

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) Announces New Executive Director**

MONTPELIER, VT -- March 16, 2010 -- Renewable Energy Vermont (REV), a Montpelier-based nonprofit representing more than 300 energy companies, banks, law firms, colleges and others working in the growing sustainable energy field, announced Tuesday the hiring of longtime journalist Susan Allen as executive director.

"We are thrilled to have Sue join us at this juncture. Her reputation and connections as well her spirit will continue and expand our efforts to bring renewable energy to the fore," said Lawrence Mott, chairman of the REV Board of Directors.

Allen is well known in Vermont after serving as press secretary to Gov. Howard Dean for six years, and as host of the live television program "Call the Governor" with Gov. James Douglas on Vermont Public Television.

Allen started her journalism career at the then-fledgling USA TODAY in Arlington, Va., in 1982. She moved to the Burlington Free Press in 1986, and has worked as a reporter, columnist, editorial writer and editor at the Associated Press and the Barre-Montpelier Times Argus. She is also a frequent panelist on VPT's weekly "Vermont This Week."

While serving as Gov. Dean's press secretary, Allen was involved in the Dean administration's energy message and has covered energy issues extensively as a journalist and editor for many years.

Allen said the timing of the offer from REV was ideal, given the role of renewable energy as an increasingly critical part of the nation's energy mix and Vermont's potential to be a leader in the industry.

"REV is out front on the renewable energy movement in Vermont, communicating the vision, promoting good policy, sustainable choices, locally produced energy, and ensuring that Vermont attracts and keeps the high-paying jobs renewable energy generates," Allen said.

Renewable Energy Vermont represents all facets of the industry -- solar, wind, hydro, biomass, biofuel and geothermal.

"These are today's jobs with a very bright future," Allen said. They involve everything from research and development, engineering, construction, manufacturing, marketing, transmission, and more.

"Vermont's economy needs these jobs to attract bright, skilled employees; Vermont's environment needs clean energy to transition away from less benign power; Vermonters will benefit from the security of sustainable power produced close to home," Allen said.

REV has grown from a handful of members in 2001 to more than 300 located throughout the state, including several that are global leaders in their fields. REV has affected leading policy, most recently the nation's first cost based Feed-in Tariff.

The organization sponsors two key conferences annually, including the upcoming "Smart Grid Transition: Responding to the Clean Energy Mandate," scheduled for May 19 at the Equinox Resort in Manchester.

In addition, nearly 1000 people attend the organization's annual fall conference and expo, held at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington.

To sign up for the Smart Grid conference or for more information on becoming a REV member, visit [www.revermont.org](http://www.revermont.org)

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