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# **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Just Energy Reports Fiscal Second Quarter 2013 Results**

Record customer additions, Gross margin up 14%

TORONTO, ONTARIO - - November 8, 2012 - -

Just Energy Group, Inc. (TSX:JE; NYSE:JE), a competitive retailer of natural gas and electricity, today announced results for its second quarter of fiscal 2013.

Three months ended September 30,	F2013	Per share	F2012	Per share
(\$ millions except per share) Sales	\$703.7	\$4.91	\$600.0	\$4.26
Gross margin	117.2	0.82	102.6	0.73
General and administrative	35.3		28.8	0.73
		0.25		
Financing costs	20.0	0.14	14.3	0.10
Adjusted EBITDA	49.4	0.34	47.9	0.34
Funds from Operations	35.4	0.25	52.4	0.37
Profit for the period	23.1	0.16	(3.5)	(0.02)
Dividends/distributions	44.4	0.31	43.7	0.31
Payout ratio – Base EBITDA	159%		113%	
Payout ratio – Adjusted EBITDA	90%		91%	
Six months ended September 30,	F2013	Per share	F2012	Per share
(\$ millions except per share and customers)				
Sales	\$1,349.8	\$9.43	\$1,226.2	\$8.72
Gross margin	231.5	1.62	196.8	1.40
General and administrative	71.4	0.50	57.1	0.41
Financing costs	37.8	0.26	28.1	0.20
Adjusted EBITDA	91.7	0.64	85.3	0.61
Funds from Operations	64.7	0.45	84.9	0.60
Profit for the period	351.7	2.46	47.6	0.34
Dividends/distributions	88.8	0.62	87.3	0.62
Payout ratio – Adjusted EBITDA	97%		102%	
Payout ratio – Base EBITDA (LTM) <sup>1</sup>	96%		70%	
Payout ratio – Adjusted EBITDA (LTM) <sup>1</sup>	61%		62%	
Payout ratio – Base Funds from Operations (LTM) <sup>1</sup>	151%		95%	
Energy customers (RCEs)	4,024,000		3,403,000	
Home Services customers (installed units)	187,300		143,800	
Total number of customers	4,211,300		3,546,800	
<sup>1</sup> Last twelve months				

## **Key Q2 Highlights:**

- Record customer additions of 344,000, up 45%year over year
- Net customer additions of 47,000 (122,000 net of one large, very low margin commercial customer) up 4% in fiscal 2013
- Gross margin of \$117.2 million, an increase of 14% year over year
- Embedded Gross Margin of \$2.1 billion, up 15% year over year
- Adjusted EBITDA of \$49.4 million, up 3% year over year

Commenting on the quarterly results, Executive Chair Rebecca MacDonald stated, "We are pleased with the continued record customer aggregation during the second quarter, as efforts to further diversify our channels to market as well as expand our geographic footprint, continued to gain traction. This growth will drive future embedded margin and cash flow in the foreseeable future. Looking ahead, driving account growth remains a key strategic objective and we are committed to further investment to enhance our growth profile."

CEO Ken Hartwick added, "We are pleased with our operational and financial performance during the quarter, specifically the record growth of customer additions and strong margins. We have set aggressive targets of 10% to 12% margin growth and 8% to 10% Adjusted EBITDA growth, and we are progressing toward these targets. We also continue to look for new opportunities to broaden our relationship with our customers and their energy needs through the sale of multiple products. Energy use control through smart thermostats is a high potential offering and we also remain a leader in green energy sales where we continue to seek new ways to serve the environmentally conscious. We are a leader in the North American energy market and are focused on enhancing our industry-leading position going forward."

