

Ameresco Reports Second Quarter 2011 Financial Results

Second Quarter 2011 Financial Highlights:

- Revenue of \$165.5 million, an increase of 17.1% year-over-year
- Net income of \$8.8 million, an increase of 14.6% year-over-year
- Net income per diluted share of \$0.19

6 Month Year-to-Date 2011 Financial Highlights:

- Revenue of \$311.9 million, an increase of 26.3% year-over-year
- Net income of \$14.1 million, an increase of 57.1% year-over-year
- Net income per diluted share of \$0.31

FRAMINGHAM, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Ameresco, Inc. (NYSE:AMRC) a leading energy efficiency and renewable energy company, today announced financial results for the fiscal quarter ended June 30, 2011. The Company has also furnished prepared remarks in conjunction with this press release in a Current Report on Form 8-K. These prepared remarks, including a supplemental document containing non-financial metrics frequently reported with quarterly results, have been posted to the "Investor Relations" section of the Company's website at www.ameresco.com.

Total revenue for the second quarter of 2011 was \$165.5 million compared to \$141.4 million for the same period in 2010, an increase of 17.1% year-over-year. Operating income for the second quarter of 2011 was \$13.4 million compared to \$12.0 million in the second quarter of 2010, an increase of 11.2% year-over-year. Second quarter 2011 adjusted EBITDA, a non-GAAP number, was \$16.9 million compared to \$14.6 million for the same period in 2010, an increase of 16.0% year-over-year. Net income for the second quarter of 2011 was \$8.8 million compared to \$7.7 million in the same period of 2010, an increase of 14.6% year-over-year. Second quarter 2011 net income per diluted share was \$0.19 compared to \$0.21 per diluted share in the same period of 2010. Diluted weighted average shares outstanding increased from 38.4 million in the second quarter of 2010 to 45.9 million shares outstanding in the second quarter of 2011 due to our initial public offering in July of 2010.

"Ameresco achieved strong second quarter results as we continued to execute our strategic plans," stated George P. Sakellaris, president and chief executive officer of Ameresco. "The key drivers were higher installation activity from energy efficiency projects and a very favorable revenue mix that shifted to our higher margin offerings within renewable energy. With today's economic climate, higher energy costs and budgetary constraints, as well as aging infrastructure requiring non-discretionary upgrades, Ameresco's comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions offer budget-neutral, environmentally-

friendly, bottom-line results for customers."

For the six months ended June 30, 2011, Ameresco reported total revenue of \$311.9 million, compared to \$247.0 million for the same period in 2010, an increase of 26.3%. Operating income for the first six months of 2011 was \$21.7 million compared to \$14.6 million in the first six months of 2010, an increase of 48.6% year-over-year. Adjusted EBITDA for the first six months of 2011 was \$28.8 million compared to \$19.7 million in the first six months of 2010, an increase of 45.8% year-over-year. Net income for the first six months of 2011 was \$14.1 million compared to \$9.0 million in the first six months of 2010, an increase of 57.1% year-over-year. Net income per diluted share was \$0.31 for the first six months of 2011 compared to \$0.24 during the first six months of 2010.

"With Ameresco's strong operating results through the first half of 2011, anticipated increasing customer demand, and our continued market penetration and geographic expansion, we believe Ameresco is positioned well for the future," added George P. Sakellaris, president and chief executive officer of Ameresco.

Additional Second Quarter 2011 Operating Highlights:

- Revenue generated from backlog was \$137 million for the second quarter of 2011, an increase of 19% year-over-year.
- All other revenue was \$29 million for the second quarter of 2011, an increase of 18% year-over-year.
- Operating cash flows were \$1.6 million for the second quarter of 2011.
- Total construction backlog was \$1.16 billion as of June 30, 2011 and consisted of:
 - \$507.3 million of fully-contracted backlog, which represents signed customer contracts for installation or construction of projects that are expected to convert into revenue over the next 12-24 months on average; and
 - \$648.1 million of awarded projects, which represents estimated future revenue for projects that are expected to be signed over the next 6-12 months on average.

FY 2011 Guidance

Ameresco is reaffirming guidance for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. Ameresco continues to expect that it will earn total revenue in the range of \$690 million to \$705 million, that adjusted EBITDA will be in the range of \$67 million to \$70 million, and that net income will be in the range of \$35 million to \$37 million. The Company also expects that net income per diluted share for 2011 will be in the range of \$0.75 to \$0.79.

