



At Eastern Connecticut
State University

A collaborative approach for the development of
Community-Based Plans for Energy Sustainability

An Energy and Environmental Initiative
For
Connecticut Communities

The Institute for Sustainable Energy

At

Eastern Connecticut State University

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June 1, 2003

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Introduction

Ensuring a reliable, affordable supply of energy without causing irreversible damage to the environment is an issue that is being debated today in nearly ever political, economic and scientific arena. Daily we hear concerns voiced about the impact of raising gasoline and heating fuel prices. Despite restructuring, electric prices are increasing. Economic and political concerns have led to defending our oil interests in the Middle East and increased pressure to permit oil exploration in the national parks and open spaces. In addition, there are concerns about increased health risks caused by energy-related deterioration of air quality, climate change and global warming. Add this to the general financial pressure on municipal and state government budgets because of a weak economy and it becomes apparent that the time to address energy issues is now.

When Jeremy Rifkin wrote in his recent best seller, *The Hydrogen Economy*, “Energy is the elemental force and medium upon which all human culture is built,”¹ he implied that energy fuels both local cultural development and the regional economy. If this belief holds true, the way we address energy issues has the potential for a significant impact on our regions future. History has demonstrated that when reliable energy is readily available at a reasonable price, the culture and economy of that area can flourish. On the other hand, when energy supply is disrupted, reliability becomes questionable, or when energy is not available at reasonable prices, the community is severely limited in its ability to sustain quality of life and economic growth.

Throughout our nation, including within our own region, problems in securing adequate, reliable energy has placed a strain on the aging infrastructure. The uncontrolled growth of energy use, resistance to adopting renewable “green” energy sources, and mounting evidence of the detrimental impact of energy use on air quality and the environment, have drawn the attention of the government, business, the scientific communities and the public at large. These issues are not easily resolved at the national or state government levels. Government can influence the outcome by supporting research, establishing public policy and providing financial assistance. Much like the great strides that were made in recycling, the best solutions often lie at the grassroots level. As a result, local communities may be in the best position to take a leadership role in resolving many energy and environmental problems. The concern over raising energy cost, adequate energy supplies and the impact on the environment has inspired some communities to initiate proactive strategies toward energy sustainability.

Creating a community energy sustainability plan and implementing that plan is not an easy task. The solutions might involve changes to local public policy, providing energy education for better understanding of the issues and options, enhanced energy management to achieve energy cost reduction in public buildings, addressing difficult environmental issues and providing outreach to the business and residential community. Even though a number of excellent energy conservation and environmental programs are currently available, cost effective applications are often overlooked or postponed.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University understands these issues and is available to provide technical and administrative assistance to communities that are interested in developing a community-based plan or road maps to a sustainable energy future. The Institute is currently working with communities throughout Connecticut to improve energy sustainability. The Institute’s work involves assisting the community take advantage of a portfolio of energy conservation, environmental and renewable energy programs currently available to municipalities, business customers and residential energy users. These programs are typically publicly funded and designed to save money, improve energy efficiency while protecting the environment. Through their participation in these programs, the community can move forward with environmental and energy solutions to secure a sustainable energy future while reducing costs and actually freeing up funds that are hard to come by in light of the regions current financial crisis.

¹ Rifkin, Jeremy, (2002) *The Hydrogen Economy* New York, Tarcher/Putnam

What is Energy Sustainability?

First, it is important to pin down the definition of *Sustainability*. Sustainability has become a popular term used for preserving the environment. Many believe sustainability means to never deplete the existing resources. Others believe continuing to deplete the existing resources while developing substitutes to meet future needs is still achieving sustainability. A more inclusive definition might be to promote “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”²

Actually, the complexity of defining sustainability lies in the understanding that sustainability requires the careful balance of three independent variables: 1) the needs of the communities, 2) the impact on the environment, and 3) the economics of the available options. In a community where these three variables are considered in combination with equally importance, there can be sustainability.



