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**EPA RECOGNIZES STERLING PLANET WITH A GREEN POWER LEADERSHIP AWARD  
NATIONAL AWARDS HONOR LEADING GREEN POWER SUPPLIERS**

**Sterling Planet, the nation's leading retail provider of certified renewable energy, has received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2012 Green Power Supplier of the Year Award. Sterling Planet accepted the award on behalf of its clients, whose leadership in sustainable energy over the past 11 years has avoided 73 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, creating benefits for the environment, supporting the economy and increasing America's energy independence.**

**ATLANTA, Sept. 27, 2012** -- Sterling Planet announced today that it has received a 2012 Green Power Leadership Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The annual awards recognize the country's leading green power suppliers for their commitment and contribution to helping advance the development of the nation's voluntary green power market. EPA presented Sterling Planet with the award at an event held this week in conjunction with the 2012 Renewable Energy Markets Conference in Washington, DC.

The Green Power Supplier of the Year Award recognizes green power providers for outstanding efforts, initiatives and programs that significantly advance the development of green power sources.



"Sterling Planet proudly receives this prestigious award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency," said Mel Jones, President and CEO of Sterling Planet. "We accept the award on behalf of our clients, the true heroes who are embracing renewable energy and growing this market. Thanks to our clients, we have been able to deliver tens of billions of renewable energy kilowatt-hours since January 2001, when we first offered renewable energy certificates (RECs) to retail customers coast-to-coast."

These REC sales have avoided approximately 73 billion pounds of carbon dioxide emissions, resulting in an environmental benefit that compares to taking 6.5 million cars off the road for a year, while also creating revenue to support green power projects and bring more green power into service.

Green power is electricity that is generated from environmentally preferable renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, biogas, biomass and low-impact hydro. These resources generate electricity with a net zero increase in carbon dioxide emissions, while offering a superior environmental profile compared to traditional power generation sources. Green power purchases also support the development of new renewable energy generation sources nationwide.

"EPA is pleased to recognize Sterling Planet with a Green Power Supplier of the Year award for its leadership in offering voluntary renewable energy to customers," said Gina McCarthy, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. "By accelerating the development of new renewable energy capacity nationwide, Sterling Planet is helping to reduce the carbon footprints of households and businesses across the country."

On the "buy" side in the voluntary green power markets, Sterling Planet provides large volumes of RECs from diverse renewable energy projects nationwide to the nation's leading green power purchasers. The company delivers more than 5 billion renewable energy kilowatt-hours annually to members of the EPA Green Power Partnership, including the top three largest purchasers in the Partnership. Sterling Planet serves additional sustainability-minded businesses, colleges and universities, and other organizations that opt to purchase renewable energy. Sterling Planet also partners with electric utilities to deliver green power to their customers, provides RECs to help businesses earn LEED green building certification and supplies environmental assets to offset the environmental impacts of major events.

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On the “sell” side, Sterling Planet has marketing agreements with more than 800 renewable energy projects nationwide. The diverse RECs portfolio includes wind, solar, small or low-impact hydro, biomass and landfill-gas-to-energy projects. Sterling Planet brings revenue to generators to help them finance new green power project development and keep existing projects financially viable. Source projects include large, utility-scale generators, as well as smaller community-based projects that create additional benefits for local economies and citizens.

Sterling Planet reinvests revenue from sales into projects that help bring new renewable energy and carbon reduction projects into service, partnering with leading environmental nonprofit organizations such as the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Clean Air Council.

Sterling Planet also is a renewable generator in its own right. The company developed a large 240 kW solar project in Valdosta, Ga., that supplies Georgia Power Company’s voluntary green pricing program. More than 100 MWh of additional renewable power generating capacity is also under development at sites nationwide by a sister company, Sterling Energy Assets.

Committed to the “triple bottom line” of social, environmental and economic sustainability, Sterling Planet continues to support causes that use renewable energy as a vehicle for improving the human condition and delivering economic opportunity without environmental impact. For example, Sterling Planet has a record of donating solar panels and staff resources to bring electricity and opportunity to the economically disadvantaged in places such as Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda.

#### **About Sterling Planet**

Sterling Planet leads the nation in retail sales of renewable energy certificates (RECs) and provides a comprehensive portfolio of carbon-reduction assets – RECs, carbon offsets and innovative White Tags® energy efficiency certificates. Since 2001, the Atlanta-based company has been a pioneer in early development and certification of the REC market, marketing RECs to retail clients nationwide in both the voluntary and compliance markets. This year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ranks Sterling Planet No. 1 in terms of renewable kWh provided to members of the EPA Green Power Partnership, with more than 5 billion kWh delivered annually to Partnership members, including the top three largest purchasers. [www.sterlingplanet.com](http://www.sterlingplanet.com)

#### **About EPA’s Green Power Partnership**

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that encourages organizations to buy green power as a way to reduce the environmental impacts associated with purchased electricity use. The Partnership currently has more than 1,300 Partner organizations collectively purchasing billions of kilowatt-hours of green power annually. Partners include a wide variety of leading organizations such as Fortune 500® companies, small and medium sized businesses, local, state, and federal governments, and colleges and universities. For additional information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>.

#### **About the Green Power Leadership Awards**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) co-sponsors the annual Green Power Leadership Awards in conjunction with the Center for Resource Solutions. EPA recognizes winners in the following awards categories: Green Power Partner of the Year; On-site Generation; Green Power Purchasing; Sustained Excellence in Green Power; Green Power Community of the Year; Green Power Supplier of the Year; and Innovative Green Power Program of the Year. EPA’s Green Power Purchaser awards recognize the exceptional achievement among EPA Green Power Partners who distinguish themselves through green power procurement, market leadership, overall green power strategy, and overall impact on the green power market. EPA’s Green Power Supplier awards recognize green power suppliers for outstanding efforts, initiatives and programs that significantly advance the development of green power sources serving the voluntary market. The Awards are held in conjunction with the Renewable Energy Markets Conference. For additional information please visit <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/awards/>.