



# GREENPOWER PERSPECTIVES



A New Voice in New England's Clean Energy Future

## GREEN WINTERFEST: BOSTON'S FIRST SUSTAINABLE WINTER GAMES



Get ready for a green winter event unlike anything Boston has ever seen. On Saturday, December 13, 2025, Boston City Hall Plaza will come alive as it transforms into a competitive winter arena powered entirely by clean energy. This is Green Winterfest, the city's first sustainable winter games, where competition meets creativity and renewable energy takes center stage in the most exciting way imaginable.

From noon to 7:00 PM, teams from across the Commonwealth will face off in twelve one-of-a-kind winter challenges designed to entertain, inspire, and ignite a sense of community. Every snowball thrown, every light that shines, and every sound that fills the air will be powered by renewable energy, turning the plaza into a living showcase of what a clean energy future looks like.

Competitors will take on challenges like the **Blind Blizzard Run**, where teammates navigate obstacles relying only on each other's voices. The **Velcro Snowball Fight** will have teams capturing flags while dodging snowballs, and the **Glow Tug of War Championship** will test pure strength under the plaza lights. The **Winter Relay Race** and the **Sled Push Relay** will bring speed and teamwork to the forefront, while the **Frozen T-Shirt Race** will offer a hilarious test of determination as teams race to thaw and wear frozen shirts. For those with a steady hand, there is the **Snowball Accuracy Challenge**, the **Hockey Puck Accuracy Shot**, and the **Archery Contest**, each testing precision and focus. Creativity takes center stage in the **Clean Energy Circuit Challenge**, where participants use recyclable materials to build a light-up display powered by their imagination. The **Renewable Energy Trivia Tower** will test teams' sustainability knowledge as they compete to build the tallest tower of success. And as the sun sets, the **Glow in the Dark Free Throw Contest** will keep the competition shining.

The excitement does not stop there. The **Celebrity Challenge Station** will bring local mayors, athletes, and TV personalities face to face with company teams in friendly head-to-head competitions that promise plenty of laughs and unforgettable moments.

Between events, attendees can explore the Sustainability Vendor Village, where companies and will be selling all kinds of amazing sustainable gifts and items. Heated lounges will provide a place to relax, while Boston's favorite food trucks will keep everyone fueled. Live performances by Sustainable Sounds will bring rhythm and warmth to the plaza, creating an atmosphere that is both electric and inspiring.

Green Winterfest represents the next chapter in the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition's mission to make clean energy tangible and exciting. After the success of Clean Energy Weeks across Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, this event takes the conversation out of conference rooms and into the heart of the city, showing that sustainability can be joyful, competitive, and deeply human.

Admission is free, making it an ideal event for families, students, companies, and community members alike. Sponsors and teams are invited to take part in the action through team competitions, vendor booths, and other partnership opportunities that place them at the center of Boston's newest tradition in sustainability.

Boston will not just host another event. It will make history. Green Winterfest will be the day clean energy becomes something you can see, feel, and cheer for. It is a celebration of innovation, community, and the future we are building together.

# FEATURE STORY: HURRICANE MELISSA

## A CALL FOR RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE

At the end of October, the Caribbean faced one of the most powerful and destructive storms in modern history. Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica as a Category 5 hurricane, with sustained winds near 175 miles per hour and record-breaking rainfall. The storm has already been called the most intense in Jamaica's recorded history, leaving widespread destruction, severe flooding, and millions without power or communications.

The storm's slow, punishing path across the island caused catastrophic infrastructure collapse. Homes, hospitals, and schools have been devastated. Communications are still down across much of the country, and recovery efforts are only just beginning.

While the world watches, the clean energy community is already stepping in to help. One of the most inspiring responses comes from **Footprint Project**, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing cleaner energy infrastructure for communities in crisis.

Yesterday, as the storm approached, Footprint Project's team in New Orleans worked around the clock to prepare a shipment of over 150 portable solar and battery power stations, valued at more than \$100,000, for immediate deployment to Jamaica. Their Senior Operations Manager personally drove the equipment from New Orleans to Jacksonville, Florida, where it will be loaded onto a cargo plane bound for Jamaica as soon as airports reopen.

