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**REP CEO Jamez Staples Receives 2023 Critical Collaborator Award from  
Environmental Initiative**

[Minneapolis, MN]—Renewable Energy Partners is proud to announce that its President & CEO, Jamez Staples, will receive the 2023 Critical Collaborator Award from the Environmental Initiative.

The Environmental Initiative’s mission is to catalyze collaboration across perspectives, power, and systems for social equity and environmental health. Founded in 1992, leaders from seemingly adversarial interests came together around a vision of partnership to discuss a collaborative model for environmental problem solving. Their work is scalable and focuses on implementing in-community projects to improve environmental, economic, and public health outcomes—from North Minneapolis youth leaders learning about and leading environmental justice initiatives to industry-leading supply chain companies and environmental nonprofits developing solutions for removing barriers to widespread adoption of regenerative agricultural practices in the Midwestern United States.

The Environmental Initiative Awards (EIA) is their annual recognition program that celebrates people and projects working in partnership at the nexus of a healthy environment, a prosperous economy, and an equitable society. Each year, EIA brings together partners from across the environmental community and their organizational work to honor award recipients during an inspiring event of celebration and networking. The Critical Collaborator Award is given to an individual who exemplifies a collaborative spirit; demonstrates the ability to make a positive impact on the environment, economy, and community; and leads by centering people, especially those disproportionately impacted by decisions and building innovative relationships to solve environmental problems.

Jamez Staples founded REP and has served as its President and CEO since 2013. REP is a certified Minority Business Enterprise that develops solar energy and other clean energy projects. As CEO, Jamez has been a powerful voice for social and equity issues, including opportunities from the transition to clean energy to simultaneously address climate change and poverty. He makes the business case for creating equal opportunity for all Minnesotans in emerging clean energy and sustainability fields as a key part of Minnesota’s energy future. REP’s subsidiary, Northgate Development, is a real estate development firm that is leading efforts to develop the Regional Apprenticeship Training Center, an energy

career pathways and technical skills training facility for youth and adults in the Twin Cities.”

“I appreciate this recognition of REP’s work from Environmental Initiative,” said Jamez. “It encourages us to keep working hard to make the clean energy transition in Minnesota happen as quickly as we can, and make sure that the transition benefits all Minnesotans.”

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