



Utility Customers Can Save Money And Energy While Helping Operation Fuel

Hartford, Conn., -- Competitive Resources Inc. (CRI) of Wallingford will make a donation to Operation Fuel each time a customer of Eversource Energy (formerly CL&P) or The United Illuminating Company (UI) has a home energy assessment done by CRI on behalf of the statewide energy assistance program. The Home Energy SolutionsSM (HES) program, which is supported by Energize Connecticut and administered by Eversource Energy and UI, is an innovative solution to help reduce home energy bills.

Operation Fuel is a private, nonprofit program that provides emergency energy assistance through its statewide network of fuel banks to lower-income working families and individuals, the elderly and disabled individuals who are in financial crisis and not eligible for energy assistance from government-funded programs. This is Connecticut's only statewide, year-round emergency energy assistance program.

"There currently are more than 305,000 Connecticut households that can't afford to pay their energy bills. A home without heat or electricity isn't safe. A majority of the households that we help have either children under the age of 18, an elderly person or someone with an illness or disability. Operation Fuel is often the last resort for many of these vulnerable families and individuals," explained Operation Fuel's Executive Director Patricia Wrice.

The HES program provides homeowners and renters with services and installed products that will help make homes more energy efficient and lower their energy bills. During the home energy assessment, CRI's certified technicians will make energy-saving improvements that include identifying and sealing air leaks, installing energy efficient light bulbs and water-saving devices, and analyzing appliances and insulation.

The HES energy assessment has a small fee. Homeowners and renters who have a combined gross annual household income that is below 60 percent of the state median income may qualify for the no-cost Home Energy SolutionsSM (HES-IE) Income-Eligible program.

CRI, a utility-authorized contractor, will donate \$25 for every HES and HES-IE energy assessment that it completes on behalf of Operation Fuel.

Utility customers need to have their account number available and must mention Operation Fuel when calling to schedule an energy assessment. Eversource Energy and UI customers can schedule an appointment by calling 888-403-3500 or by going to <u>http://www.criprograms.com/operationfuel/</u> Eversource Energy and UI must approve all applications and the offer is subject to the availability of funding.

<u>About Energize Connecticut:</u> Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy efficiency programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.