Community leaders face the challenge of how to create an environment that encourages a future in which prosperity and opportunity increase while life continues to flourish and the detrimental effects on the earth and atmosphere diminish. In a consumer oriented society where bigger and “more” is often considered better, and where the financial pressures of our current sluggish state and national economies restrict capital investments, most community leaders struggle with how to offer programs and services that improve the quality of life for their residents, and grow businesses without increasing taxes.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University understands this dilemma and offers solutions. The Institute provides organizational and technical assistance to Connecticut communities that are interested in developing plans for energy sustainability. Implementing these plans will improve the efficiency and energy sustainability of the community, while at the same time, help develop broad support from the residents and businesses because it addresses a number of common concerns:

- Reduces unnecessary energy use, while helping residents, businesses and the municipality to cut energy and maintenance costs,
- Improves lighting, space conditioning and temperature control in public buildings with minimal, if any, impact on taxes,
- Reduces our regional dependence on foreign oil,
- Encourages the use of renewable energy sources (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, fuel cells, etc.)
- Reduced “greenhouse” gases, believed by many to be the leading cause of climate change and global warming,
- Improved air quality, believed to be a contributor to the recent increase in respiratory problems among children and the elderly, and
- Promotions a community spirit of sustainability that can translate into energy and dollars saved, and an improved business climate.

² *“Our Common Future” the Brundtland Report*, UN Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987

Community-Based Plan for Sustainability

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University is working in collaboration with Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management (OPM), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the local electric utilities (United Illuminating and Connecticut Light & Power Co), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of non-profit environmental organizations to bring energy, emission and cost savings to Connecticut communities. This initiative provides administrative and technical assistance to communities interested in a planned approach to reducing energy use and cost and addressing energy related environmental and health concerns within their borders. The Institute will assist the community with integrating a number of effective cost saving, energy and environmental programs currently available to energy consumers.

Activities supported by the Institute include assistance in making presentations to boards and committees, and providing trained student interns to perform the inventory of energy consumption, CO₂ and greenhouse gas emissions from all energy users in the town. The Institute staff will provide a more targeted analysis of energy use and savings opportunities within the government and school facilities. The Institute will assist in the formation of a town Energy Advisory Committee and facilitate the development of action steps and an Implementation Plan. The Institute will also assist in providing energy and environmental educational outreach services to the K – 12 schools, seminars for the business community, plus workshops for the community's residents.

Seven Easy Steps to a Community-Based Plan for Energy Sustainability

1. **Commitment** – The first step in the process is the Institute will assist the town's administration to present background materials concerning energy reduction opportunities, environmental impact, and funding opportunities to public officials, boards and community groups to gain acceptance and commitment to move forward with a "Resolution" agreement by the community's governing body.

2. **Inventory** – Next, the Institute will provide and supervise a trained student intern to work with town's officials to produce an inventory of the community's energy profile and to determine the "base case" for energy use and emissions. The intern will also develop a set of demographic GIS maps of the town to assist in the planning process. The inventory step will help focus the direction of the Energy Advisory Committee and provide information for setting targets, ranking projects and eventually monitoring energy and emission savings. The inventory step utilizes the following nationally recognized programs:

- US Department of Energy's (DOE) Rebuild America program to summarize energy use and create local indices and parameters,
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Cities for Climate Protection to determine the base year emissions and potential opportunities for emission reduction, and
- US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) EnergyStar Benchmarking Program to collect specific building demographics and compare the efficiency of the municipal's facilities to national and regional standards.

3. **Energy Advisory Committee** - The community will form an Energy Advisory Committee that will eventually develop the Implementation Plan. The committee will be responsible for formulating community goals, assessing the inventory data and GIS mapping, brainstorming opportunities, and establishing priorities that will be used to screen items for inclusion in the action

steps and Implementation Plan documents. The Energy Advisory Committee will be made-up of town officials representing the administration, public works, building department and the public schools. The Committee should include business leaders and community volunteers concerned with town-wide environmental programs. Representatives from the DEP, OPM and the local utility's Account Executive for Conservation and Load Management Programs will work with the Committee to formulate options and assist in securing engineering services and available project funding. The Institute will assist in organizing the Committee, calculate energy use indices and develop an energy consumption index for the community.

