Energize Connecticut Announces Winners of 11th Annual eesmarts™ Statewide Student Contest

HARTFORD, Conn. (June 5, 2015) – Energize Connecticut, together with Eversource and the United Illuminating Company (UI), today announced the winners of its eleventh annual eesmarts™ Student Contest during a special ceremony at the State Capitol. 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. Governor Dannel Malloy was the keynote speaker for the event, and NBC Connecticut anchor and education reporter Todd Piro served as Master of Ceremonies.

The eesmarts Student Contest invites Connecticut students in grades K-12 to create projects about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability. Students in grades K-8 submitted 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) on a variety of energy efficiency and renewable topics. High school students-designed a community-based project to solve an energy-related issue in their city or town. More than 700 entries were received for this year’s contest.

“Connecticut’s clean energy future relies on the education of our students,” said Governor Malloy. “By providing students with the opportunity to learn about and appreciate the importance of energy efficiency and renewable energy, the eesmarts program positions them for a lifetime of environmentally-conscious thinking, which will benefit our state and beyond.”

The eesmarts program will provide the high school winners with grant funding and technical assistance from Eversource and UI to help students make their proposed project a reality in the next school year. For all grade levels, first prize winners received a $400 Amazon Gift Card, second prize winners received a $250 Amazon Gift Card, and third prize winners received a $50 Amazon Gift Card.

Representing 19 cities and towns across Connecticut, the 32 winners included:

**Kindergarten**
First: Alanis Butler, Franklin Elementary School, Stratford  
Second: Jenelis Viera, Franklin Elementary School, Stratford  
Third: Jayne Visokey, Holy Spirit School, Stamford

**First Grade**
First: Kaylin Figueroa, Cathedral Academy Lower School at St. Raphael Campus, Bridgeport  
Second: Cheyenne Brown, Northville Elementary School, New Milford  
Third: Katelyn Harris, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Second Grade
First: Lourdemia Andre, Cathedral Academy Lower School at St. Raphael Campus, Bridgeport
Second: Kiara Byrnes, Saints Peter and Paul School, Waterbury
Third: Gia Lee, St. Martha School, Enfield

Third Grade
First: Bella Curulla, Six to Six Magnet School, Bridgeport
Second: Talia Leshem, Solomon Schechter Day School, West Hartford
Third: Natalie Brown, D.H. Ferrara School, East Haven

Fourth Grade
First: Margo Katz, Mary T. Murphy School, Branford
Second: Fiona Rigney, Woodstock Elementary School, Woodstock
Third: Kristen Ward, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington

Fifth Grade
First: Nathan Kupcho, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Second: Kiera Garry, Holy Spirit School, Stamford
Third: Jason Ardito, May V. Carrigan Intermediate School, West Haven

Sixth Grade
First: Keelin Virgulto, Dr. Robert H. Brown Middle School, Madison
Second: Benjamin Speaker, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Third: Khrystyna Stets, Pope John Paul II School, New Britain

Seventh Grade
First: Julia Hynek, Pope John Paul II School, New Britain
Second: Brandon Sykes, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Third: Daniel Majkut, Engineer and Science School, Hamden

Eighth Grade
First: McKenzie Gauthier, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Second: Clare Farrington, St. Peter/St. Francis School, Torrington
Third: Royce Maxwell, St. Gregory the Great School, Danbury

High School: Grades 9-12
First: Mary Zech, St. Luke’s School, New Canaan
Second: Bertha Appia, Tatyanna Alvarado, and Brisa Cruz; West Haven High School
Third: Anuj Sisodiya, Trumbull High School

Honorable Recognition
Team 1: Jaclyn Bonomo, Olivia Kriby, and Sarah Paquette; New Milford High School
Team 2: Brian Faucher and Sarah Gagnon; Canton High School

For more information on the student contest and the eesmarts program, please visit 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 or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.

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