Significant Conservation Announcement in Maine

SunEdison, the largest global renewable energy development company, and Friends of Maine’s Mountains (FMM), a non-profit that is committed to preserving the state’s unique natural resources, have announced a collaboration that significantly enhances land and resource conservation in Maine.

A $2.5 million fund is to be dedicated to several Maine conservation organizations and used to fund critical conservation efforts including mountain trail creation and maintenance, land acquisition, and the protection of salmon and brook trout habitats.

The conservation fund was created as one part of an agreement between SunEdison and FMM since the approval of the Bingham Wind project in Somerset County, Maine. After the project was granted a license by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), FMM agreed to cease litigation in exchange for the provisions in the agreement.

“We have deep roots in Maine, many of us live here and we value the state as a special place that is worthy of protection,” said Kurt Adams, SunEdison’s senior vice president and chief development officer. “With the creation of this fund, we are excited to be able to work together with Friends of Maine’s Mountains and a number of Maine conservation and environmental organizations to preserve the state’s open spaces so that they can be enjoyed by generations to come.”

“FMM is committed to preserving Maine’s unique natural resources, particularly its prized mountains,” said Rand Stowell, FMM’s founder and board chairman. “Working with SunEdison on this agreement has allowed us to advance those efforts and fund important conservation projects in the State.”

The first $1.5 million of the fund is being disbursed to a number of Maine conservation and environmental organizations. Beneficiaries include The Trust for Public Land, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, the Forest Society of Maine, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and the Mahoosuc Land Trust. The conservation projects are located across Maine, from the western mountains through the Moosehead and Hundred Mile Wilderness regions to Katahdin. FMM is not a beneficiary of the fund. (A list of the organizations, contacts and the funded projects is attached.)

Additional terms of the agreement between SunEdison and Friends of Maine Mountains were also announced:

- Agreed-upon sections of Maine (see attached map) will not be utilized for wind farms, providing a buffer for numerous scenic resources of state and national significance.
- $250,000 will be dedicated to research wind turbine bat deterrent technology. The grant will go to Bat Conservation International, which is conducting research on the brown bat species, which has been threatened in the northeast by white-nose syndrome.

- SunEdison will increase the decommissioning fund set aside for the Bingham Wind project by 50 percent.

SunEdison and FMM expect the second round of conservation awards from the total $2.5 million fund to occur in 2017.

“These funds are being made at a critical time when important conservation work is underway. They will help advance efforts not only to conserve key forestland and habitat, but also improve access and the opportunities for everyone to experience remarkable Maine landscapes,” said Wolfe Tone, The Trust for Public Land’s Maine state director. “We thank the partners involved for the dedication and commitment to create a positive result.”

“The AMC is pleased that its projects to directly benefit Maine’s natural resources and the recreating public in the 100-Mile Wilderness region were selected for funding,” said Walter Graff, senior vice president of the AMC. “The funds will allow AMC to make tangible on-the-ground improvements by restoring trout habitat, and providing the public with improved recreational access through building new trails and connecting regional conservation lands.”

“These funds will support a project that will conserve thousands of acres of high elevation lands around Whitecap Mountain adjacent to 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and that include high-elevation, cold-water streams that are essential for brook trout and Atlantic salmon habitat in the West Branch of the Pleasant River. This will be a wonderful gift to future generations!” said Alan Hutchinson, Forest Society of Maine’s executive director.

“This funding will help the Atlantic Salmon Federation open up nine miles of cold water tributary streams in the Piscataquis River for the benefit of salmon and brook trout,” said Andrew Goode, Atlantic Salmon Federation’s vice president. “Restoration of the larger Penobscot River has been the top priority of the Atlantic Salmon Federation for the past 15 years and this is an exciting next step in our restoration efforts. Thank you to SunEdison and Friends of Maine’s Mountains.”

“The Mahoosuc Land Trust is very pleased to receive funding from SunEdison and the Friends of Maine’s Mountains. The grant will help connect two critical habitats, the Ellis River Valley and Rumford Whitecap Mountain,” said Jim Mitchell, Mahoosuc Land Trust’s executive director. “This connection is especially important for wildlife in a time of changing climate. The project protects more than two miles of frontage on the Ellis River and provides outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors in Western Maine.”

“Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust is pleased that these funds have been made available for our work in protecting lands along the Appalachian Trail in Maine,” said Simon Rucker, executive director of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust.

The Bingham Wind project is a 56-turbine project currently under construction that will have the capacity to generate up to 186 megawatts of clean energy – enough to power the
equivalent of more than 60,000 New England homes. SunEdison also owns and operates five other wind projects in Maine, and a sixth, the Oakfield Wind project, will go online next month. Bingham Wind is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.

**About SunEdison**
SunEdison is the largest global renewable energy development company and is transforming the way energy is generated, distributed, and owned around the world. The company develops, finances, installs, owns and operates renewable power plants, delivering predictably priced electricity to its residential, commercial, government and utility customers. SunEdison is one of the world’s largest renewable energy asset managers and provides customers with asset management, operations and maintenance, monitoring and reporting services. Corporate headquarters are in the United States with additional offices and technology manufacturing around the world. SunEdison’s common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SUNE." To learn more visit [www.sunedison.com](http://www.sunedison.com).

**About FMM**
Friends of Maine’s Mountains is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2009 for the purpose of protecting Maine’s Mountains. To learn more visit [www.friendsofmainesmountains.org](http://www.friendsofmainesmountains.org).

**Contacts:**
SunEdison contact:
John Lamontagne
617-960-9521, jlamontagne@sunedison.com

Friends of Maine’s Mountains contact:
Chris O’Neil
(207) 590-3842, cponeil22@gmail.com