Webcast Reminder

Ameresco will hold its earnings conference call today, August 10th, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time with President and Chief Executive Officer, George Sakellaris, and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Andrew Spence, to discuss details regarding the Company's second quarter 2011 results, business outlook and strategy. Participants may access it by dialing domestically 888.679.8034 or internationally 617.213.4847. The passcode is 44821297. Participants are advised to dial-in at least ten minutes prior to the call to register. Those who

wish to listen only to the conference call webcast may visit the "Investor Relations" section of the Company's website at www.ameresco.com.

Pre-Registration for the call is also available at: https://www.theconferencingservice.com/prereg/key.process?key=PFYDUMVVV. Pre-registrants will be issued a pin number to use when dialing into the live call which will provide quick access to the conference by bypassing the operator upon connection.

Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

This press release and the accompanying tables include references to adjusted EBITDA, which is a non-GAAP financial measure. For a description of this non-GAAP financial measure, including the reasons management uses this measure, please see the section following the accompanying tables titled "Exhibit A: Non-GAAP Financial Measures". For a reconciliation of adjusted EBITDA to operating income, the most directly comparable financial measure prepared in accordance with GAAP, please see Other Non-GAAP Disclosure in the accompanying tables.

About Ameresco, Inc.

Founded in 2000, Ameresco, Inc. (NYSE:AMRC) is a leading independent provider of comprehensive services, energy efficiency, infrastructure upgrades, and renewable energy solutions for facilities throughout North America. Ameresco's services include upgrades to a facility's energy infrastructure and the development, construction and operation of renewable energy plants. Ameresco has successfully completed energy saving, environmentally responsible projects with federal, state and local governments, healthcare and educational institutions, housing authorities, and commercial and industrial customers. With its corporate headquarters in Framingham, MA, Ameresco provides local expertise through its 59 offices in 34 states and five Canadian provinces. Ameresco has more than 750 employees. For more information, visit www.ameresco.com.

Safe Harbor Statement

Any statements in this press release about future expectations, plans and prospects for Ameresco, Inc., including statements about backlog, estimated future revenues, adjusted EBITDA and net income, as well as other statements containing the words "projects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "expects," "will" and similar expressions, constitute forwardlooking statements within the meaning of The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those indicated by such forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including demand for Ameresco's energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions; the Company's ability to arrange financing for its projects; changes in federal, state and local government policies and programs related to energy efficiency and renewable energy; the timing of work Ameresco does on projects where it recognizes revenue on a percentage of completion basis; seasonality in construction and in demand for its products and services; a customer's decision to delay the Company's work on, or other risks involved with, a particular project; availability and costs of labor and equipment; the addition of new customers or the loss of existing customers; and other factors discussed in Ameresco's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on March 31, 2011. In addition, the forward-looking statements included in this press release represent Ameresco's

views as of the date of this press release. Ameresco anticipates that subsequent events and developments will cause its views to change. However, while Ameresco may elect to update these forward-looking statements at some point in the future, it specifically disclaims any obligation to do so. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing Ameresco's views as of any date subsequent to the date of this press release.

