



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NRG Energy Receives White House Coastal America Partnership Award Company teamed with government agencies and local groups on North Deer Island restoration**

**PRINCETON, NJ, December 8, 2009**—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) has received the White House Coastal America Partnership Award for the Company's support of the North Deer Island restoration project. The award recognizes outstanding partnerships that make a significant contribution toward the restoration and protection of our Nation's coastal environment. It is the only environmental award of its kind given by the President of the United States.

The North Deer Island shoreline restoration project was the result of a collaborative effort between Federal, state, and local governments as well as nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, to stabilize nearly two miles of shoreline that was once rapidly eroding—ensuring the long-term protection of the most important colonial waterbird rookery on the upper Texas coast. As a result of the effort, nesting and foraging sites for tens of thousands of waterbirds from nineteen species will be sustained for years to come. This restoration project has been instrumental in the Brown Pelican's recovery in Galveston Bay and it has been removed from the endangered species list.

NRG donated the smooth cord grass plants used to reduce erosion and as a wildlife habitat in the North Deer Island restoration. The cord grass was grown at the NRG's EcoCenter in Chambers County near Baytown, Texas. Over the past five years, the Company has donated 17,000 plants to the cause and employees have also joined other volunteers to help plant the grass at North Deer Island.

"NRG is proud to receive this award for our efforts to support the North Deer Island restoration and the diverse wildlife that relies on the health of this island," said Kevin Howell, President of NRG Texas. "This restoration project is a perfect example of what we can do when we combine our employees' spirit of community and our resources with the collective strengths of Federal, Texas and local groups."

NRG was the only private sector company recognized with the Coastal America Partnership Award. The government and nongovernmental organizations also receiving the award were Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Texas Coastal Program, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Federal Aid, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Gulf of Mexico Program, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Coastal Fisheries, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Infrastructure, Texas General Land Office, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, Houston Audubon Society, and the Galveston Bay Foundation.

#### **About NRG and the EcoCenter**

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, the Company's power

plants provide more than 24,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to supply more than 20 million homes. NRG’s retail business, Reliant Energy, serves more than 1.6 million residential, business, commercial and industrial customers in Texas. A past recipient of the energy industry’s highest honors—Platts Industry Leadership and Energy Company of the Year awards, NRG is a member of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of business and environmental organizations calling for mandatory legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More information is available at [www.nrgenergy.com](http://www.nrgenergy.com) or [www.nrg-econrg.com](http://www.nrg-econrg.com).

NRG’s EcoCenter is a wetland plant nursery and educational outreach facility. It has 23 earthen ponds, 6 shallow above ground ponds, a greenhouse, a 30-seat classroom, and a laboratory. The EcoCenter grows native trees and raises plants for wetland and dune restoration and donates approximately 30,000 plants annually for restoration efforts.

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