



CONNECTICUT  
CLEAN ENERGY FUND

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## NEWS RELEASE

### **New Home Builders Vie for Green Title** *Connecticut Zero Energy Challenge*

New Britain, CT – The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) are sponsoring a *Zero Energy Challenge* competition for designers and builders of new homes in Connecticut. The new residential building projects selected to participate will be competing to achieve the lowest possible overall energy use. The grand prizewinner will receive \$15,000; second place, \$10,000; third place, \$5,000.

Participating utilities are The Connecticut Light and Power Company, The United Illuminating Company, Connecticut Natural Gas, Southern Connecticut Gas and Yankee Gas Services Company. The homes being entered in the Challenge must be built in the service territory of one of the participating utilities and must be a customer of that utility. Eligible homes include any market rate or low income home or unit about to be, or in the process of development in Connecticut falling under the residential designation by the Connecticut state building code. This may include homes that are single family attached and detached, multi-family, condos and townhouses. Multi-family attached homes must be three stories or less to be considered residential. The application must include plans that show the proposed energy-savings based on an industry standard. Complete details on eligibility, the rating system, how to enter and required documentation can be found on the *Residential New Construction* pages of [cl-p.com](http://cl-p.com) and [uinet.com](http://uinet.com).

The sponsors of the *Connecticut Zero Energy Challenge* were looking for a way to showcase and promote builders and developers of highly efficient homes (near zero energy). Through this Challenge, these innovative homes will demonstrate that building to this level of super efficiency is achievable today. It is expected that homes in the Challenge will greatly exceed minimum code standards and will incorporate advanced design and construction techniques such as superior insulation, high efficiency HVAC systems including inverter driven or geothermal heat pump technology, solar thermal water and photovoltaic systems, and tight construction.

“Everyone is talking about energy efficiency and renewable energy. This Challenge is a great opportunity to show that it’s much more than talk – it is a reality right now for some homeowners and builders,” said CEEF chairman, Jeffrey Gaudiosi. “We believe this challenge will encourage others and will demonstrate what it takes to achieve a near zero energy home.”

“On behalf of Connecticut’s electric ratepayers, we are delighted to partner with the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund on a creative new initiative to promote clean energy and energy efficiency,” said Lise Dondy, president of CCEF. “The Challenge is a great way for us to reward innovative approaches to sustainable building options. The winners of this competition will serve as a model for the next wave of green energy practices.”

Applications are due by May 1, 2009. Finalists will then be announced and their building progress will be documented on a Challenge web site and through media announcements until their completion no later than December 1, 2010.

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*About the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF): The CEEF promotes efficient energy use, helps residents and businesses save on their energy bills, advances economic development, reduces electric demand, and helps reduce air pollution. The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company administer the CEEF through conservation programs that serve residential customers, including limited and fixed-income customers, as well as business and municipal customers. Connecticut’s energy-efficiency programs are funded by a charge on customer energy bills. Additional information on Connecticut’s energy-efficiency programs can be found at [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com).*

*About the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF): CCEF was created by the Connecticut General Assembly and is funded by the electric ratepayers. CCEF’s mission is to promote, develop and invest in clean energy sources for the benefit of Connecticut’s ratepayers in order to strengthen Connecticut’s economy, protect community health, improve the environment, and promote a secure energy supply for the state. CCEF is administered by Connecticut Innovations, a quasi-public authority. For more information on CCEF, please visit [www.ctcleanenergy.com](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com).*