4. Action Steps – Based on a review of the data collected by the Community Advisory Committee, action steps will be compiled. The steps will identify and evaluate opportunities, activities and projects that will most likely achieve the sustainability goals set by the community. During the action step stage, the student interns along with knowledgeable technical partners will conduct walkthrough surveys on facilities and will identify conservation and load management opportunities including applications for EnergyStar lighting, appliances and windows, distributed generation and renewable energy sources and emission reduction opportunities. For each step identified, cost and benefit analysis will be developed, and a preliminary project description created.

5. Implementation Plan – The Institute will assist the community's Energy Advisory Committee prioritize potential projects and develop a ten-year timeline for implementation. The implementation plan will include the measures selected by the Energy Advisory Committee including projections of project cost, energy saving, and projected emission reductions over the life of each measure to be installed, as well as aggregated savings for the life of the entire plan. The plan will identify funding opportunities from sources both inside and outside the community. Outside funding sources might include: US Department of Energy's Rebuild America, the electric ratepayer supported Connecticut Conservation and Load Management Fund, and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. The plan will also identify projects that might be good candidates for performance contracts by energy services companies or project developers. This multi-year blueprint to energy sustainability will be presented to the administration of the town for their consideration, adoption and funding. Once the plan has been adopted, the town's normal budgeting and procurement procedures would be able to follow each recommended project from the planning stage through installation. The Institute would continue to support the town throughout this implementation and funding process.

6. Monitoring – Going forward, once action items have been installed, the Institute will work with the Energy Advisory Committee to monitor results and assist in developing regular reports on energy use, cost savings, and emission reductions. This monitoring and periodic reporting is often a requirement of some funding sources.

7. Recognition – A number of agencies including Cities for Climate Protection, the Energy Conservation Management Board of the Connecticut Conservation and Load Management Fund, the Environmental Protection Agency's EnergyStar Benchmarking, and the Department of Energy's Rebuild America program often recognize communities that achieve results. The Institute will assist the community in seeking recognition for their efforts to achieve energy savings, emission reductions and sustainability.

Developing a Model for Energy Sustainability

The Institute's goal is to support Connecticut's communities by developing a model for Energy Sustainability that can be easily modified and replicated to increase the statewide acceptance of energy conservation and renewable energy. In the process, the Institute is promoting sustainable energy activities that help to secure Connecticut's future energy supply, and reduce harmful emissions produced within our borders. Municipalities will play a key roll in supporting activities that will improve the reliability of energy systems, reduce the overall emissions of greenhouse gases, and reduce our regions dependence on foreign oil. The municipalities will also directly benefit from lower energy costs for municipal and school facilities. Although the Institute recognizes the differences between communities in terms of size, demographics, microclimates, and energy resources, this initiative uses a community-based approach that can be easily replicated and adapted to meet the great diversity that is sure to be encountered. Although we anticipate working with four to six communities in 2003, the model, once developed, would be available for any community in Connecticut in the future. The Institute agrees to provide the following services to those town engaged in the program in 2003:

- Provide support in presenting the benefits of the program to agencies, boards, business groups and community groups.
- Assistance in crafting a resolution, using the Cities for Climate Protection program as a model, to be adopted by the town.
- Provide a trained student intern to work with town officials to collect data for input into the inventory software and provide GIS mapping services.
- Enter the data on energy use, and building characteristics into the inventory models, run the models, reports on energy consumption, building efficiency, benchmark ranking and emission output, savings and potential revenues to the towns.
- Assistance in organizing the Energy Advisory Committee. Facilitation the identification of action steps and developing the Implementation Plan. Providing the municipalities with an integrated process that engages a collaborative team composed of community leaders, business leaders, volunteer conservation advocates and public advocacy groups.
- Assistance in securing energy conservation services and funding available from the programs offered by State and Federal agencies and the local utilities.
- Identify applications for renewable energy sources and exploration of funding supported by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.
- Promote a collaborative effort to create an umbrella conservation and air quality improvement program that addresses all customer segments; e.g. Municipal, commercial/industrial, residential, low income, and school age children through energy, environmental and economic education.
- Promote a collaborative effort to create an umbrella conservation and air quality improvement program in the community that addresses a variety of cost effective energy technologies; e.g. electric and fossil fuel conservation, electric load management, distributed generation, renewable energy sources, waste management and transportation.
- Coordinate and conduct workshops for the government officials, school officials, business groups and residential groups to encourage participation, and educate attendees on sustainable technologies.
- Assist in gaining recognition for the community's conservation and load management, climate protection and renewable energy use activities.

