Energize Connecticut Announces Winners of 12th Annual eesmarts™ Statewide Student Contest

Student winners from 22 different Connecticut cities and towns honored at ceremony

HARTFORD, Conn. (April 29, 2016) – Energize Connecticut partners Eversource, The United Illuminating Company (UI), Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas announced the winners of the 12th annual eesmarts™ Student Contest during a special ceremony held today at the State Capitol.

Forty-one out of more than 1,100 Connecticut students, grades K-12 and college, were recognized for their winning projects about energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability.

The ceremony attracted more than 150 students, parents, teachers, elected officials, and clean energy supporters from across the state in celebration of the students’ hard work.

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection energy policy chief Tracy Babbidge was the keynote speaker, and NBC Connecticut anchor Todd Piro served as Master of Ceremonies.

“Programs like the eesmarts Student Contest highlight Connecticut as a leader in clean energy and energy efficiency, and garner national recognition and attention for our state,” said Babbidge. “By educating our students on the importance of energy efficiency and sustainability, we ensure a legacy of environmentally-conscious thinking and advocacy, which will benefit our state and nation for years to come.”

Representing 22 cities and towns across Connecticut, the 41 winners included:

**Kindergarten**
First: Lily Sabino, West Hartford
Second: Nathaniel Moorcroft, Hebron
Third: Ian Bennett, Torrington

**First Grade**
First: Fisnik Hasani, North Franklin
Second: Connor Bienkowski, Torrington
Third: Aniya Medina, Bridgeport

**Second Grade**
First: Jason Latorilla, Waterbury
Second: Colton Andrews, Manchester
Third: Skyla Ocurick-Mendez, Waterbury

**Third Grade**
First: Om Brown, Hampton
Second: Evan Casine, Trumbull
Third: Sydney Huttner, West Hartford

**Fourth Grade**
First: Abigail DeJonghe, West Haven
Second: Talia Leshem, West Hartford
Third: Mujtaba Ather, Hamden

**Fifth Grade**
First: Nora Brown, Ashford
Second: Hannah Tuxbury, Wallingford
Third: Leah Williams, West Hartford
New to the contest this year was the college “Wright the World” category and a Grade 12 category. College students, enrolled in a two or four year college or university in Connecticut, were invited to write a 25-30 minute play supporting the eesmarts curriculum and mission.

Students in grades K-8 answered grade-level specific prompts in the form of a poster (Grades K-2), narrative (Grade 3), news article (Grade 4), book review (Grade 5), essay (Grade 6), speech (Grade 7), or public service announcement (Grade 8). Students in Grades 9-11 competed in the community service-learning project award category, which asked students to propose a community-based project to address an energy-related issue. Students in Grade 12 created a persuasive image that advocated for energy conservation, alternate energy source or addressed an environmental concern.

For more information on the student contest and the eesmarts program, please visit [www.eesmarts.com](http://www.eesmarts.com).

**About Energize Connecticut**

Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at [EnergizeCT.com](http://EnergizeCT.com) or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.

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