

***Conference brings together 22 Long Island businesses, 15 school districts, the DOE's EnergySmart Schools program, and local officials***

Central Islip, NY— Today, Rep. Steve Israel (D–Long Island) held a conference and expo on energy solutions for schools and municipalities. The event featured exhibits from 22 local businesses and organizations, and a presentation from the Department of Energy on the EnergySmart Schools program. Representatives from 15 school districts and municipalities attended.

“Many of our schools are from another era – a time when gas was cheap and we didn’t have energy efficient options. Now, with sky-high fuel prices and our aging infrastructure, we’re throwing away our tax dollars,” said Rep. Israel. “Our schools need an upgrade, which is why today we’re bringing together educators, businesses, local officials, and the Department of Energy. If we can work collectively on energy solutions for our schools, we’ll create new markets for advanced energy technologies, decrease our dependence on foreign oil and save Long Islanders money come tax time.”

“Congressman Israel’s Energy Task Force demonstrates an understanding that Long Island’s schools and municipalities play a vital role in helping to make the region more energy efficient and reduce energy costs,” said LIPA President and CEO Kevin S. Law. “It is imperative that we continue to work with government officials and businesses and civic leaders to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to relay the important message of clean and efficient energy to the next generation.”

At the conference, the Long Island Works Coalition unveiled Long Island’s first “Green Academy,” which will open in Central Islip High School. The Green Academy will be a comprehensive program for students to learn about going green within the context of their daily academic curriculum.

“Long Island Works is pleased to announce the start of a Green Career Academy in the Central Islip school district,” said Cheryl Davidson of Long Island Works. “With the support of Congressman Israel and ‘green’ businesses, we will be preparing students for the broad scope of careers within this high growth industry.”

A recent survey of 17 Long Island school districts conducted by Rep. Israel and National Grid found:

- Only one school district is using some form of alternative energy
- Only 16% of school districts are using the most efficient forms of fluorescent lighting
- 45% of the water heaters are more than 30 years old
- Twelve districts are planning to renovate or build a new building

Rep. Israel is leading the fight in Congress to “green” U.S. schools. He has authored legislation

to provide federal matching funds for schools that make investments in energy efficient or renewable energy technologies. Earlier this year, Rep. Israel also supported the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 3021), which passed in the House of Representatives. The bill includes over \$557 million for physical improvement projects for New York's schools, and creates more than 9,400 jobs across the state. It also authorizes \$6.4 billion for school renovation and modernization projects for fiscal year 2009, and would ensure that school districts quickly receive funds for projects that improve schools' teaching and learning climates, health and safety, and energy efficiency. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water.

Businesses and organizations participating in the expo included: American Ecotech Corp, BBS Architects and Engineers P.C., City Energy Services, ECG Engineering LLC, Energy Efficient Solutions, Global Emission Exchange, Greater Long Island Clean Cities Coalition, Green Academy, Green Diesel Solutions, LI Green, LI Solar Energy Industries Assoc., Long Island Power Authority, Long Island Works Coalition, LVL Inc., Metro Green Visions Inc., Motorworks Clean Vehicles, National Grid, SeeVision Technologies Inc., T.M.Bier Associates/Quinn and Feiner Service, Therma Steel Systems, Neighborhood Network, SIERRA club.

School districts in attendance included: Sachem, South Huntington, Harborfields, East Meadow, Copiague, Plainview, Half Hollow Hills, Smithtown, Plainview- Old Bethpage, Hauppauge, Farmingdale, Connetquot, Central Islip, and Deer Park.