

The Results Are In: The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Announces the Winners of First Annual CT Zero Energy Challenge



New Britain, Connecticut. (December 8, 2010) – The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, Connecticut Light and Power, and The United Illuminating Company are pleased to announce the winners of the first annual **Connecticut Zero Energy Challenge (ZEC)**. The ZEC is a design/build competition for the state that aims to educate homebuilders and homeowners about high-efficiency homes that consume almost no energy. Through this Challenge, the innovative homes listed below have demonstrated that building to this level of energy efficiency is achievable today.

First Place winner: The concept of this design was established early on by the home owners, Mary Keithan, and her husband George Keithan. The energy and consulting engineer [Consulting Engineering Services, Inc \(CES\)](#), and [Whitney Huber, AIA](#), teamed up to build this winning home built in Killingworth Connecticut which achieved the highest level of energy efficiency and secured the grand prize of \$15,000. This home received the lowest Home Energy Rating System (HERS) by implementing measures like geothermal heating and cooling, unique passive and active solar system, and an extremely energy efficient building envelope.

Second Place winner: The Schaller Eco-Home designed by Jeremy and Karann Schaller secured the second place prize of \$10,000 with their custom home built in New Hartford Connecticut. The Schaller's achieved their goal in building a home that uses less energy and greener materials, allowing them to live in a more sustainable manner. The shell of the home was constructed using an efficient system of structural insulated panels. This measure as well as many others resulted in significant waste reduction (only one dumpster being used during the entire construction period) and cost efficiency of \$125 per square foot for the home.

Third Place winner: Chris Trolle with BPC Green Builders represents this cutting edge home built in New Canaan Connecticut which earned the third place prize of \$5,000. Some of the innovative building features included a super insulated envelope, triple glazed windows, and a solar thermal system that enabled the residents to get through last winter without a utility bill.

For additional information on the winners and other participants visit: ctzeroenergychallenge.com

Pictured in the photo from L to R:

Pictured in the photo from L to R: **First Place Winner**, George Keithan, President, Consulting Engineering Services; **Second Place Winner**, Jeremy & Karann Schaller; **Third Place Winner**, Chris Trolle, Principal, BPC Green Builders

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The Energy Efficiency Fund

The Energy Efficiency Fund promotes efficient energy use, helps residents and businesses save on their electric and natural gas bills, advances economic development, reduces electric demand and helps to improve the environment. Energy Efficiency Fund programs serve residential customers, including limited- and fixed-income customers, as well as business and municipal customers. Connecticut's energy efficiency programs are funded by a charge on customers' utility bills and administered by the state's electric and gas utilities including: Connecticut Light and Power, The United Illuminating Company, Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas and Southern Connecticut Gas. Additional information on Connecticut's energy efficiency programs can be found at www.ctenergyinfo.com.

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Conservation Programs are funded by the Conservation Charge on customer bills. They are designed to help customers manage their energy usage and reduce their costs.