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NY-BEST Announces Energy Storage Partnerships Award Winners

Three Initiatives Honored for Advancing Energy Storage Community Partnerships and Inclusive Workforce Initiatives

Albany, NY – The New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology Consortium (NY-BEST) is proud to announce the recipients of its inaugural *Energy Storage Partnerships Awards*, recognizing outstanding efforts to develop energy storage projects that align with community priorities and promote inclusive workforce development.

The following awards will be presented during a ceremony on Wednesday, May 14:

Robust Community Partnerships Award

This award honors deep, sustained collaboration between clean energy developers and the communities they serve. The 2025 recipient is a multi-stakeholder collaboration centered around the *East River Energy Storage Project*, a 100-megawatt battery energy storage project in Astoria, Queens. The project is sponsored by **174 Power Global**

under contract with **Con Edison**, sited on property owned by the **New York Power Authority** (NYPA), with support from **Strategic Management Group** and **Constantinople & Vallone**. The project team developed a deep partnership with the **Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens**, exemplifying how community organizations and clean energy developers can co-create programs that deliver tangible local benefits. Together, the group supports year-round STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) education, career mentoring, and environmental engagement activities for youth in the neighborhood.

Inclusive Energy Storage Workforce Award

NineDot Energy's People Operations team is recognized for its leadership in building a more inclusive clean energy workplace. Through initiatives such as equitable hiring practices, cultural heritage celebrations, innovative social programming, and strategic internships, the team has embedded inclusive practices in a variety of ways throughout NineDot's daily operations. NineDot is also proud to participate in the NYSERDA Clean Energy Internship Program and the NYSERDA On-the-Job Training Program to support individuals from underrepresented groups.

Today, 44% of NineDot employees are women and 41% come from historically marginalized communities, well above industry norms. This award honors NineDot's commitment to making clean energy careers more accessible and representative.

Community Partnerships and Inclusive Workforce Award

This award celebrates programs that integrate hiring, training, and community development to advance a just energy transition. The 2025 award is presented to **Viridi** and **GreenForce Training Inc.** for their impactful partnership in Western New York. Viridi, a battery energy storage manufacturer, employs a workforce in which over 50% of employees have come through GreenForce's programs. These employees benefit from a comprehensive suite of wraparound services, including housing assistance, mental health counseling, childcare, legal support, and leadership development.

With an employee retention rate of 84%, and over 90% of Viridi's entry-level workforce coming from disadvantaged communities, this model proves that energy storage can be a powerful engine for economic renewal and equity, and sets a precedent for replication across New York State.

Statements from Leaders

“NY-BEST remains steadfast in its mission to advance energy storage through innovation and collaboration,” said **Dr. William Acker, Executive Director of NY-BEST**. “The Variety Boys & Girls Club’s partnership with the East River Energy Storage team, NineDot Energy’s inclusive workplace, and Viridi’s partnership with GreenForce Training exemplify the values needed to ensure energy storage delivers on New York’s vision for a just energy transition.”

“This year’s awardees demonstrate the transformative power of energy storage when it’s rooted in equity, partnership, and local impact,” said **Eva Gardow, Chair of the NY-BEST Board of Directors**. “We are proud to celebrate their leadership.”

“We are proud to share in this award, which reflects the East River Energy Storage Project team’s commitment to partnering with our organization to create meaningful opportunities for local youth,” said **Costa Constantinides, CEO of the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens**. “As construction begins on the largest energy storage project in New York, we look forward to building a long-term alliance.”

“174 Power Global is honored to be recognized by NY-BEST for the Robust Community Partnerships Award,” said Joo Yoon, CEO of **174 Power Global**. “As we begin construction of the East River Energy Storage project to improve the resiliency of our grid, let us also continue to invest in the resiliency of our youth. Our partnership with the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens has been extremely rewarding. The entire 174 Power Global East River project team, including **Constantinople and Vallone** and **Strategic Management Group**, is proud to be part of this collaborative effort.”

“The New York Power Authority thanks NY-BEST for recognizing the East River Storage Project as a Robust Community Partnership that will support renewable energy growth, reduce greenhouse gases and improve grid reliability,” said **Justin E. Driscoll, New York Power Authority President and CEO**. “Creative community connections, like those formed through this project with Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens, ConEdison, Strategic Management Group and Constantinople & Vallone, foster the tangible, local engagement that drives our state’s clean energy transition.”

“Con Edison is proud to be honored for strengthening our communities as we build a more reliable and sustainable energy grid,” said **Matthew Ketschke, president of Con Edison**. “We are grateful for our collaboration with the Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens and we thank the New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology Consortium for this recognition.”

