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National 3iAward Winners and Energy Heroes Honored by IREC at Solar Power International

See the **pictures** from the event!

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(Salt Lake City, UT) — Today at an awards ceremony, the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) honored the winners of its annual 3iAwards, a prestigious national search for best of 2019 in Innovation, Ingenuity and Inspiration in renewable energy and energy efficiency. IREC's 2019 Energy Heroes also were honored.



Youth Climate Activist Haven Coleman with former Vice President Al Gore

"I can make a whole room go silent," said 13-year-old IREC Energy Hero Haven Coleman. "At school I can't do that, but at a utilities board, I can."

Just back from the U.N. youth climate summit in New York, and featured on MSNBC, the Denver-based climate activist addressed award ceremony attendees with an impassioned plea: "I want adults to start acting to enact the system changes that are needed," said Haven. "I want them to fight climate change and stop the worst effects of it, so I can go back to being a kid."

Haven has been at it since she was 10.

Inspired by Greta Thunberg and the youth climate movement in Europe and Australia, she co-founded the equivalent in the U.S., the US Youth Climate Strike. Her work caught the attention of former Vice President Al Gore, who invited her to be part of his "24 Hours of Reality" project, a day of television programming centered on climate change.

"Our 3iAward winners and IREC Energy Heroes represent the nation's most extraordinary people, projects and programs, creating replicable solutions to today's complex renewable energy and energy efficiency challenges, one state and one community at a time," said IREC Board Chairman Larry Shirley. "Our honorees exemplify the higher goals we need to

achieve to make a clean energy future possible, and they are changing our national energy landscape in the process."



L-R: Ken Jurman, IREC Board of Directors; Bethany Shehan, Home Builders Institute; Haven Coleman, youth climate activist; Mark Pruitt, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; Philip Haddix, The Solar Foundation; Philip Kwiat, Fellowship Energy; Dave Jensen, Fellowship Energy; Larry Shirley, IREC Board Chair

IREC's 3iAward winners for Best of 2019 include:

Fellowship Energy for Best Community Shared Renewables Project

Most of the half-million faith-based properties in the U.S. have been widely excluded from the renewable energy revolution, as traditional financing methods are not suitable to provide clean energy technologies to these entities. Fellowship Energy created an innovative financing solution so these properties could go solar without upfront costs.



The financing model brings best practices and credit enhancement tools from other economic sectors to religious organizations and other non-profits. It enables them to reduce expenditures on utility bills so they can dedicate more funds to their higher mission.

Environment California and CA Senate President pro Tempore Emeritus Kevin deLeón for State Policy Champions

In 2017, Dan Jacobson, state director for Environment California, and California State Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, created a plan for a lasting renewable energy legacy for the state. Two years later, that plan emerged as SB 100, the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, putting the state on its path to generate 100 percent of its electricity from clean sources by 2045; 60 percent from renewables by 2030. After the passage of SB 100, New Mexico and Washington State followed suit, passing similar bills into law. Environment America is working to win 100% clean energy bills in nine more states.



SolSmart for best State and Local Government Initiative (a shared award):

The Solar Foundation and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus & Greenest Region Compact

SolSmart is a national designation program recognizing communities that make it faster, easier and more affordable to go solar. Led by The Solar Foundation (along with the International City/County Management Association), SolSmart was created in 2016 and

now boasts more than 275 cities, counties and towns that have achieved the SolSmart designation.



The SolSmart program — funded by the U.S. Department of Energy — offers no-cost expertise and technical assistance, inspiring momentum in city and county governments to improve local solar processes, while reducing associated “soft costs” for developers and ultimately consumers.

One of the initiatives of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, representing the Chicago region's 275 cities, towns and villages, is the Greenest Region Compact (GRC), which now includes 119 municipalities and two counties, serving at least six million residents in the greater Chicago area. Consensus goals of the GRC support mayors in their role as environmental leaders. Through its work as a SolSmart advisor, the Caucus led 35 local governments to earn the SolSmart designation, more than any other state.



To further accelerate clean energy adoption, the caucus created Community Solar Clearinghouse Solutions (CS2), an innovative collaborative purchasing pool to subscribe hundreds of public facilities to community solar assets.

Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development for IREC Accredited Provider of the Year

The Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development operates the Ohio Weatherization Training Center (OWTC) in Athens, which provides affordable, effective training that enables weatherization agencies to offer quality services to low-income Ohio residents. More than 14,000 students have attended OWTC custom training courses on state-of-the-art building diagnostic, weatherization and heating systems. The training center is also a testing facility for the Building Performance Institute.



In the past years, 187 classes were provided. Students and professionals included private contractors, utilities, community colleges, staff from affordable housing, environmental and energy conservation non-profits, and other training organizations.

2019 IREC Energy Heroes

Haven Coleman
Home Builders Institute /Job Corps
Jane Pulaski

Home Builders Institute /Job Corps

There are an estimated 4 million at-risk youth in America — 16- to 24-year-olds who are neither in school nor working. At the same time, there is a shortage of skilled, qualified solar workers.

The potential for clean energy jobs to pave a pathway out of poverty is long recognized, but a mismatch between training and jobs has led to frustratingly low employment outcomes.

Through an innovative partnership, HBI and IREC developed a solar-specific, employer-recognized certification focused on residential rooftop PV safety and weather proofed installation of structural components. Now a national model designed to bridge the gap between at-risk youth and solar jobs, the solar training-to-jobs pipeline is based on hands-on, experiential training and valid credentials, both aligned with solar sector employer needs.

HBI has partnered with JobCorps for more than 40 years to prepare and place young people in building industry careers — committed to changing lives for the diverse populations it serves.



Jane Pulaski

Calling her a beloved ambassador for solar, IREC's own Jane Pulaski, fondly known as JP, was honored for 27 years of passionately impacting our clean energy future. An integral member of the IREC communications team for nearly three decades, she plans to retire at the end of the year.

Jane is most comfortable with supporting those on stage. She is often quietly in the background. She makes sure that news is noteworthy and other people get to take their bows. Yesterday, she was among those applauded as an IREC Energy Hero – a full standing ovation spotlight she richly deserves.



"I would say with certainty that Jane Pulaski is one of the most loved people in the solar energy field," said Jane Weissman, former president and CEO of IREC, who worked with JP for most of those 27 years. "People are the foundation for change. Jane Pulaski is also a pillar."

Tagged with: CA Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, Corporation for Appalachian Development, Environment California, Fellowship Energy, Greenest Region Compact, Haven Coleman, Home Builders Institute Job Corps, IREC 2019 3iAwards, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, SolSmart, the Solar Foundation

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