

**Solaqua and Clearwater Host Chatham Middle School Students
for “ECO-POWER” -- *Hands-On Learning Program***

*“Tower of Power”-- Students Witness the Process of Converting Wind, Sun and Water into
Renewable Energy*

Chatham, NY – Monday, May 18, 2009-- On Wednesday, May 20, 2009, nearly 100 fifth grade students from Chatham Middle School will make a special visit to Solaqua Power & Art, a project under development to rehabilitate the former Columbia Box Board Mill site on Route 295 for reuse as a green business incubator and arts center powered with renewable energy technologies, to take part in “ECO-POWER” a renewable energy program presented in conjunction with Hudson River Sloop Clearwater in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. This program is funded by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and the Chatham Education Foundation.

While at Solaqua Power & Art, visiting fifth graders will be introduced to the “Tower of Power,” a solar demonstration model that uses a number of devices demonstrating solar, wind, and water-power, and principles of energy generation central to the Solaqua project. Solaqua and Clearwater will conduct an interactive classroom presentation on “Introduction to Solar Power” using the “Tower of Power” for demonstrations and hands-on learning. In June Clearwater will work with the same students and offer a Tideline Discovery Program at the Hudson River shoreline in Catskill.

“We’re excited to be working with Clearwater and Chatham Middle School to offer a dynamic hands-on learning opportunity as part of our ongoing educational outreach program,” says Jody Rael, President and Founder, Solaqua Power & Art. “Students will learn about the actual process of converting wind, sun and water into renewable energy.”

The idea for this program began in November 2007 when Eli Schloss, Director of the Tideline Discovery Education Program for Clearwater, approached Solaqua Power and Art to collaborate in creating a school program. The goal was to teach about the food web, river ecology, and the environment, as well as renewable energy principals and also meet New York State learning standards and activities for both classroom and site-based project learning.

The program is made possible by a grant awarded to Solaqua Power & Art and Clearwater by the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and the Chatham Education Foundation, which is providing funding to support the Clearwater classroom and shoreline programs for the Chatham Middle School. Solaqua Power & Art is donating the matching funds.

Solaqua’s mission is to integrate renewable energy and the arts, and promote a sustainable future through community education and revitalization. Focusing primarily on the development of “green collar jobs,” SunDog Solar @ Solaqua, the first renewable energy business, was launched in 2006. For more information visit www.solaqua.org and www.sundogsolar.net.

The Chatham Education Foundation (CEF) founded in 2002, supports projects that enrich and supplement learning within the Chatham public schools. The goal of the foundation is to ensure support for innovation and creativity that would not otherwise be available through the regular school budget. CEF has awarded \$100,000 to more than 45 projects in the past six years.

Funding for the ECO-Power program was made possible by the Alexander M. White Fund, a memorial fund named for Sandy White, former Chatham School Board President.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is a not-for-profit, member-supported organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the Hudson River while creating the next generation of environmental leaders. Since the 1969 launch of the sloop *Clearwater*, more than half a million school age children and countless adults have experienced their first real look at an estuary's ecosystem in an—fish, invertebrates, water chemistry and ecological principals—aboard this world-renowned "floating classroom." This year Clearwater's environmental education programs will serve more than 15,000 students.

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