

Forty businesses participate in conference to examine new energy technologies being developed and produced on Long Island

Farmingdale, NY— Wednesday, Rep. Steve Israel (D–Long Island) held a conference on next generation energy solutions for the building industry. Rep. Israel, along with the U.S. Green Building Council Long Island Chapter, the Long Island Buildings Institute, Inc., and representatives from 40 Long Island companies, discussed new technologies for green building efforts that are now being developed on Long Island.

“Today, more than 40 businesses came together to showcase the next generation in green building. By 2010, green building construction will be worth \$60 billion a year,” said Rep. Israel. “With new energy efficient building technologies being produced and distributed right here on Long Island, we’re on track to become the new ‘green capital’ of America. Continuing these efforts will help our economy, help end our dependence on foreign oil, and help us all to live and work in cleaner, greener spaces.”

John Barrows, President of the Long Island Building Institute’s Green Long Island Home Council, said, “The Long Island building community has been at the forefront of the energy efficiency and green building movements thanks to events such as the conference Congressman Israel is hosting. Green building makes sense for the builder as well as for the customer and events such as these play a vital role in maintaining the flow of information necessary to keep everyone current on the latest developments.”

“The U.S. Green Building Council-Long Island Chapter is proud to sponsor and participate in Rep. Israel’s Next Generation Energy Solutions Expo,” said Art Desin, Vice-Chairman of the organization. “We look forward to working together to reduce our country’s energy consumption and dependence on foreign oil. Together we can build a better Long Island through sustainable design in our homes, schools and places of work. And we stand with Rep. Israel in facing the energy challenges of the twenty first century with solutions that work for all.”

According to the U.S. Green Building Council, in the United States buildings alone account for 72 percent of electricity consumption, 39 percent of energy use, and 38 percent of all carbon dioxide emissions. A Greening of Corporate America SmartMarket report says that by 2009, 80% of corporate America is expected to be engaged in green efforts at least 16% of the time, and 20% will be engaged in green efforts 60% of the time.

Earlier this year, Rep. Israel successfully pushed to pass production and investment tax credit extensions for businesses to implement renewable and energy efficient technologies. Rep. Israel also introduced and supported legislation to provide federal aid for schools to upgrade their energy efficiency. For 2008, Rep. Israel successfully fought against President Bush’s \$238 million budget cut for renewable energy programs, and he secured an additional \$248 million in funding for the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.