“We’re honored to receive this award and are proud of the culture we’re building at NineDot. Inclusion is a commitment we live every day through our hiring, training, and

engagement practices,” said **Fred Polirer, Vice President, People & Culture at NineDot Energy**. “We believe that a diverse, empowered team, representative of the communities we serve, is essential to driving innovation and equity in the clean energy transition.”

“This partnership between GreenForce and Viridi shows what’s possible when workforce development is rooted in trust, support, and real opportunity,” said **Reverend James E. (Pastor) Giles, Head of Personnel at Viridi**. “GreenForce graduates aren’t just finding jobs; they’re building careers in their own communities, with the resources they need to thrive. We’re proud to help set a new standard for inclusive hiring in New York’s energy economy.”

Award Ceremony Details

The Award Ceremony will be held during NY-BEST’s 15th annual ***Capture the Energy Conference***, a premier event for professionals in the energy storage sector. The ceremony is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14, 2025, from 4:20 PM to 5:00 PM** at the Albany Capital Center, located at 55 Eagle Street, Albany, NY 12207. During this time, award winners will have the opportunity to deliver remarks to an audience of 500 registrants.

The *Capture the Energy Conference* brings together leaders from the energy storage and renewable energy sectors, New York State government, utilities and regulators to explore how energy storage can accelerate progress toward climate goals, modernize the grid, and fuel the clean energy economy.

About the organizations

NY-BEST

The New York Battery and Energy Storage Technology (NY-BEST) Consortium was created in 2010 to position New York State as a global leader in energy storage technology, including applications in transportation, grid storage, and power electronics. The membership is diverse and includes manufacturers, academic institutions, utilities, technology and materials developers, start-ups, government entities, engineering firms, systems integrators, and end-users. NY-BEST serves as an expert resource to energy storage-related companies and organizations seeking assistance to grow their businesses and includes access to financing, research capabilities, potential partners,

technology developers, manufacturers, and other private sector and government resources.

Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens

The Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens serves over 4,000 young people each year, and the facility is open to the community 7 days a week. The space includes an indoor swimming pool, makerspace lab, computer room, teaching kitchen, gym, auditorium, art studio, dance studio, film studio, and outdoor playground. Programming serves all children (ages 6-18) including homework help, swimming and sports, coding, engineering, gourmet cooking, drama, dance, media production and so much more.

174 Power Global

174 Power Global is a leading solar and energy storage project developer focused on utility-scale and commercial solutions across the United States. The company delivers innovative, reliable clean energy projects that support decarbonization goals while meeting customer and grid needs.

New York Power Authority

The New York Power Authority is the largest state public power organization in the United States, operating 17 generating facilities and 1,550 circuit-miles of transmission lines. NYPA plays a critical role in advancing New York's clean energy transition through investments in energy infrastructure, innovation, and statewide decarbonization initiatives.

Con Edison

Con Edison is one of the nation's largest investor-owned energy companies, providing electric, gas, and steam service to over 10 million people in New York City and Westchester County. The company is committed to building a resilient, sustainable energy future through grid modernization and clean energy investments.

Strategic Management Group

Strategic Management Group is an environmental consulting business with a proven reputation for managing the development of complex environmental projects, and with expertise in renewable energy, waste to energy, biogas, biosolids, anaerobic digestion, drop-in biofuels, wastewater and fresh water treatment facilities, solid waste landfills, recycling and composting.

Constantinople & Vallone

Constantinople & Vallone is a strategic consulting firm specializing in government relations, public affairs, and community engagement. With deep experience navigating New York's regulatory and political landscape, the firm helps clients advance impactful projects and build strong, lasting relationships with stakeholders and communities.

NineDot Energy

NineDot Energy is a New York-based developer of community-scale battery energy storage projects that support grid reliability, accelerate the transition to renewable energy, and deliver local environmental benefits. With a focus on the New York City metro area, NineDot builds and operates innovative solutions that help modernize the electric grid and meet New York State's ambitious climate goals to make the local community cleaner, healthier and safer.

GreenForce Training

GreenForce Training Inc. is a Buffalo-based workforce development program that provides training, certification, and wraparound support services to individuals from disadvantaged communities seeking careers in the clean energy and construction sectors. Through strategic employer partnerships and holistic support, including housing assistance, childcare, and mental health services, GreenForce creates pathways to long-term employment and community empowerment.

Viridi

Viridi is a New York-based manufacturer of advanced battery energy storage systems designed for grid, commercial, and industrial applications. Located in a disadvantaged community in Western New York, Viridi is committed to delivering high-performance clean energy solutions while creating high-quality manufacturing jobs that support local economic development.