## Additional Q2 Highlights:

- Gross residential customer equivalent ("RCEs") additions of 344,000, up 45% from 238,000 in fiscal 2012
- Residential additions were 166,000, up 98% from fiscal 2012. Commercial additions of 178,000 were up 16% year over year
- Added first 7,000 customers from the newly opened U.K. office
- Total customer base reached 4,024,000 RCEs, up 18% from a year earlier
- National Home Services' installed water heaters and HVAC units increased to 187,300, 30% higher than a year prior, and gross margin increased 41% year over year
- Payout ratio on Adjusted EBITDA was 90% for the quarter versus 91% for the three months ended September 30, 2011. Payout ratio over the past 12 months is 61% versus 62% a year earlier
- Payout ratio on Base Funds from operations of 151% over the past 12 months, up from 95% a year earlier as cash from operations was used to fund growth expenditures which have rapid payback periods

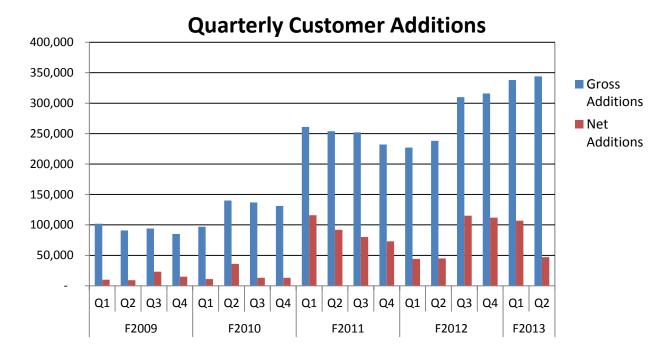
## Second Quarter Operating Performance

The second quarter financial results demonstrated the continuation of the fundamental strengths of the Company growth and profitability.

#### Growth

Customer additions in the second quarter were 344,000, up 45% from Q2 fiscal 2012 and representing the highest in Just Energy's history. Net additions of 47,000 were up 4% year over year however this was skewed by a single very low margin 75,000 RCE customer that was not renewed. Excluding this customer, net additions of 122,000 were in line with recent record additions by the Company. The overall customer base of 4,024,000 is up 18% from a year earlier.

Customer additions were solid in both segments of the energy business with 166,000 residential additions, up 98% from the 84,000 added in the second quarter of fiscal 2012, and 178,000 commercial additions, up 16% from the 154,000 added in the prior fiscal year. For the six months year to date, residential additions are up 101%, commercial additions are up 17% and total additions are up 47%. The quarter includes the first 7,000 customers from the newly opened U.K. commercial office.



The second key to growth is the preservation of the existing customer base. As can be seen in the table on the next page, 297,000 customers were lost during the year and replaced by new additions during the year. This is a function of the increasing size of the Company's book.

						%	September	%
	July 1			Failed toS	September 30,	increase	30,	increase
						(decrease	(	decrease
	2012	Additions	Attrition	renew	2012	)	2011	)
Natural gas								
Canada	561,000	19,000	(12,000)	(11,000)	557,000	(1)%	597,000	(7)%
<b>United States</b>	544,000	40,000	(31,000)	(84,000)	469,000	(14)%	570,000	(18)%
Total gas	1,105,000	59,000	(43,000)	(95,000)	1,026,000	(7)%	1,167,000	(12)%
Electricity	-	<del>-</del>	<u>-</u>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	-	_
Canada	683,000	15,000	(18,000)	(20,000)	660,000	(3)%	688,000	(4)%
United States	2,189,000	263,000	(71,000)	(50,000)	2,331,000	6%	1,548,000	51%
United	, ,	,	, ,	, ,	, ,		, ,	
Kingdom		7,000	-	-	7,000	-	-	
Total electricity	y2,872,000	285,000	(89,000)	(70,000)	2,998,000	4%	2,236,000	34%
Combined	3,977,000	344,000	(132,000)	(165,000)	4,024,000	1%	3,403,000	18%

The attrition rate was 14% on a trailing 12-month basis, up slightly from 13% in the prior year period, with U.S. gas markets higher and U.S. electricity markets lower. Canadian attrition was unchanged at 10%. Overall attrition remains within the Company's target range.

