



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CLIMATE SCIENCE AWARD ADDED TO CLEANTECH AWARD PROGRAM

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BROOKLINE, MA/October 24, 2009/-- The twin challenges of climate change and providing sufficient energy sources for the world's growing economies are dramatically changing the face of science. In recognition of this, The Foresight Project announced today at the Southern New England Weather Conference that, for the fourth year, it will give "CleanTech" awards in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fairs. The awards are given to the best qualifying projects related to clean energy issues, technologies or solutions.

Although projects related to climate science always qualified, this year there is a new, completely separate Climate Science award to emphasize the importance of this new field.

Commenting on the new award, Foresight Project Director Mary Essary said "In July we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of Neil Armstrong's walk on the moon. What is not well known is how other NASA programs – Earth-orbiting satellites monitoring a variety of parameters; probes to other planets and to our own sun, and the significance of the data that they have enabled us to collect – how all of this has created a revolution in earth science; in understanding our own planet. We want students to be aware of the important role this new understanding has in planning for our future."

The new climate science awards, "*Beyond Rocket Science: Earth Science!*" can go to a project in any MSSEF category. For example, in statistics, how can we analyze the behavior of a system that has a cyclical pattern? Or what if the average is moving? What would the behavior of the system with feed-back loops be if the parameters for the feed-back change? In physics or chemistry: what are the properties of water as a function of temperature, or salinity? Can water "float" on water? How big is our atmosphere? What are the current "sinks" for carbon dioxide or other green-house gases?

In psychology: the Oct 23 Globe (pgA19) reported that only 36% of the general public believes that the earth is warming because of human activity. What is the source of these beliefs? Why do scientists think that global warming is a serious problem, but the majority of the general public does not?

The program website gives other examples in "Science Questions to Consider", and also information on award-winning projects from previous years.

The awards will be made in the spring, at the regional and state MSSEF levels. For more information on the awards, go to [www.ma.cleantechawards.org](http://www.ma.cleantechawards.org). For more information on the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair, go to [www.scifair.com](http://www.scifair.com).

**About The Foresight Project:** TFP is a young non-profit formed to encourage high-school students to examine current issues, and consider the possible outcomes of choices that we make, or fail to make, in our increasingly interactive and global world. In addition to the CleanTech and Climate Science awards program, it holds a video and creative writing competition: *IMAGINING TOMORROW: ALTERNATE ENERGY FUTURES™*. [www.foresightproject.org](http://www.foresightproject.org).

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