

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION RECOGNIZES BIG Y FOODS FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

FRANKLIN – Tuesday, September 18, 2012 – Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rick Sullivan today visited Big Y Foods in Franklin to present Energy Recognition and Supermarket Recycling Program certificates and tour the new store.

"As we work toward the most ambitious renewable energy goals in the nation, it is important to recognize our friends in the business community who are making a difference with meaningful energy and environment initiatives," said Secretary Sullivan. "I am thrilled to be here to tour the new store and acknowledge Big Y as a leader in energy efficiency, recycling and composting."

"All of us at Big Y are proud of our ongoing efforts to enhance our environment whether it be through reduced energy consumption, better building materials, solar power, composting produce waste, encouraging recycling, or electric vehicle charging stations. We pledge to continue to make our home in Massachusetts a better place in the future," said Charles L. D'Amour, President and Chief Operating Officer, Big Y.

The new Franklin store will feature advanced temperature controls, efficient lighting design, and a rooftop solar array which will offset 15 percent of the store's power.

"I am delighted to be here today to recognize all of the innovative ways Big Y has invested in energy efficiency, from solar arrays to electric vehicle charging stations for the public," said Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Mark Sylvia. "We congratulate and thank Big Y for its commitment to being an energy and environmental leader."

In addition to their energy efficiency, Big Y Foods Inc. has achieved chain-wide certification from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for the Supermarket Recycling Program, meaning that more than 80 percent of Big Y stores have programs in place to divert organics, cardboard and shrink wrap from disposal. This recycling program helps each store participating save thousands of dollars a year in avoided disposal costs.

"Food waste and other organic materials represent a quarter of today's solid waste, amounting to more than 1 million tons a year," said MassDEP Commissioner Kenneth Kimmell. "The 300 recycling certified supermarkets in Massachusetts, including the Big Y stores, have recognized that not only can they protect the environment through aggressive recycling, they can also save money and be a leader in their community."

"Big Y is taking active steps to promote a healthier planet through its embrace of green technologies and energy efficiency and we are pleased to welcome this great addition to the community," said Senator Karen Spilka.

"I am thrilled to congratulate Big Y on being honored with the Energy Recognition and Supermarket Recycling Program certificates today," said Senator Richard Ross. "It is so encouraging to see Massachusetts businesses taking steps to become more energy efficient and make a positive impact on our environment and the community."

Headquartered in Springfield, Massachusetts, Big Y is one of the largest independently owned supermarket chains in New England. Proud to be family owned and operated, they currently operate 66 locations throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts with over 10,000 employees. Founded in 1936 by brothers Paul and Gerald D'Amour, the store was named after an intersection in Chicopee, Massachusetts where two roads converge to form a "Y".

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