



Impacts of Energy Efficiency Fund Raid Being Felt Throughout Connecticut

January 16, 2018

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released its Approval with Conditions of the 2018 Update of CT's 2016-2018 Conservation and Load Management Plan after receiving and reviewing the November 1, 2017 Conservation and Load Management Plan Update and budget.

The revised budget included the incorporation of significant adjustments resulting from the legislature's recent raid of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF). Overall, the CEEF is set to lose \$127 Million over the next two years, with another \$20 Million from the federal Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). The CEEF is made up of ratepayer dollars collected on electric and gas customers' bills. A 33% portion of these dollars has been diverted into the State's General Fund. Simply put, this is a new energy tax created by Connecticut's General Assembly.

As a member of the Efficiency Board (EEB), The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has been working collaboratively with DEEP and the State's utility companies to decide how to best proceed after such a significant budget raid. Some impacts of the Fund raid include:

- \$2.9M cut in education and training. This will result in a hefty blow to our clean energy workforce in Connecticut.
- \$31M cut to the commercial and industrial portion of the CEEF budget. This means a substantial number of energy efficiency upgrades to CT's businesses won't come to fruition.

- 12,900 fewer homes (5,600 of which are low income) will receive weatherization upgrades. With this cut in place, these customers will not have the opportunity to realize the related savings.

Everyone who has a gas or electric bill has been contributing to the CEEF each month through a charge. The CEEF is specifically designed to allow ratepayers to take advantage of energy efficiency programs that help save energy and money. Many customers have been contributing to the Fund for years and now have an efficiency need that they are unable to get assistance with. This is unfair and needs to be remedied.

The OCC encourages customers who are interested in taking action against the raid of the CEEF and in support of any restoration of funds contact their legislator by visiting www.cga.ct.gov. For more information about the EEB, please visit energizect.com.



Please visit

OCC's website.