AMERESCO, INC. CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

| | December 31, 2010 | June 30, 2011 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ASSETS | | (Unaudited) |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 44,691,021 | \$ 59.782.193 |
| Restricted cash | 9,197,447 | 9,549,018 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 68,584,304 | 81,902,348 |
| Accounts receivable retainage | 18,452,777 | 18,396,605 |
| Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings | 35,556,425 | 46,589,790 |
| Inventory, net | 6,780,092 | 8,763,084 |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | 8,471,628 | 9,199,024 |
| Income tax receivable | 2,511,542 | 9,184,403 |
| Deferred income taxes | 9,908,240 | 11,484,214 |
| Project development costs | 7,556,345 | 6,801,519 |
| Total current assets | 211,709,821 | 261,652,198 |
| Federal ESPC receivable | 193,551,495 | 214,684,987 |
| Property and equipment, net | 5,406,387 | 6,170,694 |
| Project assets, net | 145,147,475 | 148,884,718 |
| Deferred financing fees, net | 3,412,186 | 3,750,820 |
| Goodwill | 20,580,995 | 20,580,995 |
| Other assets | 4,598,980 | 4,854,605 |
| | 372,697,518 | 398,926,819 |
| | \$584,407,339 | \$660,579,017 |
| LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Current portion of long-term debt | | \$ 11,037,054 |
| Accounts payable | 95,302,897 | 77,777,574 |
| Accrued expenses | 12,517,671 | 7,029,400 |
| Billings in excess of cost and estimated earnings | 27,555,894 | 27,452,444 |
| Income taxes payable | 2,488,672 | 981,664 |
| Total current liabilities | 142,587,252 | 124,278,136 |
| Long-term debt, less current portion | 202,409,484 | 263,426,767 |
| Deferred income taxes | 12,013,799 | 16,344,070 |
| Deferred grant income | 4,200,929 | 6,194,712 |
| Other liabilities | 28,144,144 | 30,991,113 |
| | 246,768,356 | 316,956,662 |
| Stockholders' equity: Preferred stock, \$0.0001 par value, 5,000,000 shares authorized, no shares issued and | | |
| outstanding at December 31, 2010 and June 30, 2011 Class A common stock, \$0.0001 par value, 500,000,000 shares authorized, 27,925,649 shares issued and 23,092,365 outstanding at December 31, 2010; 29,693,961 | - | - |
| shares issued and 24,860,677 outstanding at June 30, 2011 | 2,793 | 2,969 |
| Class B common stock, \$0.0001 par value, 144,000,000 shares authorized, 18,000,000 shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010 and June 30, 2011 | 1 200 | 1,800 |
| shares issued and outstanding at December 31, 2010 and June 30, 2011 | 1,800 74,069,087 | |
| Additional paid-in capital | 126,609,101 | 83,567,211 |
| Retained earnings | | 140,729,514 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income Less – treasury stock, at cost, 4,833,284 shares and 4,833,284 shares, respectively | 3,551,521 (9,182,571) | 4,225,296 (9,182,571) |
| Total stockholders' equity | 195,051,731 | (9,182,571) |
| rotal stockholders equity | \$584,407,339 | 219,344,219 |
| | φ304,407,339 | \$660,579,017 |

AMERESCO, INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | |
|--|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---------------|--|
| | | 2010 | | 2011 | |
| | | (Unaudited) | | | |
| Revenue: | | | | | |
| Energy efficiency revenue | \$ | 100,827,659 | \$ | 123,786,051 | |
| Renewable energy revenue | _ | 40,526,848 | _ | 41,695,892 | |
| | _ | 141,354,507 | _ | 165,481,943 | |
| Direct expenses: | | | | | |
| Energy efficiency expenses | | 83,064,955 | | 102,247,778 | |
| Renewable energy expenses | _ | 32,135,716 | _ | 31,082,490 | |
| | _ | 115,200,671 | _ | 133,330,268 | |
| Gross profit | | 26,153,836 | | 32,151,675 | |
| Operating expenses: | | | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | | 5,327,713 | | 8,162,669 | |
| Project development costs | | 2,047,505 | | 5,263,216 | |
| General, administrative and other | _ | 6,765,107 | _ | 5,368,227 | |
| | | 14,140,325 | | 18,794,112 | |
| Operating income | | 12,013,511 | | 13,357,563 | |
| Other expenses, net | | (1,216,698) | | (988,569) | |
| Income before provision for income taxes | | 10,796,813 | | 12,368,994 | |
| Income tax provision | | (3,089,175) | | (3,536,866) | |
| Net income | | 7,707,638 | | 8,832,128 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | | |
| Unrealized loss from interest rate hedge, net of tax | | (1,231,352) | | (455,835) | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | | (1,183,944) | | 134,364 | |
| Comprehensive income | \$ | 5,292,342 | \$ | 8,510,657 | |
| Net income per share attributable to common shareholders: | _ | | _ | | |
| Basic | \$ | 0.56 | \$ | 0.21 | |
| Diluted | \$ | 0.21 | \$ | 0.19 | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | · | | | | |
| Basic | | 13,742,472 | | 42,367,242 | |
| Diluted | | 38,412,419 | | 45,907,748 | |
| OTHER NON-GAAP DISCLOSURES | | | | | |
| Gross margins: | | | | | |
| Energy efficiency revenue | | 17.6% | | 17.4% | |
| Renewable energy revenue | | 20.7% | | 25.5% | |
| Total | | 18.5% | | 19.4% | |
| Operating expenses as a percent of revenue | | 10.0% | | 11.4% | |
| Adjusted Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and | | | | | |
| amortization (Adjusted EBITDA): | | | | | |
| Operating income | \$ | 12,013,511 | \$ | 13,357,563 | |
| Depreciation and impairment | | 1,919,581 | | 2,849,934 | |
| Stock-based compensation | | 668,065 | | 735,526 | |
| Adjusted EBITDA | \$ | 14,601,157 | \$ | 16,943,023 | |
| Adjusted EBITDA margin | | 10.3% | | 10.2% | |
| Construction backlog: | | | | | |
| Awarded | \$ | 464,968,041 | \$ | 648,110,662 | |
| Fully-contracted | | 668,106,767 | | 507,285,241 | |
| Total construction backlog | \$1 | 1,133,074,808 | \$1 | 1,155,395,903 | |
| - | = | | - | | |

