

## **Boothbay Smart Grid Reliability Pilot Project To Start This Fall**

*Smart Grid Workshop Scheduled for Tues Sept. 11, 2012  
5-7 pm, at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens*

*Contact:*

*Rich Silkman – 772-6190*

*Steve Hinchman – 837-8637*

BOOTHBAY, ME (Aug. 31, 2012) – GridSolar, LLC, announced today that it will host a workshop in Boothbay on Sept. 11, 2012 to explain the upcoming *Boothbay Smart Grid Reliability Pilot Project* due to get underway this fall.

“The Maine Public Utilities Commission has designated the Boothbay peninsula as the location for a three-year pilot project to test whether we can improve the stability of the electric grid by making it *smarter*, instead of *larger*,” said Rich Silkman, managing member of GridSolar, which has been designated by the PUC to serve as the smart grid pilot project operator

GridSolar will issue a Request For Proposals this fall seeking bids from energy consumers and generators for up to 2,000 kW of smart grid projects that either reduce energy use or generate power within the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, and Southport the Boothbay region. Example smart grid projects include solar arrays, tidal or wind power, energy efficient lighting and cooling, load shifting, back up generation, primary generation, and energy storage.

Each qualified project must reduce the amount of power imported into the region at periods of peak use, such as hot summer afternoons.

“The Smart Grid Reliability Pilot Project should enable the Boothbay area to avoid the expense and problems created by new power line construction, while lowering energy costs and reducing pollution.” Silkman added.

To further explain the project, GridSolar will host a Workshop on September 11, from 5-7 p.m. at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens Education Center in Boothbay. The workshop will explain the project and introduce area business and institutions to energy service providers that can help them design qualifying proposals. Light refreshments will be served.

According to the Maine PUC order approving the pilot project, it is designed to test both the cost and the effectiveness of ensuring grid reliability using a range of smart grid solutions, including at least 250 kW each of energy efficiency, demand response, renewable distributed generation (at least half of which shall be photovoltaic solar energy), and non-renewable distributed generation (with preference given to resources with no net emissions of greenhouse gases). By reducing net loads in the project area by to 2,000 kW at periods of peak use, the Pilot project would help CMP avoid the need for an \$18 million rebuild of the 34.5 kV powerline from Newcastle to Boothbay.

For more information contact [info@gridsolar.com](mailto:info@gridsolar.com) or go to [www.gridsolar.com](http://www.gridsolar.com)