

# Move to clean energy

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Middletown Press Staff

MIDDLETOWN — In a Thursday morning ceremony, city officials “cut the cord” on traditional electricity and ushered in the future of clean, reusable energy.

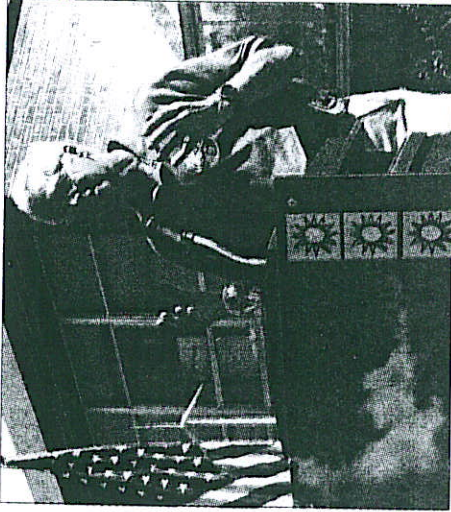
As part of its dedication to converting to 20 percent clean energy by 2010, Middletown was awarded a two kilowatt photovoltaic energy panel. The two solar panels will produce efficient energy, which will be provided to the close to 200 residents that signed up as part of the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) initiative.

The solar panels were donated by

CCEF, and installed Wednesday on top of the Vocational Agriculture building at Middletown High School on Hunting Hill Avenue. Thursday’s ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in front of the building, and appropriately, the sun was out and shining for the occasion.

“Middletown’s support of clean energy is a prime example of civic engagement in energy matters,” said Bryan Garcia, director of energy market initiatives for the CCEF. “The community’s residents and institutions are using their purchasing power to make a statement that they want clean energy to be a part of their future.”

Wesleyan University began the clean **See ENERGY, Page A5**



Susan Burgess / The Middletown Press

**Ron Klattenberg, chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, speaks during a ceremony at Middletown High School Thursday celebrating the use of solar power.**

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energy campaign by purchasing one gigawatt worth of the reusable sources. According to university Vice President and Secretary Peter Patton, the ideals of the program match those of Wesleyan faculty and students dedicated to making a positive impact.

Common Councilman Ron Klattenberg, chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, thanked the many members of the community that had made the presentation possible. He

called the transition a “leap forward,” and thanked the CCEF and SmartPower programs for their ingenuity and creativity in marketing their products.

“The city of Middletown is excited to begin a long-term relationship with clean, renewable energy,” Klattenberg said. “The new solar panels on our Vocational Agriculture building will raise awareness for the importance of this technology, help to serve our energy needs and become a great educational tool for high school students.”

The city is the first munici-

pality in the state to receive the panels. Klattenberg joked that cutting a wire would be more appropriate, as the new initiatives take Middletown away from harmful fossil fuels towards new forms of electricity.

Earlier in the week, Middletown was recognized by CCEF and SmartPower for its participation in the programs, and Klattenberg held a plaque commemorating the effort. During Thursday’s ceremony, the speakers had nothing but more praise for the city.

“Most people already know that clean energy is good for

the economy, the environment and national security,” said Bob Wall, New England regional director of SmartPower. “Thanks to the leadership and vision of the municipal government, Wesleyan University and the entire community, many others throughout the state will now discover that clean energy is also a powerful and reliable source of electricity.”

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