Typical Savings Opportunities

Technologies and Strategies									Examples
	Municipal Buildings	Schools	Water/Waste Water	Street & Traffic Lights	Public Housing	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	
Energy & Emission Inventory									CCP Inventory, Energy Bill Analysis, Load Analysis
Benchmarking									EPA Portfolio Manager, regional & national comparison, set priorities
Lighting Improvements									Relamp, refixture, improved controls, LEDs, system redesign
HVAC Improvements									O & M, system upgrades & replacement, VAV, system redesign
Building Controls									HVAC control, setback controls, DDC, Energy Management System
Building Envelope									Replacement doors, windows, Insulation, dock seals, thermal by-pass
Weatherization									Weather-strip, caulking, pipe & duct wrap, DHW tank wrap
Energy Star Appliances									Kitchen appliances, water heaters, AC units, computers & printers
Motors, Drives & Control									EFF motors, VSDs, soft start, motor alignment
Load Control									Load & peak shaping, fuel diversity, EMS, DG, thermal storage
Distributed Generation									Cogeneration, CHP, reciprocating engines, micro-turbines
Renewable Energy									Solar, wind, biomass, fuel cell, hydro, geothermal
Process Improvements									Compressed air, heat recovery, ventilation

Energy and Environmental Programs

The intention of the Energy and Environmental Initiative for Connecticut Communities is to provide a comprehensive, integrated approach to addressing the energy and energy-related environmental issues being faced by communities today. The Institute believes that the additional effort to coordinate participation in all of these programs concurrently will far outweigh the extra effort required. On review of these programs, it is noted that some involve retrofits to old buildings, while some focus on designing new energy efficient buildings. Some encourage electric savings only, while other programs are fuel-blind. Some encourage the use of conservation while others encourage the use of distributed generation and renewable energy sources. There is no simple solution. Evaluating and implementing a variety of cost effective supply and demand options through an integrated long-term plan is the best path to achieve energy sustainability.

In addition to the administrative and technical services provided by the Institute, the portfolio of programs that the Institute proposes to coordinate for each community includes:

- The Department of Energy’s (DOE) Rebuild America Program offered through Office of Policy and Management (OPM).
- Cities for Climate Protection, (CCP) offered through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiative (ICLEI).
- EnergyStar Benchmarking Portfolio Manager, offered through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Community Based Energy Initiative, offered by both United Illuminating (UI) and the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P).
- The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF).

PROGRAM MATRIX

	Commitment	Inventory + Analysis	Energy Advising Team	Define Action Steps	Implementation & Funding Plan	Monitor Results	Recognition
Rebuild American (DOE)							
Cities for Climate Protection (ICLEI)							
Energy Star (EPA)							
Utilities Community Based C&LM							
CT Clean Energy Fund							
Institute for Sustainable Energy							

Rebuild America

Sponsored by the Department of Energy, Rebuild America is a national network of public-private partnerships engaged in making energy-efficient improvements to their communities. Local action plans reduce energy costs, with savings used to modernize buildings and revitalize communities. In Connecticut this program is administered by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and supported by the Boston office of the Department of Energy (DOE).

From 1995 through Operational Year 2001, DOE's \$51.5 million investment has produced remarkable results, including:

- \$120 million in annual energy cost savings. Cumulative cost savings totaling \$264 million - enough energy savings to power 200,000 U.S. homes for a year, or 25 office buildings the size of the Pentagon.
- \$540 million in capital investment. Over 400 million square feet of renovated building space - an area equivalent to 7,280 football fields or 186 Empire State Buildings. An additional 420 million square feet committed or underway that will result in \$660 million in new capital investment and \$145 million in annual savings.
- Over 450 community partnerships in 54 states and territories. More than 1,000 schools influenced by energy efficiency. \$16.26 in annual energy savings and \$10.53 in private investment for every DOE dollar invested.

Rebuild America's goals for 2010 at current budget levels include:

- \$1.24 billion in annual energy cost savings and \$5.95 billion in cumulative energy cost savings with \$5.64 billion in leveraged non-federal investment. Four billion square feet of building improvements. Over three million metric tons of carbon equivalents avoided.

