



Energy Efficiency Showcase at State Capitol Highlights Program Successes

April 27, 2018

On Monday, April 23rd Eversource and United Illuminating hosted an Energy Efficiency Customer Showcase event at the Connecticut State Capitol. With over 100 people in attendance, it was a great opportunity for commercial and industrial energy efficiency program participants to share their experience and positive effects as a result in their investments into energy efficiency.

Taren O'Connor, Chair of the Energy Efficiency Board and Associate Rate Specialist with the Office of Consumer Counsel kicked off the event. Energy efficiency programs offered to residents, businesses, municipalities and others in Connecticut are marketed under the EnergizeCT brand and are supported through a small charge on natural gas and electric bills. They are administered through the utility companies (Eversource, United Illuminating, Southern CT Gas and CT Natural Gas) with the Energy Efficiency Board playing an advisory and oversight role. Eversource's Andrew Brydges moderated the lively and informative panel and managed the curious and engaged audience.

The panelists included:

- Taylor Bova, Facilities Manager, Environmental, Health and Safety Leader – RC Bigelow (Fairfield);
- Bill Newbauer, CEO, Hubbell Electric Heater (Stratford);
- Steve Carroll, Director of Facilities, Montville Public Schools (Montville);
- Marc Franzman, Chief Financial Officer, Belfonti Companies (HQ in Hamden).

The discussion focused around the reduction in consumption for these companies and organizations and how they achieved such successes through energy efficiency. RC Bigelow, a tea manufacturer, was able to purchase new equipment and increase product advertisement with the money saved through EE measures. With an internal focus on sustainability, they've seen an overall 30% reduction in consumption.

Hubbell Electric Heater installed a 90 kW PV system, participated in a demand response program and renovated its facilities and is realizing safety and efficiency improvements. Employees are more comfortable and the company is growing.

Steve Carroll from Montville Public Schools reported that between 2009 and 2018, through participation in EE programs, consumption has gone from 3.7< kWh to 205 M kWh. Classrooms formerly used 11.5 kWh per day and now use 1.6 kWh each day.

Belfonti Companies has made a multi-million dollar investment into energy efficiency over the past four years and is saving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year as a result. They've taken advantage of incentives towards boiler conversions, new windows, insulation, lighting and a solar carport. They are now able to invest more in properties and avoid rent increases, among other benefits.

Overall, the showcase was an exciting and successful event that provided real-world examples of why energy efficiency works for Connecticut and why it needs to be a priority as we move into the future.



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