

Putting The Green In Greenwich

Energy Commission looks to reduce energy spending

According to Wallethub, Connecticut has the unenviable position of being the most expensive state for energy costs in the country. Both monthly electricity and monthly heating-oil ranked CT in the top five most costly states, only gasoline was moderately cheap compared to other states. Perhaps it was with this information in mind that Greenwich has formed an Energy Commission.

The stated goal of the commission is to cut energy consumption by at least 20% with a long term goal of a reduction of 40%. Couched under the Conservation Commission, these reductions hope to make a dent in the nearly \$6 million the town spends annually on energy. According to their energy conservation plan released in June, this makes up nearly 1.5% of the town's operating budget, if they make their goals, which would be a savings of \$1.2 - \$2.5 million.

In their conservation plan, they outline some of the methods that they will use to reach these goals. In existing buildings, there will be moves to replace appliances and light bulbs with Energy Star and LEDs respectively. Just a few years ago, LED light bulbs were expensively priced, but as production and adoption increase, they became much more feasible for large scale projects. Other initiatives on existing buildings is to look heavily

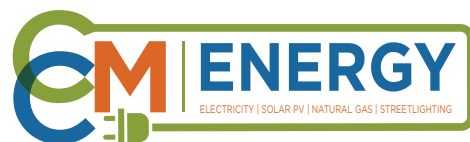
into renewable energy sources such as solar.

But, on new buildings, the game is completely different. On the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center, they are starting with a "clean slate" to add green measures wherever applicable, meaning that they "could be designed and built to zero energy, if the Town had the will to do so."

"None of these changes is likely to be implemented to a meaningful extent," the conservation plan says, "without a dedicated Energy Commission charged with formulating goals and overseeing the path forward for both municipal buildings and the community."

Greenwich is not exactly new at being green. They already have joined the Clean Energy Program, C-PACE, Energize CT, and Solarize CT; all of which have the goals of going green to save the planet and to find cost-effective ways to build up that green infrastructure.

The Energy Commission is acknowledgement of the concerted effort a town must make to enact change. Joining one of the above organizations, or CCM's own Sustainable CT can lead a municipality on a path that is both green and cost-efficient. In a state that ranks as the most expensive for energy costs, those savings can really add up!



CCM Energy is a multi-service program that helps CCM-member municipalities, their school systems, including all regional school districts, and local public agencies save money on annual energy-related costs.

CCM Energy:

- Reduces the cost of electricity and natural gas through strategic competitive energy purchasing
- Competitively procures long-term Power Purchase Agreements for Solar PV and Virtual Net Metering
- Assists municipalities with the purchase, maintenance, and upgrade of streetlights to LED technology
- Provides owner's representation service for: Energy Saving Performance Contracting Projects Municipal Microgrid Projects

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