



May 2009

CONNECTICUT NATURAL GAS News & VIEWS

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Enjoy the spring but start preparing for next autumn

The recently concluded heating season is a great reminder to begin planning ways to improve your home's efficiency. There is no better time to consider a money-saving energy efficiency project than right now. For instance, sealing those air leaks and adding insulation will help reduce energy use for both heating and cooling.

Programs available through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF), such as the Home Energy Solutions program (see next page), offer incentives to help make energy efficiency projects more cost-effective. These programs are funded by the state's regulated natural gas and electric utility companies. For more information about programs, call: 1-877-WISE-USE (1-877-947-3873).

Also, the federal economic stimulus bill offers tax credits for certain energy efficiency improvements. Visit the Department of Energy (DOE) Web site located at www.energystar.gov for information about program and eligibility guidelines.

If you are behind on your gas bill payments...

The moratorium on gas shutoffs has ended. If you find you're still having trouble paying your gas bill, call our customer information department 1-860-524-8361 (Greater Hartford) or 1-203-869-6900 (Greenwich) to set up a payment arrangement to keep the gas on.

Remember also that we offer a budget payment plan to help our customers better manage their year-round gas bills. To set up a budget plan for your account, call us at the number listed above.



Operation Fuel, Inc.

WE'RE ALL PART OF THE OPERATION.

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Add an extra dollar to
your gas bill payment to
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Older homes gain efficiencies through the HES program



The Home Energy Solutions program helps older homes save energy dollars. The program is available to SCG's residential heating customers through the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF) and the state's regulated natural gas and electricity companies for a low-cost \$75 fee payable directly to the authorized program contractor. The program is best for homes 25 years or older – properties that offer the greatest opportunity for energy savings. The program contractor will conduct a home energy assessment to identify both gas and electric savings opportunities and explain alternatives and provide applicable air sealing, duct sealing, water heating and lighting measures as well as information about applicable rebate programs, tax credits, financing options on eligible homes and other improvement opportunities. Call 1-877-WISE-USE (1-877- 947-3873) to schedule an appointment.

Try planting some fuel savings this spring

Did you know that some well-placed landscaping can yield fuel savings. A strategic landscaping project not only makes the grounds around your home more ecologically attractive, but also serves as a natural way to reduce fuel consumption. As few as three trees placed properly around the home can lower both heating and cooling costs by providing protection from the sun in summer and allowing in sun-light to warm your home in winter. Vines also provide shading and cooling. Grown on trellises, vines can shade windows or even the entire side of a home.

Evergreen trees and shrubs planted on the north and west side of your home deflect winter winds. To deflect summer winds, plant them on the south and west sides of your home.



We all count!



The 2010 Census is coming soon

The census is a count of everyone residing in all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) and U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. It includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens. The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years.

Why is it important to participate? Because the results affect political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding toward states and communities, which guides local decision-makers in the development of important community planning initiatives, such as where to build new schools, roads and hospitals.

Between now and July, census workers will be making their rounds to verify addresses in their communities in preparation for the census.

For more information, visit www.census.gov.



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