



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media Contacts:

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## Energize Connecticut Accepting Entries for Seventh Annual Zero Energy Challenge

*Participants compete to prove high efficiency homes are achievable with current technology*

**NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – June 9, 2016** – Energize Connecticut partners, Eversource, The United Illuminating Company (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas and Connecticut Natural Gas are now accepting entries for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual [Connecticut Zero Energy Challenge](#) (ZEC), a statewide design/build competition for single and multi-family homes.

Deadline for submissions is August 1, 2016, and should include a project summary, description of the project team and an initial REM/Rate™ energy modeling file from a Residential Energy Services Network® (RESNET) accredited Home Energy Rating Systems® (HERS) professional. Final documentation for competing homes must be submitted by December 31, 2016, and final construction must be completed no later than January 31, 2017.

Building off of the success from previous challenges, 2016 participants should continue to demonstrate that building a super high efficiency (*zero energy*) home is achievable, and showcase the benefits of current energy-efficient technologies and techniques.

Participating homes can take advantage of financial incentives offered by Energize Connecticut. They will also have access to technical assistance from a HERS rating professional and the utilities.

Completed homes are assigned an energy-efficiency performance score through the use of the [HERS index](#). The home's HERS index, coupled with other factors including cost effectiveness in the construction process and the home's demonstrated thermal envelope efficiency, are utilized to determine the winners.

Participants will be eligible for prizes in the following categories:

- Overall Winner
- Lowest Overall HERS Index
- Lowest HERS Index Before Renewable Technologies
- Most Affordable Cost to Build
- Best Overall Thermal Envelope

Applications should be sent to the following address as it pertains to your residential electric service territory:

<b>The United Illuminating Company</b> 180 Marsh Hill Road, M/S AD-2A, Orange, CT 06477 Contact: Jenn Parsons Email: <a href="mailto:jennifer.parsons@uinet.com">jennifer.parsons@uinet.com</a> Phone: (203) 499-5935 Fax: (203) 499-2800	<b>Eversource</b> 107 Selden Street, Berlin CT 06037 Contact: Nick Jones Email: <a href="mailto:nicholas.jones@eversource.com">nicholas.jones@eversource.com</a> Phone: (860) 665-5825 Fax: (860) 665-3030
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For more information about the 2016 Zero Energy Challenge, and to see a list of official qualifications and requirements, please visit [www.ctzeroenergychallenge.com](http://www.ctzeroenergychallenge.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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