



OCC Presents on Energy Efficiency Matters to Legislative Committee

On January 29th, the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) presented to the General Assembly's Energy and Technology Committee. With several freshman legislators named to this committee, the meeting served as an introduction to the EEB and a general explanation to how it serves Connecticut's ratepayers through the programs it offers.

The Chair (Bill Dornbos from the Acadia Center) and Vice-Chair (Taren O'Connor from the Office of Consumer Counsel) of the EEB gave the presentation, along with representatives from Eversource Energy (formerly the Connecticut Light & Power Company) and the United Illuminating Company (UI).

The meeting provided background information on the EEB and its programs, as well as the benefits of these efficiency efforts. Most of the committee members were in attendance and had thoughtful comments and questions.

Connecticut's Energy Efficiency Programs

The EEB was created through Connecticut General Statutes § 16-245m in 1998 in order to provide electric and natural gas efficiency services and incentives to utility customers. It's funded by a 3 mill per kilowatt hour charge on utility customers' bills. Just like customers cover the cost of things like a new transmission line through a charge on their bill, they also cover the cost of energy efficiency efforts. For an average-use consumer, this equals approximately \$5.00-\$6.00 each month.

The programs offered through the EEB serve residential consumers, businesses, government and institutions (like schools and hospitals), and Connecticut communities. The Board members and those involved with the programs put a lot of careful thought into offering programs that will best serve these different constituencies, and recognize that the efficiency needs of one customer can be significantly different from the needs of another customer.

The programs educate consumers and offer financial incentives along with technical and installation assistance. They provide energy resources now and for the future at lower costs. Without energy efficiency measures, customers would pay for higher cost resources and be

more exposed to volatile energy prices. These programs are also a consumer's first line of defense against high winter energy prices. The state's electric distribution companies (Eversource and UI) and gas utilities (Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas) act as the Program Administrators.

The utilities also work together to create a 3-year Conservation and Load Management Plan, which they submit to the EEB for its review, and then to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for its review and approval. The EEB advises and assists the utilities in the development and implementation of the plans and programs.

One critical piece to consider when discussing energy efficiency programs is the cost-effectiveness of the programs. The EEB ensures it's offering programs that provide real, lasting savings to people, and that ratepayer dollars are being spent wisely. The EEB's evaluation committee focuses on verifying savings and cost-effectiveness through independent, third-party evaluations.

For more information on the EEB and its programs, visit its website at:
<http://www.energizect.com/about/eeboard>.