Note: Awarded represents estimated future revenues from projects that have been awarded, though the contracts have not yet been signed.

AMERESCO, INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|---|---------------|--|
| | 2010 | 2011 | |
| | (Unaudited) | | |
| Revenue: | | | |
| Energy efficiency revenue | \$175,715,228 | \$229,979,316 | |
| Renewable energy revenue | 71,267,865 | 81,922,396 | |
| | 246,983,093 | 311,901,712 | |
| Direct expenses: | | | |
| Energy efficiency expenses | 145,589,102 | 188,609,201 | |
| Renewable energy expenses | 56,841,126 | 63,157,803 | |
| | 202,430,228 | 251,767,004 | |
| Gross profit | 44,552,865 | 60,134,708 | |
| Operating expenses: | | | |
| Salaries and benefits | 13,484,472 | 18,247,401 | |
| Project development costs | 5,176,942 | 9,664,793 | |
| General, administrative and other | 11,315,045 | 10,561,561 | |
| | 29,976,729 | 38,473,755 | |
| Operating income | 14,576,136 | 21,660,953 | |
| Other expenses, net | (2,072,387) | (1,889,006) | |
| Income before provision for income taxes | 12,503,749 | 19,771,947 | |
| Income tax provision | (3,518,433) | (5,651,534) | |
| Net income | 8,985,316 | 14,120,413 | |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | - | | |
| Unrealized loss from interest rate hedge, net of tax | (1,551,580) | (215,987) | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustment | (190,045) | 889,762 | |
| Comprehensive income | \$ 7,243,691 | \$ 14,794,188 | |
| Net income per share attributable to common shareholders: | | | |
| Basic | \$ 0.66 | \$ 0.34 | |
| Diluted | \$ 0.24 | \$ 0.31 | |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding: | Ų 0. <u> </u> | Ψ 0.0. | |
| Basic | 13,513,649 | 41,847,646 | |
| Diluted | 38,115,517 | 45,285,650 | |
| | 30,110,011 | .0,200,000 | |
| OTHER NON-GAAP DISCLOSURES | | | |
| Gross margins: | | | |
| Energy efficiency revenue | 17.1% | 6 18.0% | |
| Renewable energy revenue | 20.2% | 6 22.9% | |
| Total | 18.0% | | |
| Operating expenses as a percent of revenue | 12.1% | 6 12.3% | |
| Adjusted Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and | | | |
| amortization (Adjusted EBITDA): | | | |
| Operating income | \$ 14,576,136 | \$ 21,660,953 | |
| Depreciation and impairment | 4,062,244 | 5,532,335 | |
| Stock-based compensation | 1,107,151 | 1,594,576 | |
| Adjusted EBITDA | \$ 19,745,531 | \$ 28,787,864 | |
| - | ======================================= | | |
| Adjusted EBITDA margin | 8.0% | 6 9.2% | |

AMERESCO, INC.