Rebuild America is a portfolio of planning initiatives, investment choices and community actions that extends the value of energy efficiency from building renovation into new construction, renewable technologies, green buildings, city lighting, alternatively fueled vehicles, downtown revitalization and more. This marketplace of ideas, tools, resources, and energy-smart technologies provides a place where community partnerships can "shop" for help in fulfilling locally designed efficient energy solutions for their schools, homes, workplaces, recreational centers and public buildings. It serves as a gateway to other energy-saving programs and Federal initiatives. Rebuild America creates a forum for municipal authorities, architects, facility planners, engineers, builders, community leaders, educators, technology developers, manufacturers, energy service providers, financing experts, state energy programs and others for sharing experience and practices across projects and programs. It is a working model for leveraging taxpayer dollars with private investment to produce billions of dollars in energy cost savings.

Rebuild America's EnergySmart Schools focuses on energy education and on revolutionizing the way schools are designed in this country. It is part of the larger national commitment to improve the learning environment for children and teachers. Other targets include colleges and universities, state and local governments, public and multifamily housing, and commercial buildings.

Rebuild America is helping the Department of Energy lead the nation in research, development and deployment of advanced energy efficiency and clean power technologies and practices. Americans will benefit with a stronger economy, healthier environment, and more secure future.³

³ <http://www.rebuild.org>

Cities for Climate Protection

Sponsored by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), cities and counties enrolled in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their local government operations and from throughout their communities. Each local government sets its own emissions reduction target and develops a Local Action Plan outlining actions that will be pursued to meet the target. To participate in the Campaign, local governments pass a resolution and undertake the following tasks or milestones:

- Development of a base year emissions analysis of the sources and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Forecast emissions growth for the target year of 2005 or 2010.
- Adoption of an emissions reduction target, such as the "Toronto Target" - reducing CO₂ emissions 20% below 1990 levels by the target year, 2010.
- Creation of an action plan outlining the activities that will be pursued to achieve the emissions reduction target, and implementation of the actions prescribed.

From their headquarters in Berkeley, CA. ICLEI has staff and tools to support the local community team. Most local governments already have actions underway, such as building retrofits and recycling programs that will help meet their emissions reduction goal, that can be included in their plan.⁴

EnergyStar - Benchmarking / Portfolio Manager

Sponsored by the US Department of Environmental Protection, EnergyStar has developed Portfolio Manager to help Municipalities and the business community continually track and compare energy use, critical to successful energy management. Portfolio Manager also provides a comparative 1-to-100 rating of energy use for: Office Buildings, K – 12 Schools, Hospitals, Hotels and Grocery Stores. Buildings and facilities not included above may also track and measure energy, although a 1-to-100 rating is not available at this time. The portfolio manager is designed to assess the comparative energy performance of a wide range of commercial buildings against all similar-use buildings in the United States and in your region. To ensure an accurate benchmark score, the portfolio manager's benchmarking models require buildings to meet certain eligibility criteria. To benchmark your building and apply for the label, at least 50 percent of your building's floor area must consist of the primary space uses listed below. Additional space types will be added in the coming months.

Office - Building space used for general office, professional, and administrative purposes. Relevant businesses and industries include banks, insurance, real estate, securities, brokerage firms, consulting, corporate, engineering, law, management, medical, mixed professional, computer center, and data entry. Floor area for all supporting functions, such as staff cafeterias, lobbies, stairways, elevator shafts, etc., should be included in the total.

K-12 Schools - School buildings for grades Kindergarten through 12th grade. Floor area for all supporting functions, such as lobbies, cafeterias, stairways, elevator shafts, etc., should be included in the total.

Hospitals - Acute Care and Children's Hospitals are eligible to participate. These are facilities that typically provide a variety of services within the same building or among multiple buildings on a

⁴ <http://www.iclei.org/>

campus, including emergency medical care, physician's office services, diagnostic care, ambulatory care, and surgical care. For multiple-building hospitals (campuses), the sum of the square footage and energy usage of all buildings should be included in the tool.

