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## Zero Energy Home Powers Up in Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HADLEY, MA:** Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECO), one of the first utility companies to take part in the U.S. Department of Energy's Building America Zero Energy Home (ZEH) program, announces the completion of its first ZEH home under this initiative.



The home features innovative energy saving strategies, a solar electric system, and a solar hot water system, and is part of a research and development study that will highlight the benefits of ZEH to the utility company, the homeowner, and the environment. Steven Winter Associates, Inc. has partnered with WMECO to provide energy modeling and monitoring services for the ZEH initiative.

This two-story, four bedroom home demonstrates energy-efficient construction, a solar electric (photovoltaic, or PV) system, a solar hot water system, energy-efficient appliances and lighting, and ideal solar orientation--all of which reduce energy demands. The PV modules are rated at 2.6 kW and are made by Evergreen Solar, a Massachusetts PV manufacturer. So far, data collected from the occupied home is yielding encouraging results: the PV system is providing 150% of the home's electricity needs.

WMECO hopes to use the energy and fossil fuel savings data collected over the next two years as the basis for a larger-scale ZEH effort in the region. During the monitoring period, WMECO will begin designing a program to provide incentives for homes striving for the ZEH goal, a goal that goes above and beyond efficient appliances and PVs. Come see the future—a house that approaches zero net energy use--on Monday, July 19, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM, at 133 Mount Warner, Hadley, Massachusetts. For more information contact Robb Aldrich at [raldrich@swinter.com](mailto:raldrich@swinter.com).

*Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is an architecture, engineering, and building systems research and consulting firm with offices in Norwalk, Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; and New York City. SWA specializes in energy-performance analysis, sustainable materials specification, indoor air quality, accessibility, technology transfer, and event management. Information on this and other projects is available on the SWA website: [www.swinter.com](http://www.swinter.com).*

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