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------|----|--------------|--|
| | | 2010 | | 2011 | |
| | | (Unaudited) | | | |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | _ | | _ | | |
| Net income | \$ | 7,707,638 | \$ | 8,832,128 | |
| Adjustment to reconcile net income to cash provided by investing activities: | | | | | |
| Depreciation of project assets | | 1,661,726 | | 2,240,001 | |
| Depreciation of property and equipment | | 257,855 | | 609,933 | |
| Amortization of deferred financing fees | | 97,655 | | 94,822 | |
| Provision for bad debts | | - | | 160,329 | |
| Write-down of long-term receivable | | 2,110,000 | | - | |
| Stock-based compensation expense | | 668,065 | | 735,526 | |
| Deferred income taxes | | (2,394,601) | | 453,460 | |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements | | - | | (3,510,339) | |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | | | | |
| (Increase) decrease in: | | | | | |
| Restricted cash draws | | 55,536,045 | | 37,303,666 | |
| Accounts receivable | | (13,865,733) | | (5,121,906) | |
| Accounts receivable retainage | | 1,007,235 | | (1,104,244) | |
| Federal ESPC receivable | | (60,539,815) | | (37,132,797) | |
| Inventory | | (551,643) | | (349,778) | |
| Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings | | (5,096,250) | | (4,751,958) | |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | | (185,082) | | (642,293) | |
| Project development costs | | (50,222) | | (160,631) | |
| Other assets | | 821,536 | | (823,972) | |
| Increase (decrease) in: | | 021,000 | | (023,912) | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | | 8,907,545 | | (653,233) | |
| Billings in excess of cost and estimated earnings | | 4,358,402 | | 4,218,481 | |
| Other liabilities | | 697,904 | | 434,854 | |
| | | - | | • | |
| Income taxes payable | _ | 1,329,064 | _ | 757,554 | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | _ | 2,478,324 | _ | 1,589,603 | |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | (50.740) | | (044.404) | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | | (59,719) | | (911,404) | |
| Purchases of project assets | _ | (6,492,890) | _ | (8,129,688) | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | _ | (6,522,609) | _ | (9,041,092) | |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | | | | |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements | | - | | 3,510,339 | |
| Payments of financing fees | | (711,355) | | (493,700) | |
| Proceeds from exercises of options | | 412,866 | | 2,585,997 | |
| Repurchase of stock | | (768,970) | | - | |
| Proceeds from senior secured credit facility | | 6,418,897 | | 35,000,000 | |
| Restricted cash | | (509,477) | | (1,087,999) | |
| Payments on long-term debt | | (3,450,145) | | (1,642,731) | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | _ | 1,391,816 | _ | 37,871,906 | |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | _ | (544,614) | _ | 12,140 | |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | _ | (3,227,083) | _ | 30,432,557 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | | 24,361,479 | | 29,349,636 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ | 21,134,396 | \$ | 59,782,193 | |
| Caon and Caon Oquivalonio, one or poriou | Ψ | _ 1, 10-1,000 | Ψ | 30,702,100 | |

