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New Group Supports the Advancement of Women in Wind Energy

Hinesburg, VT – The Vermont chapter of Women of Wind Energy (WoWE), a group that supports the advancement of women in the wind energy industry, sponsored five young women to attend the Vermont Renewable Energy Conference held last month at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center.

The Vermont chapter of WoWE, formed by employees of NRG Systems and Earth Turbines in April 2008, is one of twelve chapters in the United States and Canada and the first to develop a scholarship fund of this kind. As the result of an August fundraising luncheon, the Vermont chapter of WoWE raised enough money to sponsor five women: Danika Frisbie and Katie Emerson from Champlain Valley Union High School, and Heidi Caldwell, Martha Wales, and Kimberly Desautels from the University of Vermont.

Renewable Energy Vermont's 7th Annual Conference and Trade Show, entitled "A Bright Future for Vermont's Renewables," featured presentations and discussion on how Vermont can create a more sustainable and vibrant economy using renewable energy sources. The conference is the state's largest energy event and included more than 500 attendees and dozens of exhibitors.

"I so appreciated the opportunity to attend," said Kim Desautels. "I'm a big renewable energy advocate and this conference brought my knowledge of policy and technology to a much deeper level.

According to Suzanna Brown, chair of the Vermont WoWE chapter, the group is in its early stages of development.

"This is just the beginning," said Vermont Chair, Suzanna Brown. "But we have many ideas on how to bring more women into the industry and support those already here. Given our economy, we believe WoWE can play a vital role in providing career advancement in a growing industry."

For more information, please contact wowe-vt@googlegroups.com.

About the Women of Wind Energy

Women of Wind Energy (WoWE) is a nationwide organization located in Minneapolis, Minnesota that supports and encourages the participation and advancement of women in the wind energy industry. WoWE offers women entering or already in the wind energy field a variety of programs to foster their career development, including local WoWE chapters, an online mentoring program, the Rudd Mayer Memorial Sponsorship program for women in academic programs, and an annual networking luncheon. For more information, go to www.womenofwindenergy.org.

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