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Energize Connecticut Announces Winners of 13th Annual *eesmarts*TM Statewide Student Contest

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

HARTFORD, Conn., June 2, 2017 – Energize Connecticut and its partners, Eversource and AVANGRID, Inc. subsidiaries, United Illuminating, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas honored 43 finalists during its 13th annual *eesmarts*TM Student Contest Award Ceremony at the State Capitol.

Over 1,200 Connecticut students in grades K-12 and college competed in this year’s contest. From posters to persuasive writing, community-based projects to script writing, the *eesmarts* Student Contest encourages students to utilize their science, engineering, technology, art and mathematics skills to showcase their knowledge of 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’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Deputy Commissioner Mary Sotos served as the ceremony’s keynote speaker, and FOX 61’s Joe Furey was the Master of Ceremonies.

“With on-going advancements in renewable energies, green building and energy efficient technologies, it is imperative that we equip our students to not only be environmentally-conscious but to succeed in this emerging industry,” said Sotos. “It is an honor to be a part of an initiative like *eesmarts* that encourages students to expand their knowledge and skill set in this subject, and brings their vision of an energy-efficient society to life.”

Representing 22 cities and towns across Connecticut, the 43 winners included:

Kindergarten

First: Landon Paradis, Lebanon
Second: Kayyana Gotti, New Haven
Third: Lasya Josyula, Hamden

First Grade

First: Samantha Roundtree, New Haven
Second: Makayla Ramos, Stratford
Third: KaraLynn Marsh, Newington

Second Grade

First: Fisnik Hasani, Stratford
Second: Bennett Zielinski, Torrington
Third: Renata DeOliveira, Bridgeport

Third Grade

First: Sydney Bronk-Zdunowski, East Berlin
Second: Cole Christman, Hamden

Third: Mariah Jimenez-Ruiz, Middletown

Fourth Grade

First: Alex Patt, West Hartford

Second: Molly Weinberg, New Haven

Third: Waliullah Ammar Khawaja, Hamden

Fifth Grade

First: Mujtaba Ather, Hamden

Second: Olivia Cabrera St. Pierre, Wallingford

Third: Zahara Sumani, Middletown

Sixth Grade

First: Elizabeth Speaker, Torrington

Second: Diana Zito, Marlborough

Third: Natalia Mocarski, New Britain

Seventh Grade

First: Jolie Edwards, Deep River

Second: Ella Pitman, Deep River

Third: Grace McPadden, Shelton

Eighth Grade

First: William Harper, Darien

Second: Ryan Blatney, Darien

Third: Eliana Bouchard, Winsted

High School: Grades 9-11

First: Jacob Manente, Michael Stefano – Windsor

Second: Natalia Lecce, Ashlynn O’Keefe,

Amanda Hill, KC Marron – West Haven

Third: Tatianna McQuay-Ward, Tim Gomes,

Hunter Wood – Groton

High School: Grade 12

First: Aileen Leon, New Fairfield

Second: Sydney Gouveia – New Fairfield

Third: Thomas Ciardi, New Fairfield

College

First (tied): Jordan Merrill, Willimantic

First (tied): Paul Stenko, Willimantic

Second: Kate Cobb, Willimantic

Third: Kyle O’Connor, Willimantic

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.

The “Wright the World” category invites college students enrolled in a two or four-year college or university in Connecticut to write a 25-30 minute play supporting the *eesmarts* curriculum and mission.

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 State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Green Bank, Eversource, UI, SCG and CNG, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 877.WISE.USE.

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PHOTO CAPTION

2017 *eesmarts*[™] winners at the State Capitol with representatives from Eversource and AVANGRID, Inc. subsidiaries, United Illuminating, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas, DEEP Deputy Commissioner Mary Sotos and FOX61's Joe Furey.