AMERESCO, INC. CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

| | Six Months Ended June 30, | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------|--|--|
| | 2010 | | | |
| | (Una | udited) | | |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | | | |
| Net income | \$ 8,985,316 | \$ 14,120,413 | | |
| Adjustment to reconcile net income to cash used in investing activities: | | , , , | | |
| Depreciation of project assets | 3,416,858 | 4,450,613 | | |
| Depreciation of property and equipment | 645,386 | | | |
| Amortization of deferred financing fees | 168,005 | | | |
| Provision for bad debts | - | 184,515 | | |
| Write-down of long-term receivable | 2,110,000 | , | | |
| Unrealized loss on interest rate swaps | (133,591 | | | |
| Stock-based compensation expense | 1,107,151 | , | | |
| Deferred income taxes | (792,193 | | | |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements | (* -=, | (3,901,636) | | |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities: | | (-,,) | | |
| (Increase) decrease in: | | | | |
| Restricted cash draws | 55,750,984 | 78,216,575 | | |
| Accounts receivable | (2,933,663 | | | |
| Accounts receivable retainage | (2,287,508 | | | |
| Federal ESPC receivable | (58,689,683 | • | | |
| Inventory | (1,095,058 | | | |
| Costs and estimated earnings in excess of billings | (7,800,862 | , , | | |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets | (3,701,125 | | | |
| Project development costs | 82,038 | | | |
| Other assets | 2,021,312 | , | | |
| Increase (decrease) in: | 2,021,312 | (204,033) | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | | | | |
| Accounts payable and accided expenses | (19,190,845 |) (23,857,383) | | |
| Billings in excess of cost and estimated earnings | 3,652,554 | (328,028) | | |
| Other liabilities | 1,631,437 | 4,777,394 | | |
| Income taxes payable | 1,595,453 | (4,689,033) | | |
| Net cash used in operating activities | (15,457,034 | | | |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | <u>/</u> | | |
| Purchases of property and equipment | (484,095 |) (1,806,634) | | |
| Purchases of project assets | (12,367,371 | , , | | |
| Grant awards received on project assets | - | 6,695,711 | | |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (12,851,466 | | | |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | (:=,:::,::: | (=,===,===) | | |
| Excess tax benefits from stock-based compensation arrangements | _ | 3,901,636 | | |
| Payments of financing fees | (897,433 | | | |
| Proceeds from exercises of options | 412,866 | | | |
| Repurchase of stock | (768,970 | , , | | |
| Proceeds from senior secured credit facility | 11,435,901 | | | |
| Proceeds from long-term debt financing | 812,398 | | | |
| Restricted cash | (4,819,258 | | | |
| Payments on long-term debt | (4,792,696 | , , | | |
| • | | | | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | 1,382,808 | | | |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on cash | 132,548 | | | |
| Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents | (26,793,144 | , | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year | 47,927,540 | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$ 21,134,396 | \$ 59,782,193 | | |

Exhibit A: Non-GAAP Financial Measures

Ameresco defines adjusted EBITDA as operating income before depreciation and impairment expense and share-based compensation expense. Adjusted EBITDA is a non-GAAP financial measure and should not be considered as an alternative to operating income or any other measure of financial performance calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP.

The Company believes adjusted EBITDA is useful to investors in evaluating its operating performance for the following reasons: adjusted EBITDA and similar non-GAAP measures are widely used by investors to measure a company's operating performance without regard to items that can vary substantially from company to company depending upon financing and accounting methods, book values of assets, capital structures and the methods by which assets were acquired; securities analysts often use adjusted EBITDA and similar non-GAAP measures as supplemental measures to evaluate the overall operating performance of companies; and by comparing Ameresco's adjusted EBITDA in different historical periods, investors can evaluate its operating results without the additional variations of depreciation and amortization expense, and share-based compensation expense.

Ameresco's management uses adjusted EBITDA: as a measure of operating performance, because it does not include the impact of items that management does not consider indicative of our core operating performance; for planning purposes, including the preparation of the annual operating budget; to allocate resources to enhance the financial performance of the business; to evaluate the effectiveness of Ameresco's business strategies; and in communications with the board of directors and investors concerning Ameresco's financial performance.

The Company understands that, although measures similar to adjusted EBITDA are frequently used by investors and securities analysts in their evaluation of companies, adjusted EBITDA has limitations as an analytical tool, and investors should not consider it in isolation or as a substitute for GAAP operating income or an analysis of Ameresco's results of operations as reported under GAAP. Some of these limitations are: adjusted EBITDA does not reflect the Company's cash expenditures or future requirements for capital expenditures or other contractual commitments; adjusted EBITDA does not reflect changes in, or cash requirements for, Ameresco's working capital needs; adjusted EBITDA does not reflect stock-based compensation expense; adjusted EBITDA does not reflect cash requirements for income taxes; adjusted EBITDA does not reflect net interest income (expense); although depreciation, amortization and impairment are non-cash charges, the assets being depreciated, amortized or impaired will often have to be replaced in the future, and adjusted EBITDA does not reflect any cash requirements for these replacements; and other companies in Ameresco's industry may calculate adjusted EBITDA differently than it does, limiting its usefulness as a comparative measure.

To properly and prudently evaluate Ameresco's business, the Company encourages investors to review its GAAP financial statements included above, and not to rely on any single financial measure to evaluate the business. Please refer to the above reconciliation of adjusted EBITDA to operating income, the most directly comparable GAAP measure.

Ameresco, Inc.
Media Relations
CarolAnn Hibbard, 508-661-2264
news@ameresco.com

or Investor Relations Suzanne Messere, 508-598-3044 <u>ir@ameresco.com</u>

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