



CONNECTICUT ENERGY PROGRAMS HELP TO LOWER ENERGY COSTS

KEY CONTACTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - CT.GOV/DEEP

Infoline at 211

Department of Social Services (DSS): (800) 842-1132

Public Utility Regulatory Authority - Consumer Affairs Unit: (800) 382-4586

877-WISE-USE / (877) 947-3873 and www.EnergizeCT.com

HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL

Households can apply for energy assistance each year from November 1- May 1st. Contact your local community action agency by phone or by appointment. Your Hartford Community Action Agency which is represented here today can be reached at (860) 560-5600.

- The **Connecticut Energy Assistance Program** (CEAP) and the Contingency Heating Assistance Program (CHAP) help offset the costs of winter heating and also pay for weatherization services. For income eligibility and benefit levels, contact the Department of Social Services (DSS) at 1-800-842-1132 or visit DSS's Winter Heating Assistance page at <http://www.ct.gov/dss/cwp/view.asp?a=2353&q=305194>. You can also contact Infoline at 211 or visit the Infoline website at http://www.infoline.org/InformationLibrary/Documents/CT_Energy_Assist_Programs.asp.
- **Operation Fuel** is another program that provides energy assistance to income-eligible residents not eligible for state or federal assistance. The maximum Operation Fuel assistance available is \$250 per household for the heating season. This funding is available for the winter season on a first come first serve basis. For more information, call 211 or the DSS Energy Services Hotline at (800) 842-1132.
- Both Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P) and Yankee Gas provide special payment programs for income eligible customers. The **Matching Payment Program** and the **NUSTART** program help those who apply and qualify for energy assistance towards their bill to reduce or eliminate their past-due balance if they pay an agreed upon budgeted amount on time each month. Call CL&P at (800) 286-2828 or (860) 947-2828 or Yankee Gas at: (800) 438-2278. CL&P has prepared a booklet, "Programs That Help People in Connecticut." Page 5 of the booklet also references the energy assistance programs CL&P offers, and can be found at <http://www.cl-p.com/downloads/Programs%20That%20Help%20People%20Booklet.pdf?id=4294986830&dl=t>.
- The **Consumer Affairs Unit** of the **Public Utility Regulatory Authority** can also assist customers with additional help in navigating these utility programs and can be reached at (800) 382-4586.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

877-WISE-USE / (877) 947-3873 and www.EnergizeCT.com

Energy efficiency can help all ratepayers reduce their energy bills. Savings can come from more efficient lighting and also through more efficient heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and installing insulation, and efficient windows, machinery, and appliances.

- With the support of the Connecticut Legislature, Connecticut's energy investment plan, the 2013-2015 Conservation and Load Management Plan has expanded to significantly increase opportunities to invest in energy efficiency. Find application forms, qualifying equipment lists and other resources you need to participate in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs through the **Energize Connecticut website** at www.EnergizeCT.com.
- The **Home Energy Solutions**—Income-Eligible (HES-IE), formerly the WRAP program, helps income-eligible customers reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. Call (877) WISE-USE / (877) 947-3873 or visit www.EnergizeCT.com/HES.
- **Financing Makes Energy-Saving Affordable**. Financing energy-saving and renewable energy home improvements has never been more affordable. The **Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund** and the **Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority** offer attractive financing options that help you make energy -efficient and renewable energy home improvements that save energy and money and improve comfort in your home year-round. Smart-E Loans offer long-term, low-interest financing through participating lenders to help Connecticut residents make home energy improvements. Smart-E Loans are affordable, simple and quick to access. For more information please visit <http://www.energizect.com/residents/programs/smart-e>.



SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL CHOOSE YOUR ELECTRIC SUPPLIER

The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered. The ability for electric ratepayers to choose a new supplier was greatly enhanced following the passage of legislation in 2007, 2011 and 2013. Connecticut electric companies are now required to provide information about competitive suppliers to their customers. Anyone who is interested should visit www.EnergizeCT.com/suppliers or call (877) WISE-USE / (877) 947-3873 for more information.

SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS

Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including:

- Insulation
 - Doors
 - Windows
 - Geothermal heat pumps
 - Caulking
 - Water heaters
 - Programmable thermostats
 - Fluorescent light bulbs
 - Furnaces
- For more information, visit the www.EnergizeCT.com website; or contact the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services at (860) 297-5962 or <http://www.ct.gov/DRS>.
 - Also see, <http://www.energizect.com/residents/solutions/lighting-appliances-electronics/> Whether you are shopping for a new refrigerator or TV – or simply changing a light bulb – choose products with the ENERGY STAR label. ENERGY STAR products meet energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy. By consuming less energy, ENERGY STAR certified products substantially cut your energy costs. The ENERGY STAR label can be found on more than 65 different kinds of products found in our homes and workplaces.