Renewal rates were impacted by a one-time non-renewal of a 75,000 RCE very low margin U.S. gas customer (approximately 45% of all quarterly failures to renew). This customer had annual margins of less than \$2 per RCE (average: residential customers \$181 per RCE; commercial customers \$70 per RCE). When it was apparent that the customer would require similar low margins going forward, the Company did not actively pursue renewal. There are no similar customers remaining in the Just Energy book. Despite this, renewal rates for the last 12 months were 70%, up from 67% for the year earlier. Management believes that there is an opportunity for further improvement in renewal rates; however, commercial renewal rates can be volatile on a quarter to quarter basis.

National Home Services ("NHS") also continued its strong growth. The Home Services operation saw its water heater, air conditioner and furnace installations grow to 187,300 units, up 30% from a year earlier. Including NHS, Just Energy's customer base has grown by 19% to 4,211,000 over the past year.

While growth in Energy Marketing was very strong in the quarter, the Company's original markets in Canada remain the weak point in this growth. Flat commodity prices and strict consumer protection laws have seen Canadian customer additions fall steadily over past quarters. Combined with this, customers coming off high price contracts signed five years ago have been reticent to renew their contracts for a further term. While overall renewal rates are at 70%, current Canadian renewals are well under target at less than 50%. Management expects that the renewal rates will remain low for the next 12 months as the last high price contracts expire with improvement thereafter. The expectation is that Canadian additions will be heavily skewed toward commercial customers for the foreseeable future.

# Profitability

The Company's customer growth translated directly into gross margin growth. Gross margin for the quarter was \$117.2 million, up 14% from \$102.6 million in fiscal 2012. Adjusted EBITDA was \$49.4 million, up 3% from \$47.9 million in the prior year, resulting in a payout ratio of 90% versus 91% in the comparable quarter of fiscal 2012.

The following factors drove profitability:

- Realized gas margin per customer was down 3% in Canada and 17% in the U.S. due to final reconciliations with local utilities balancing under consumption during the extremely warm winter of fiscal 2012.
- Realized electricity margin per customer was up 47% in Canada but down 11% in the United States. Canadian margins were helped by higher margins from JustGreen and other new products.
- New customer annual margins averaged \$181 per RCE for residential customers and \$70 per RCE for commercial customers, exceeding the annual margin on customers lost of \$177 per RCE for residential and \$50 per RCE for commercial. This reverses the trend over the past several quarters although the margin on commercial customers lost was impacted by the inclusion of the 75,000 RCE customer lost with less than \$2 annual margins.
- Aggregation cost per residential customer was down 21% to \$160 from \$203 a year prior. Commercial
  customer aggregation costs were, on average, down slightly. This positive trend has been driven by the
  use of multiple sales channels and economies of scale as fixed marketing costs are spread across
  more customers.
- NHS saw its gross margin grow 41% year over year to \$9.2 million up from \$6.5 million. NHS EBITDA was \$6.8 million, up 62% from \$4.2 million a year earlier.
- Administrative costs per customer were an annual \$34, up slightly, from \$33 a year earlier.
   Management believes that this measure will fall as new markets like the U.K. and new channels like Momentis begin to reach their potential.
- Bad debt equaled 2.3% of relevant sales, down from 2.5% in the second quarter of fiscal 2012.
- Bad debt expense was up 20% due to a 33% increase in sales in markets where Just Energy bears bad debt risk.
- Financing costs were \$20 million for the quarter, up from \$14.3 million a year earlier. The increase reflects inclusion of the convertible debenture funding the acquisition of Fulcrum and higher drawings on the working capital line of credit as a result of our accelerated growth levels.

All of these factors contributed not only to the Company's profitability but also to the growth in the long-term value of the business. Management believes that a key measure of this value is embedded gross margin. Embedded margin is an estimate of cashflow from existing contracts based on the spread between contract price and underlying supply.

The table below shows the increase in this value over the quarter and the last year.

