



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRG Energy Awards Academic Scholarships

PRINCETON, NJ; August 21, 2012—NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG) awarded the second annual NRG Howard Cosgrove Scholarship to four outstanding college-bound students, all children of current NRG employees. The scholarship awards \$50,000 to each recipient, paid out in amounts up to \$12,500 per year and is awarded solely on the basis of exemplary academic and non-academic achievement.

"All of us at NRG have reason to be very proud of this second class of Cosgrove scholars and of all the aspiring college students around the Company that they represent," said David Crane, NRG President and CEO. "We also have reason to be proud that all of the hard work done around the Company has funded the scholarships that will ease the expensive path to academic achievement for these four very deserving recipients."

Three of the students live in the Houston area, and the fourth in New Jersey. They are:

- Neel Bhan, whose father Rommel works in the Information Technology group in Houston. Neel, a resident of Katy, graduated from Cinco Ranch High School and plans to major in biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin. He tutored younger students in math, competed in Academic Decathlon and completed an internship at the MD Anderson Cancer Center.
- Taylor Evans, whose father Sidney works in the sales group at Reliant in Houston. In high school, Taylor was a member of the National Honor Society and captain of the Repertory Dance Ensemble. She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and lives in Sugar Land, where she graduated from Episcopal High School.
- Andrew Nemec, whose father Keith works in our Plant Operations group in Houston. Andrew was class valedictorian at St. Thomas High School and is an Eagle Scout. He plans to attend Texas A&M and study math, engineering, or computer science. He lives in Friendswood.
- Bethany Holtz, whose father John directs sales for Green Mountain Energy Company's Northeast region. Bethany was president of Moorestown Friends School's Environmental Club and captain of the Envirothon Team, in addition to running cross country and track. She lives in Medford Lakes, NJ and will be attending Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

The NRG Howard Cosgrove Scholarship is named after the Company's chairman of the board in recognition of his lifetime of support for educational organizations. Cosgrove has served as chair of the United Negro College Fund Annual Campaign of Delaware, on the Delaware State School Board, and Chair of the Board of Trustees for the University of Delaware.

The winners were chosen on the basis of merit by the NRG Howard Cosgrove Scholarship Committee, a select group of prominent leaders in the areas of education, philanthropy and private industry. Seated on this year's committee are: Nancy Kieling, President & Executive Director, Princeton Area Community Foundation; Jason Klugman, Director, Princeton University Preparatory Program; Barbara Byrne, Vice Chairman, Barclays; and Holly Burks Becker, Director of College Counseling, Lawrenceville School.

About NRG

NRG is at the forefront of changing how people think about and use energy. A Fortune 500 company, NRG is a pioneer in developing cleaner and smarter energy choices for our customers: whether as one of the largest solar power developers in the country, or by building the first privately funded electric vehicle charging infrastructure or by giving customers the latest smart energy solutions to better manage their energy use. Our diverse power generating facilities can support more than 20 million homes and our retail electricity providers – Reliant, Green Mountain Energy Company and Energy Plus – serve more than two million customers. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

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