Hotel/Motel - Buildings that rent overnight accommodations on a room/suite basis, with a bath/shower and other facilities in most guest rooms. Floor area for all supporting functions, such as food facilities, laundry facilities, exercise rooms, health club/spas, lobbies, elevator shafts, stairways, etc., should be included in the total square footage. Hotel/motel categories currently eligible for benchmarking include: economy, mid-scale, upscale, and upper upscale. Resort and extended stay categories are not eligible for benchmarking at this time.⁵

Community Based Energy Initiative

Sponsored by United Illuminating and Connecticut Light and Power Company, Teaming up for Conservation - the Community Based Energy Initiative (CBEI), In their respective territories, UI and CL&P combine forces with specific towns to conserve electric energy more effectively. CBEI focuses on the introduction and promotion of UI's and CL&P's existing electric saving conservation and load management (C&LM) programs. These programs provide rebates and other incentives to customers in all three customer sectors - commercial and industrial (C/I), municipal and residential. Conservation and Load Management programs are funded by Connecticut ratepayers. The inclusion of CBEI allows municipalities, industries and residents to benefit from the utilities technical expertise and subsidized energy savings programs.⁶

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

The Clean Energy Fund invests in enterprises and other initiatives that promote and develop sustainable markets for energy from renewable sources and fuel cells that will benefit the ratepayers of Connecticut. The Connecticut General Assembly created the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) in 1998 as part of legislation deregulating electric utilities. CCEF began formal operations in January 2000. Money to capitalize the Clean Energy Fund comes from a surcharge on consumers' utility bills. Capitalization is expected to be approximately \$15 million in 2000 and grow to approximately \$120 million in 2005.

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is managed by Connecticut Innovations, Inc., the state's leading investor in high technology. Since 1995, Connecticut Innovations has disbursed more than \$58 million in investments and program initiatives. Last year, it posted a return on investment of greater than 20 percent. The Connecticut Innovations, Inc. supports local manufacturers and entrepreneurs with a great idea or investors looking for a healthy return on clean energy investments.

CCEF considers investing in local, national, or international projects that benefit Connecticut ratepayers, stimulate demand for or production of clean energy and involve one of these clean energy technologies: Solar energy, wind, fuel cells, landfill gas, biomass conversion, ocean thermal energy, wave or tidal energy, and emerging non-fossil fueled technologies.⁷

⁵ <http://www.energystar.gov/default.shtml>

⁶ For United Illuminating http://www.uinet.com/our_community/town_energy.html,

For Connecticut Light and Power: <http://www.cl-p.com/>

⁷ <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/>

The Institute for Sustainable Energy

The Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University was established in November 2001 to identify, develop, and implement the means for achieving a sustainable energy future for Connecticut and the region. The Institute focuses on energy matters relating to public policy, conservation and load management, efficient and renewable distributed generation, protection of environmental resources, and the dissemination of useful information on energy alternatives and sustainability to users and providers of energy. The northeast region stands at the crossroads of a sustainable energy future. Critical issues include:

- The formation of public policies that will guide energy efficiency, generation selection and facility siting, and market design in concert with electric restructuring;
- Evaluation and promotion of proven solutions and unique models for applications of renewable energy, conservation and load management;
- The development of regional sustainability energy strategies,
- Environmental initiatives concerning global warming and the reduction of greenhouse gases, and
- The inclusion of renewable energy, conservation and sustainability into educational curriculum.

A formidable body of research and substantial effort is already dedicated toward the goal of achieving a sustainable energy future. Serving as this functional clearinghouse, raising public awareness, and more importantly, transforming the market place using real, applied solutions, is the intended purpose and function of the Institute for Sustainable Energy. The Institutes primary activities include:

- Provide **Educational Outreach**
- Providing **Resources** and a **Clearinghouse** for Energy Sustainability Information
- Assist in the development of **Public Policy**
- Provide assistance in developing **Energy Solutions**

The implementation of this Energy and Environmental Initiative for Connecticut Communities provides a starting point for sustainable solutions. While municipalities, businesses and residents save on the cost of energy, they will, at the same time, reduce pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, and their dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

The Institute for Sustainable Energy is funded and supported by the Connecticut Energy Conservation and Load Management Fund through the Energy Conservation Management Board and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.