



Empowering you to make smart energy choices

# BRIDGEPORT

## A UI CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITY

The City of Bridgeport has made a concerted effort to reduce energy consumption since its initiation into the Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program. By signing the CEC pledge, Bridgeport has committed to reducing their energy consumption 20 percent by 2018. Benchmarking work is being completed by both the municipality and the Board of Education (BOE) in the EPA ENERGY STAR® Portfolio Manager. Through the Energize Connecticut initiative, United Illuminating (UI) has worked in conjunction with the Mayor's Conservation Corps to assist residents of the city on a variety of energy reduction programs in an effort to achieve their goal.

With this initiative, students are able to provide residents with an invaluable resource that could change their lives by lowering their energy consumption and reducing their monthly energy bills.



### God is Green: Generating Sustainability in the Bridgeport Faith Community

In June 2015, a kickoff event was held at the Margaret E. Morton Government Center to launch the God is Green program. Here, a panel including former Bridgeport Mayor, Bill Finch, and officials from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and UI provided information to local houses of worship on the importance of energy conservation and sustainability.

UI has worked closely with a consultant and an intern from the University of New Haven, to conduct benchmarking on the houses of worship that registered for an assessment during this event and use the information to create energy portfolios to track the results.

### Mayor's Conservation Corps Canvassing Efforts

Since 2009, young members of the Conservation Corps canvassed more than 10,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) households in an effort to educate residents about the benefits of a more energy efficient lifestyle.

The purpose of these efforts is to promote Home Energy Solutions<sup>SM</sup> – Income Eligible. The Home Energy Solutions – Income Eligible program is a no-cost weatherization program designed to create more energy-efficient and comfortable homes, therefore lowering monthly costs. Each energy assessment is performed by professional energy experts who inspect the home to discover possible energy-saving improvements.

- 26** houses of worship from various religious faiths have registered
- 6** of the buildings are eligible for ENERGY STAR® Certification
- Lowered greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 402 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCDE) to **390** MTCDE [compared to baseline audit from 2013]
- Lowered annual energy costs from \$161,100 to **\$153,772**
- 1.8%** completion of 10% energy reduction commitment

Enrollment included signing a Clean Energy Communities Pledge promising to reduce their energy consumption by 10 percent. Simultaneously, each house of worship vowed to perform outreach amongst the community promoting energy efficiency and clean renewable energy programs.

God is Green exposed underlying issues in houses of worship that went previously unnoticed and caused increases in monthly energy bills. With this program, the faith community has improved how they perform environmentally and financially while simultaneously developing a plan for long-lasting sustainability. Nearly 50 percent of these houses of worship completed the audit necessary to gauge their energy consumption.



### Soak Up the Rain: Energy Efficiency with Community Projects

UI partnered with the Natural Resource Conservation Academy (NRCA) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) and reached out to collaborate with the EPA, Connecticut Green Building Council (CGBC) and the City of Bridgeport to provide a scholarship from the NRCA program to a student who wishes to focus on a sustainable storm water management project. Aris Land Studio, a member of the CTGBC, also collaborated with UI and will provide project guidance as one of the member firms while serving as the community partner. The EPA will provide guidance and subject matter expertise.

The city of Bridgeport has a combined sewer system and a history of working with its community on rainwater runoff management. Back in 2010, there was a rain barrel distribution for City of Bridgeport. The Mayor's Conservation Corps, retrofitted over 500 rain barrels that are waiting to find homes. The barrels were donated by the Mayor's Conservation Corps.

### The Great Light Bulb Exchange Brightens Up Bridgeport

In August 2015, UI through the Energize Connecticut Initiative sponsored the Great Light Bulb Exchange for residents of Bridgeport.

Held at the Home Depot in Bridgeport, the Great Light Bulb Exchange afforded individuals the opportunity to receive two free 60-watt equivalent Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs in return for two old incandescent bulbs. Attendees also received a multitude of energy-saving tips, information on various energy saving programs, as well as a coupon for \$2.00 off any additional bulb purchased up to 20 bulbs.



More than 400 households were represented resulting in the giveaway of more than 800 LED bulbs. With approximately \$240 saved over the lifetime of each LED, the city saved nearly \$200,000 or roughly \$8,500 per year. Bridgeport will also save 44,120 kilowatt-hours annually.

### UI Sponsors a Puerto Rican Day Parade Float

In May 2016, residents of Bridgeport gathered on Park Avenue to witness the 23rd annual Puerto Rican Parade and festival. UI lent support to the community by sponsoring a float in the parade.



This partnership was designed to further strengthen Bridgeport's commitment to energy efficiency. The parade was also used to promote the upcoming canvassing efforts from the Mayor's Conservation Corps taking place that summer.



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