At the same time, the organization's pre-positioned mobile microgrid systems in the Caribbean are being coordinated for deployment from Puerto Rico and Barbados. Working closely with partners at the World Food Programme, Direct Relief, LIFT Non-Profit Logistics, and the Jamaica Renewable Energy Association, Footprint Project is ensuring that sustainable energy reaches those who need it most.

This kind of response represents the best of what renewable energy can do. Solar power and battery storage are not only clean and efficient, they are resilient and deployable in emergencies where traditional systems fail. They bring light where there is darkness, power where there is isolation, and hope where it is needed most.

As the Northeast Renewable Energy Coalition continues to advocate for resilience and clean energy adoption across New England, we stand in solidarity with our partners working on the ground. Hurricane Melissa is a tragic reminder that the stakes of climate resilience are real, and that sustainable solutions must be part of both our mitigation and response strategies.

For those who wish to support the recovery effort, Footprint Project is accepting both financial and equipment donations to sustain their deployment and help communities rebuild with cleaner energy systems.

#### How to Help:

- Donate: Support logistics, staff time, and deployment costs at [footprintproject.org](https://footprintproject.org).
- In-Kind Donations: The team is prioritizing turn-key renewable power, water, and shelter technologies for rapid shipment. Contact [give@footprintproject.org](mailto:give@footprintproject.org) to contribute.
- Volunteer: Sign up for future deployment opportunities at [footprintproject.org/volunteer](https://footprintproject.org/volunteer).

This storm is a sobering reminder that resilience begins with readiness, community, and innovation. Footprint Project's work is proof that clean energy is not just about reducing emissions. It is about saving lives when it matters most.

Our thoughts are with the people of Jamaica, and our gratitude goes to everyone helping them rebuild stronger and more sustainably.



## NEWS CORNER



### Advocates Urge Massachusetts Lawmakers to Adopt Clean-Energy Bills

Environmental and consumer advocates testified before the Massachusetts legislature pushing for legislation to enhance rooftop solar, distributed-energy resources, and community clean-energy programs. The article emphasizes policy momentum at the state level and the importance of passing key bills to unlock further clean-energy deployment.

[environmentamerica.org](https://www.environmentamerica.org)



### States Rush to Support Clean Energy as Federal Pull-back Grows

In Massachusetts and other states, solar farms, community-solar programs and rooftop-solar initiatives are gaining increased state-level momentum. Meanwhile, federal support appears to be scaling back, prompting states to fill the gap. The story describes an era of state-driven clean energy programs, rather than purely federal-led.

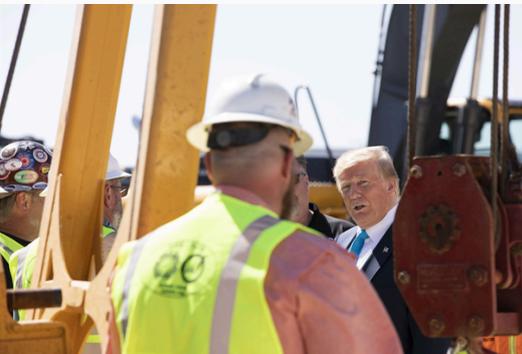
[thenewlede.org](https://www.thenewlede.org)



### Rhode Island AFL-CIO sues U.S. Environmental Protection Agency over termination of Solar for All program

A coalition including the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, homeowners, solar installation companies and nonprofits has filed a federal lawsuit in Providence, Rhode Island, alleging that the EPA unlawfully rescinded some \$7 billion in grants meant to help low- and moderate-income households install solar systems. The cancelled program was originally projected to generate up to 200,000 new clean-energy jobs nationally and save participating households hundreds of millions of dollars in energy costs.

[vermontpublic.org](https://www.vermontpublic.org)



### U.S. Clean-Energy Investment Slumps: \$24 B Lost, 21,000 Jobs Shed

According to the E2 Clean Economy Tracker, the U.S. has lost over \$24 billion in announced clean-energy investment and about 21,000 jobs in the first nine months of 2025. Many of these losses are in jurisdictions led by Democratic administrations. The article underscores the economic consequence of policy shifts and uncertainty in the sector.

[pv-magazine-usa.com](https://www.pv-magazine-usa.com)

“WE ARE NOT WAITING FOR PERMISSION TO LEAD. WE ARE BUILDING THE CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY RIGHT HERE IN OUR BACKYARD.”  
 – MAURA HEALEY, GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS