



**Media Contact:**

Justin May, on behalf of Energize Connecticut, 860.839.1538, [jmay@gbpr.com](mailto:jmay@gbpr.com)

## **Energize Connecticut Announces Winners of 12<sup>th</sup> Annual *eesmarts*<sup>TM</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> annual *eesmarts*<sup>TM</sup> 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 Ogurick-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



**Sixth Grade**

First: Sophia Nappi, Cheshire  
Second: Hannah Trocchi, Marlborough  
Third: Ryan Lauer, Torrington

**Seventh Grade**

First: Victoria Boustani, West Hartford  
Second: Lydia Bird, Torrington  
Third: Faiz Farooqui, Hamden

**Eighth Grade**

First: Angelina Laudano, Durham  
Second: Mariam Ghaloo, Darien  
Third: Brandon Sykes, Torrington

**High School: Grades 9-11**

First: Katlyn Campbell, Katherine Jarka, Nathaniel Savino, Paige Gnazzo, Amaria Yancey – Canton  
Second: Tatianna McQuay-Ward, Hunter Wood – Groton  
Third: Garrett Beaulieu, Newington

**High School: Grade 12**

First: Collin Stamm, Bloomfield  
Second: Lena White, Jules Davis – New Fairfield  
Third: Hannah Meikle, Tolland

**College**

First: Deborah Stauffer, Willimantic  
Second: Anthony J. Piccione, Willimantic

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.

###