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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***New Power of Change Award Celebrates CT's State Energy Efficiency Leaders***  
*University of Connecticut McMahon Dining Hall Earns First Honors Recognition*  
*for Innovative and Effective Efficiency Efforts*

HARTFORD, CT – April 9, 2013 – A total of seven state energy efficiency projects including the University of Connecticut were celebrated as models at the first annual Power of Change Award ceremony sponsored by the Common Sense Fund, the Hampshire Foundation, and the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation. The University of Connecticut's Office of Environmental Policy project team received the Power of Change Top Building Award.

Pictured (left to right) Sabina Shelby, Trustee, Hampshire Foundation, Mally Cox-Chapman, Philanthropy Advisor, Common Sense Fund, Dennis Pierce, Director of Dining Services, University of Connecticut, Richard Miller, Director, Office of Environmental Policy, University of Connecticut, Laura Dunn, Sustainability Coordinator, University of Connecticut, Paul Ferri, Environmental Compliance Analyst, University of Connecticut and Stewart Hudson, President, Tremaine Foundation were on hand to receive the award during a ceremony held today at the State Capitol.

"These seven Power of Change Award winners demonstrate the innovative ways Connecticut is meeting aggressive energy efficiency goals and are a promising example of how our state is taking an active role in driving a clean energy economy forward," said Stewart Hudson of the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, one of the three organizations funding and supporting the initiative. "We created the Power of Change Award as an opportunity to provide recognition and also encourage even more state and municipal leaders to make an important investment in their future. We believe it's important to celebrate success where it occurs—in this case good government practices that protect human health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and in the process help the Connecticut economy and save taxpayer dollars."

State agencies, facility managers and stakeholders entered projects in three award categories: the **Innovation Award**, designed to recognize new and effective ideas and approaches to achieve energy reduction through efficiency; the **Fast Track Award**, recognizing the agencies that got out front by aiming for higher levels of efficiency; and **Most Energy-Efficient Building Awards** for buildings associated with Connecticut-owned educational institutions and Court Houses.

Power of Change **Innovation Award** recipients include:

- *First honors:* **Southern Connecticut State University** for its team-based effort to reduce electricity use in nine residence halls.
- *Honorable mention:* **Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station** for its dual fuel burner installation.
- *Honorable mention:* **Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles** for its comprehensive approach to implementing projects in several buildings.

Power of **Change Fast Track Award** *first honors* was earned by Eastern Connecticut State University for the lighting control system upgrade at the J. Eugene Smith Library.

The Power of Change **Most Energy-Efficient Top Building Award**, recognizing spaces used for state general office, professional and administrative purposes, was given to:

- *First Honors:* University of Connecticut for its McMahon Dining Hall renovations.
- *First Honors:* Connecticut National Guard for its Enfield Armory HVAC controls, lighting upgrades and oil burner replacement.
- *Honorable Mention:* State of Connecticut Judicial Branch for the Middletown Courthouse Garage lighting retrofit project.

In making the award, Hudson also acknowledged and thanked the members of the 15-member committee of energy and conservation experts who judged the awards including: Alan Taylor, CT Board of Education; John Rathgeber, The Connecticut Business and Industry Association; Laurie Burt, former Commissioner for the Environment, Massachusetts; Bill Leahy, Eastern Connecticut State University; Bryan Garcia, Connecticut Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority; Mariella Puerto, Barr Foundation; KC Golden, Climate Solutions; Dudley Williams, GE Investments, and CT Science Center; Dr. Prabhakar Singh, UConn; Roger Smith, Clean Water Action, and Karen Brown, Fairfield County Community Foundation.

Today's Power of Change State Award program sets the stage for the Power of Change Municipal Awards program, which is currently open for submissions. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, May 21 in Hartford. More information, including entry eligibility for the municipal awards event is available by visiting [www.powerofchangeaward.org](http://www.powerofchangeaward.org)

### **About the Foundations**

The Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation is a family foundation that is active in education and programs related to learning disabilities such as dyslexia; support for contemporary visual art and marketplace empowerment for artists; and climate protection and the promotion of clean energy at a state and regional level in America. More information can be found by visiting [www.tremainefoundation.org](http://www.tremainefoundation.org).

The Hampshire Foundation focuses on two initiatives: Peru Opportunity Fund and [Lead by Example](#). More information is available by visiting [www.hampshirefoundation.org](http://www.hampshirefoundation.org).

The Common Sense Fund promotes action both on the environment and in the arts that is practical, creative, and addresses social needs. More information is available by visiting [www.commonsefund.org](http://www.commonsefund.org).

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