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**THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY  
HONORED FOR ITS LEADERSHIP BY THE NATIONAL TRUST**

**NEW ORLEANS (June 6, 2006)** –Richard Moe, president of the **National Trust for Historic Preservation**, and Doug Loescher, director of the **National Trust Main Street Center**<sup>®</sup>, presented **The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P)** with its 2006 Main Street Business Leadership Award at the 2006 National Main Streets conference in New Orleans. CL&P was honored for making the vision of vibrant historic and traditional commercial districts in Connecticut a reality and for its steadfast financial and administrative commitment to the Connecticut Main Street program. Annually, the National Trust bestows a Main Street Business Leadership Award to companies or an industry that help revitalize historic and traditional neighborhood commercial districts.

“Many years ago, The Connecticut Light and Power Company decided that it was not going to stand by and watch communities fall by the wayside,” said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “Today, because of that vision, across Connecticut there are vibrant downtowns with reclaimed historic buildings and new businesses, and that’s all because one company decided to invest in the communities where it does business. They’ve set a great example.”

Since the 1980s, Connecticut preservation and advocacy organizations believed that creating a statewide Main Street program would help local communities use the National Trust’s Main Street Approach<sup>™</sup> to revitalize their older, traditional business districts. Despite their best efforts, however, advocates were unable to secure funds via legislative means. When hope was nearly lost, they found a partner in The Connecticut Light and Power Company, which was interested in ensuring that the state’s older and historic commercial districts remained vibrant hubs of commerce. In 1995, CL&P provided the funding and administrative support needed to start a statewide Main Street program. As the statewide Main Street program expanded, CL&P worked to broaden support for the program by partnering with public and private entities and establishing the Connecticut Main Street Center as a nonprofit organization that could leverage private and public funding.

Eleven years later the Connecticut Main Street program is going strong thanks to CL&P’s investment of more than \$1.6 million. The state’s designated local Main Street programs have generated over \$452 million in public and private reinvestment in downtowns, created 1,921 net new jobs and 324 net new businesses, which represents a \$70.70 reinvestment for every \$1 spent on a local Main Street program. Today, The Connecticut Light and Power Company remains the only private corporation in the country to have sponsored and administered a statewide Main Street initiative.

For more information about The Connecticut Light and Power Company, the Connecticut Main Street program, and local Connecticut commercial districts which have benefited from CL&P’s support, contact: Doug Fisher, The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 860-665-5105, [fishedg@nu.com](mailto:fishedg@nu.com), [www.cl-p.com](http://www.cl-p.com); or, Kimberley Parsons-Whitaker, Connecticut Main Street Center, 860-280-2556, [kim@ctmainstreet.org](mailto:kim@ctmainstreet.org), [www.ctmainstreet.org](http://www.ctmainstreet.org). For more information about the National Trust’s Main Street Awards program and the three 2006 Main Street Leadership award winners, visit [www.mainstreet.org/awards](http://www.mainstreet.org/awards) or contact [mainstreet\\_awards@nthp.org](mailto:mainstreet_awards@nthp.org) or (202) 588-6129.

Established in 1980, the **National Trust Main Street Center**<sup>®</sup> helps communities of all sizes revitalize their traditional historic commercial districts. The Main Street Center has been the leader of the preservation-based community revitalization movement and has proven historic preservation and community-driven economic development affects lasting change. Active in more than 1,900 downtowns and neighborhood business districts, the Main Street program has generated more than \$31.4 billion in new investment. Participating communities have created 331,417 net new jobs, 72,387 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 178,000 buildings, leveraging an average of \$28.31 in new investment for every dollar spent on Main Street initiatives.

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize communities. Its Washington, DC headquarters staff, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. For more information, visit the Trust's web site at [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).

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*History is in Our Hands*

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