

# Efficiency First

Reducing Energy Use and Protecting Our Future



## Reduce Our Fossil Fuel Needs

Through energy efficiency and renewable energy



## Fight Climate Change

Reducing energy consumption means less CO<sub>2</sub>



## Invest In Clean Energy Solutions

Solar, Wind, and Hydro versus fossil fuel-based power

## We Removed A Power Plant!

### Energy Efficiency measures taken in 2016 reduced Connecticut's energy use by 88 Megawatts

The contractors of the EnergizeCT programs, including Residential, Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA), and Commercial and Industrial (C&I), combined to produce results yielding a significant energy savings for the State, saving enough energy through efficiency to power 14,000 homes.

1

**34,000 JOBS**

Direct jobs related to CT's energy efficiency industry

2

**\$80 MILLION**

Saved by CT residents and businesses through the EE programs

3

**255,000 TONS**

CO<sub>2</sub> not expended because of EE measures, equivalent to 62,000 cars off the road

## US Department of Energy Recommends Efficiency First

### PACE programs more effective when homes are properly assessed first

In a November 2016 update to its *Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs*, the US DOE advocated for home energy assessments or audits to be performed prior to any major system upgrades through a PACE program.

The EE programs contain the benefit of assessing the property (residential or commercial) for health hazards. This has resulted in hundreds of lives saved in CT and uncovered gas leaks, high CO, ALM, Mold, and other serious health impacting problems, which are often then corrected.

It allows professionals to address the home as a system and provide the ratepayer/resident a full report on available incentives, EE, renewable upgrades, and financing. This is the measurable direct benefit of providing the professional full-



BPI (HES or HES-IE) assessment and information to the person before they make consumer choices.

It is a disservice to the customer to allow the use of PACE financing programs to install a new system into a house that may have serious existing problems of indoor air quality, air leakage, or inadequate insulation values.

In order to maximize the return on investment to the consumer, we must insure that homes receive proper assessments before ratepayers enter into contracts for systems that may not perform as well as they expected.

## LET'S FIGHT TO REACH CT'S GOAL OF 80% HOMES WEATHERIZED BY 2030

### EQUALITY- EQUAL ACCESS TO EE PROGRAMS

Increases the chances of reaching our carbon reduction goals and introduces fossil fuel homeowners and renters to additional options for solar upgrades as well as financing options. However, by excluding oil and propane heated homes, we exclude many low income areas. Additionally, if we want to use less of the "dirty fuels", then we should assess and address the building's efficiency and incentivize the changes we desire. For example, **heating and cooling can be up to 40% of the energy draw**; let's get into the property, assess then address the waste through direct EE measures such as insulation, duct sealing and upgraded mechanical systems.

