable positive impact on the local environment. It is estimated that the environment will benefit from a combined reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the tune of about 86 tons per year, the equivalent of about 250 trees planted. The two systems will generate a total of approximately 180,000 kWh of electricity annually.

At the event, representatives from CCEF, BJ's Wholesale Club, and CSG were on hand to make remarks, as were State Senator Joseph Crisco, State Representative Linda Gentile and Derby Mayor Anthony Staffieri. Fifth graders from Bradley Elementary School in Derby also participated in the dedication ceremony.

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Lise Dondy, president of CCEF, stated, “The partnership of BJ’s Wholesale Club and Conservation Services Group is an excellent example of a growing trend, linking environmental stewardship with sound business practices. BJ’s will enjoy the benefits of energy cost control while CSG manages the operations and sells the clean power back to BJ’s. Connecticut as a whole benefits from the reduced peak load on the grid and greenhouse gas reduction. We expect to see many more installations taking place under this business model.”

“At BJ’s Wholesale Club, we believe that a comprehensive energy management plan must support energy efficiency, commodity purchasing strategies and the application of innovative and environmentally beneficial technologies such as renewable energy,” says Michael Pace, BJ’s Wholesale Club energy engineer. “Solar power partnerships like this one are an important component of BJ’s overall commitment to reducing energy consumption and preserving the environment for future generations.”

Wanda Reindorf, CSG’s chief financial officer and executive vice president, said, “For the past eight years, CSG and BJ’s have developed a successful partnership that has resulted in 14 PV installations throughout the Northeast. We hope to encourage the development of clean solar electric power, which benefits the environment, the demand on the grid and energy costs, everywhere. We applaud BJ’s for taking a prominent role in this important effort and hope other businesses take their lead.” In developing these two Connecticut-based solar PV projects for BJ’s, CSG also partnered with Energy Federation Incorporated, a distributor of energy efficiency and renewable energy products and an investor in the Derby and Willimantic BJ’s solar plants.

**About the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)**

CCEF was created by the Connecticut General Assembly and is administered by Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public organization. CCEF promotes the development and commercialization of clean energy technologies; the creation of clean energy supply; and the demand for electricity from clean, renewable sources in Connecticut in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. CCEF’s funding comes from a surcharge on electric ratepayers’ utility bills. For more information on CCEF, please visit [www.ctcleanenergy.com](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com).

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**About Connecticut Innovations, Inc.**

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is a quasi-public organization dedicated to driving a vibrant, entrepreneurial, technology-based economy in Connecticut. CI stimulates high-tech growth by investing in: early-stage Connecticut technology companies; university/industry research collaborations; technology transfer; and, clean energy initiatives through the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. CI also fosters collaboration among government, business, non-profit and academic organizations to advance technology growth and promotes public policies consistent with CI's mission. For more information on CI, please visit [www.ctinnovations.com](http://www.ctinnovations.com).

**About BJ's Wholesale Club**

Headquartered in Natick, Massachusetts, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. is a leading operator of warehouse clubs in the eastern United States. BJ's provides brand name food and merchandise at low wholesale prices to individual consumers and small businesses for resale and personal use. BJ's operates 173 wholesale clubs in 16 states in the eastern United States, from Maine to Florida. In 2006, net sales rose to \$8.3 billion. For more information about BJ's Wholesale Club, please visit [www.bjs.com](http://www.bjs.com).

**About Conservation Services Group**

CSG has evolved and expanded over the past two decades to meet the growing needs of our customers — public utilities, state and federal agencies, housing authorities, and independent commercial and industrial firms, as well as the residential consumer market. The organization was created to help businesses and consumers lower energy costs and use while increasing comfort, health, safety, and environmental protection. CSG's corporate philosophy is to provide cost-effective programs to ensure measurable and persistent energy savings for economic benefit, high customer participation rates, and effective customer education, satisfaction, and service. To achieve these goals, we are committed to employing the latest advancements in energy efficiency, technologies, and training; and to developing creative, efficient strategies for market penetration and service delivery. For more information about CSG, please visit [www.csgrp.com](http://www.csgrp.com).

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