



NEWS RELEASE
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Boston ‘Energy Superheroes’ Join Afterschool Students to Mark *Lights on Afterschool*

Book-Signing, Mini-Turbine-Building Exercise Greet Students at YMCA of Greater Boston’s Wang YMCA of Chinatown

Boston, Mass. – Several Boston area “Energy Superheroes” – so designated in a new book about women in the energy profession – visited the YMCA of Greater Boston’s Wang YMCA of Chinatown this afternoon to sign copies of *Energy Superheroes: Women in Energy Careers*, and to lead children in building tiny wind turbines – all part of the celebration of *Lights On Afterschool*, the nationwide celebration of the impact afterschool programs have on children’s lives.

The mission of the “energy superheroes” was to spark excitement among students in energy careers. They signed free copies of the book, met with students to share their experiences and answer questions, then led an exercise in which students built wind turbines on the back of a pencil.

The women’s participation is the result of a partnership between the Afterschool Alliance and the *Everyday Superheroes* book series, which aims to connect local women leading the nation’s energy transition with the future workforce.

“Siemens Energy is happy to partner to give kids a chance to meet real live superheroes working in the field of energy,” said Linette Casey, Head of Americas Sales for Siemens Energy. “Diverse teams are strong teams and it takes intentional action to cultivate a pipeline of girls and young women to get into energy.”

“We’re thrilled to be able to bring this kind of hands-on, exciting experience to our kids,” said Aline Ricketson, Senior Association Director of Child Development, YMCA of Greater Boston. “It’s impossible to overstate how important it is to let kids see themselves in the role models with whom they interact. So, today’s event is a learning-through-fun activity that lets students, particularly the girls in the group, imagine a career path that’s open to them.”

The participating “superheroes” included [Claudia Garcia](#), Sustainability Manager at Enel North America; [Becky Stebbins](#), Civil Engineer with First Light & Power; and [Dr. Maggie Teliska](#), Head of Storage at Enel Green Power. Casey is also featured in the book, designated a “Trailblazer.” Alicia Barton, the CEO of FirstLight Power, distributed the donated books to students.

Energy Superheroes and Trailblazers are real-life women with energy careers who are leading the energy transition to clean power. They are featured in the award-winning multicultural nonfiction

children's book series, *Everyday Superheroes*, published by WiseInk. The book shares the relatable stories of energy industry role models, women working in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) careers.

Similar celebrations with other local superheroes are scheduled in Chattanooga, Tenn., Houston, Tex., and Oklahoma City, Okla. Copies of *Energy Superheroes* and wind turbine kits for the Boston event were contributed by FirstLight Power, KidWind, Siemens Energy, and Women's Energy Network Boston.

The YMCA of Greater Boston's Wang YMCA of Chinatown provides daily before-school and afterschool programming, offering physical activity, homework support, various science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities, literacy instruction, and the arts.

Some 24.7 million U.S. children not in an afterschool program would be enrolled, if a program were available to them, according to a [survey of 1,500 parents](#) commissioned by the Afterschool Alliance and conducted by Edge Research in May and June of 2022. That is the highest number ever recorded. A [household survey](#) released in summer of 2021 confirms that afterschool programs have been ramping up their STEM offerings, but students from low-income families are most likely to miss out. Seventy-three percent of parents report that their child's afterschool program offers science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning opportunities, up from 69% in 2014. Three in five parents of afterschool students (60%) report that their child participates in STEM in afterschool twice or more per week, up from 52% in 2014.

Organized by the Afterschool Alliance and launched in October 2000, *Lights On Afterschool* is the only nationwide event celebrating afterschool programs and their important role in the lives of children, families and communities. The effort has become a hallmark of the afterschool movement and generates media coverage across the country each year. Thousands of afterschool programs across the nation will celebrate *Lights On Afterschool* on or around October 20, with open houses, rallies, parades, and more. BellXcel, Capital One, and Clear Channel Outdoor are generous sponsors of *Lights On Afterschool* this year.

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