REBATES

Rebates Help You Act Now. Making energy-saving and renewable energy home improvements has never been more affordable. The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority offer rebates that not only reduce your upfront costs, but also allow you to enjoy the benefits of smart energy choices right away. For more information see, current rebates: <http://www.energizect.com/residents/solutions/rebates>.

NATURAL GAS EXPANSION PLAN

The energy marketplace has been transformed by emergence of lower cost shale gas due to technological innovations (hydraulic fracturing – “fracking” – and horizontal drilling). The state and utility companies have proposed additional opportunities to mitigate the total cost of residential and business conversions. Various financing options are being discussed and some or all of them will be available in the coming months.

- Only 31% of the state’s 1.4 million residential customers currently use natural gas for heating
- Conversion to natural gas offers about 50% heating cost savings in all sectors, creates jobs, and reduces emissions
 - Over the next 10 years CT natural gas companies will bring gas to approximately 280,000
 - 39,500 low use convert to heat
 - 155,000 – on-main customers 150 ft. or less from main
 - 85,500 – off – main customers
 - This plan will increase the natural gas penetration in the state from 31% to 50%
 - 50% of the state will remain without natural gas and will continue to heat their homes by some other means than natural gas
 - As of Monday January 6th the state’s average for home heating oil was \$4.00/gallon
 - The natural gas companies are working closely with DEEP and PURA to meet the goals of the Plan
 - Customer resources to determine natural gas availability
 - Convert to Natural Gas Section – on gas co. websites



- If you are less than 150 feet away from an existing gas line you can easily convert to natural gas. For East Hartford customers in the CNG Gas territory, see how your fuel heating compares to natural gas heating with residential space heating calculator: https://www.yankeegas.com/For_your_Home/SwitchToNaturalGas/Appliances/Furnaces_Boilers/. For more information on conversions visit http://www.yankeegas.com/Help/Natural_Gas_FAQs/Natural_Gas_Expansion_FAQs/ or call (855) OIL2Gas / (855) 645-2427.
 - Get Connected Initiative - Consumer Information and Education program
 - Social media and public relations components
 - www.facebook.com/getconnectedct
 - www.twitter.com/getconnectedct
- Choosing Heating and Plumbing Contractors
 - Obtain multiple quotes
 - Written quote at no cost to you
 - the written quote should specify an expiration date
 - Confirmation that the equipment will be sized and installed in accordance with local, state codes, industry standards and manufacturer's guidelines, in compliance with federal, state, local laws, rules and regulations regarding hazardous materials inspection, removal and disposal.
 - Contractor confirmation of a minimum one year warranty on equipment and installation at no additional cost to you.
 - Before you accept a quote, we encourage you to check the installing contractor's references from prior customers
 - and the contractor's rating and feedback with the CT Better Business Bureau at
 - <http://ct.bbb.org> and the CT Department of Consumer Protection www.ct.gov/dcp.
- Financing – Visit www.EnergizeCT.com
- Specific Financing for Heating System Replacements
 - EnergizeCT Heat Loan Program
 - Approved by DEEP November 2013
 - Repayment on the electric bill
 - Fuel Blind, Loans for up to \$15,000 customer 10% down payment at 2.99% rate
 - System replacement must a 10 year or less payback

FURNACE AND BOILER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

In 2013 the Legislature successfully passed legislation that created a Boiler/Furnace Replacement Program. This program is available to all residential property owners that have paid their utility bill for six consecutive months (no credit check involved). This program provides low-interest financing for Residential Heating Equipment Upgrades or Conversions for loans up to \$15,000.

- The loan is paid back on your monthly utility bill and can be repaid in up to ten months.
- For more information visit <http://www.energizect.com/residents/programs/High-Efficiency-Furnace-Natural-Gas-Boiler-Rebates> or call (877) WISE-USE / (877) 947-3873.

RESIDENTIAL SOLAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are now more affordable than ever for Connecticut residents. You can make a smart investment and save money on your electric bills by adding a proven, reliable, pollution-free technology to your home.

- The Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority now offers two different incentive models to help customers. The first model supports residential consumers who seek to purchase a solar PV system. The second model is a leasing model



designed to allow consumers access to solar PV systems with no or limited upfront costs. Learn more about the Connecticut Residential Solar Programs at <http://www.energizect.com/residents/programs/residential-solar-investment-program>.

OTHER USEFUL ENERGY LINKS

- Department of Energy and Environmental Protection: www.ct.gov/deep
- Public Utilities Regulatory Authority: www.ct.gov/pura
- Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority: www.ctcleanenergy.com
- Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board: <http://www.energizect.com/about/eeboard>
- Top-Ten USA - Energy-saving products: <http://www.toptenusa.org/ct>
- ENERGY STAR: <http://www.energystar.gov/>
- www.fueleconomy.gov