#### **Embedded Gross Margin**

(millions of dollars)

(minorio di donaro)	As at Sept. 30, 2012	As at Sept. 30, 2011	Sept. 2012 vs. Sept. 2011 variance	As at June. 30, 2012	Sept. vs. June 2012 variance
Canada energy marketing				<del>-</del>	-
(C\$)	\$ 571.0	\$ 603.9	(5)%	\$ 587.7	(3)%
Home Services division (C\$)	510.7	335.7	52 %	465.7	10 %
Canada total (C\$)	1,081.7	939.6	15 %	1,053.4	3 %
U.S. energy marketing (US\$) <sup>1</sup>	1,065.7	866.7	23 %	1,023.0	4 %
Total (C\$)	\$ 2,129.5	\$ 1,848.1	15 %	\$ 2,094.9	2 %

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>U.S. energy marketing also includes embedded gross margin related to Momentis, HES and the U.K. operations.

#### Funding Growth Investment

One of the impacts of the rapid growth seen year to date is higher than expected demands for investment capital. The result of this is a high payout ratio on Funds from Operations and an increase in drawdowns on

the Company's working capital line. Payout for the last 12 months was 152%, up from 95% a year earlier, reflecting expenditures on high growth. The nature of these investments is that they payback very quickly and generate high returns as reflected in the growth of embedded gross margin above. Based on results to date, it is clear that the annual payout ratio on Funds from Operations ("FFO") will exceed 100% for the fiscal year. This will require financing through the Company's operating line, as has been utilized year to date, or other financing sources. Over the longer term, the Company targets a payout ratio of no more than 85%-90% on FFO, consistent with the cash flow profile of the Company's business. Based on Just Energy's current growth level, FFO payout is expected to be in this range for fiscal 2015.

Dividends were \$0.31 per share in the quarter, unchanged from those paid a year earlier. Payout ratio on Adjusted EBITDA improved to 90%, down from 91% a year ago. Removing seasonality using the last 12 months, payout ratio was 61%, down from 62% a year earlier. This continues a trend of improved payouts after the replacement of all lost embedded margin for the period. As noted above, the Company's dividend obligations will exceed funds from operations for the year. The rapid payback on Just Energy's investments should begin to offset this situation once all newly signed customers flow and the Company is in the process of arranging funding to maintain this potential accelerated growth rate, capital expenditures and to pay down the operating line.

# About Just Energy Group Inc.

Established in 1997, Just Energy is primarily a competitive retailer of natural gas and electricity. With offices located across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom, Just Energy serves close to 2 million residential and commercial customers through a wide range of energy programs and home comfort services, including fixed-price or price-protected energy program contracts, the rental of water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners and the installation of solar panels. The Company's JustGreen®products provide consumers with the ability to help them reduce the environmental impact of their everyday energy use. Just Energy is the parent to Amigo Energy, Commerce Energy, Hudson Energy, Hudson Energy Solar, National Home Services, Momentis, Tara Energy and Terra Grain Fuels.

#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Just Energy's press releases may contain forward-looking statements including statements pertaining to customer revenues and margins, customer additions and renewals, customer attrition, customer consumption levels, general and administrative expenses, dividends, distributable cash and treatment under governmental regulatory regimes. These statements are based on current expectations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ from those anticipated. These risks include, but are not limited to, levels of customer natural gas and electricity consumption, rates of customer additions and renewals, rates of customer attrition, fluctuations in natural gas and electricity prices, changes in regulatory regimes and decisions by regulatory authorities, competition and dependence on certain suppliers. Additional information on these and other factors that could affect Just Energy's operations, financial results or dividend levels are included in Just Energy's annual information form and other reports on file with Canadian securities regulatory authorities which can be accessed through the SEDAR website at www.sedar.com, on the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission's website at www.sec.gov or through Just Energy's website at www.justenergygroup.com.

Neither the Toronto Stock Exchange nor the New York Stock Exchange has approved nor disapproved of the information contained herein.

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