



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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New Vision Takes Part in White House Event on Greening America's Congregations

October 1, 2012 – Philippi, WV - New Vision Renewable Energy is proud to be a part of the White House initiative to bring renewable energy solutions to the faith-based community. On September 13th, New Vision was invited to an event at the White House: **“Greening America's Congregations through Energy Efficiency.”** During this event, senior administration officials called on faith-based organizations across the country to save energy and strengthen stewardship of the environment by improving the energy efficiency of their houses of worship with help from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR program. The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships also announced a new national energy stewardship recognition initiative to this large, interfaith audience as it recognized the first 28 worship facilities to earn the ENERGY STAR.

As a result of this event, Ruston Seaman, President and CEO of New Vision, was invited to a meeting of leaders on behalf of The United Nations Foundation and Georgetown University's World Faiths Development Dialogue on October 2nd to bring 30 key religious and faith-inspired development leaders together to discuss issues related to energy access and development. The event will be held at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Seaman said, “New Vision is very excited to be working with churches and faith-based organizations developing energy efficient and renewable solutions that can help organizations here in the United States save money and better steward the precious resources they have as well as connecting groups here in the States to churches and faith-based organizations in the developing world and the 1.5 billion people who live without the benefits of electricity every day.”

As noted by the Foundation, “Development is impossible without energy; sustainable development is impossible without sustainable energy. And yet the links among energy access, development, and sustainability are often overlooked across key sectors, such as education, health, and agriculture. The imperative of bringing safe and sustainable energy solutions to the world's most marginalized communities is often downplayed in development dialogue and policy. Faith-inspired actors play a variety of roles in expanding access to reliable energy sources worldwide – including initiatives on cookstoves, solar energy, and power for irrigation, among many others – but their contributions are largely unmapped and unknown. This day-long workshop will bring together experts, faith leaders, and development practitioners to highlight the theological rationale for striving to reach universal energy access, current efforts and lessons learned from initiatives to alleviate energy poverty, and opportunities and challenges around faith-inspired action moving forward. Ultimately, the goal is to increase knowledge about faith-inspired action to contribute to informed policy and programming to help reach universal energy access by 2030 – the first of three objectives under the UN Secretary-General's **Sustainable Energy for All** initiative.”

ABOUT NEW VISION:

New Vision Renewable Energy is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization launched in Philippi, West Virginia on September 11, 2009 and is growing as a grassroots community-based organization working to *ReEnergize Communities* to implement renewable energy solutions in their own neighborhoods. New Vision is an educational and innovation movement focusing on applicable technologies within the emerging “green” economy and serve as a hub of collaborative discussion, training and invention bringing together green innovators, community leaders, youth, companies, organizations as well as public and private partners. Visit www.NVRE.org or find us on Facebook at New Vision Renewable Energy for more details. For more information, contact Pamela O'Brien at POBrien@NVRE.org.

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