Connecticut's Energy Efficiency Programs are funded by a charge on customer energy bills.
The programs are designed to help customers manage their energy usage and cost.

Comprehensive Project: Q&A

Energy Opportunities (EO) and Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) programs' Comprehensive Initiative is designed to increase the depth and breadth of energy efficiency projects being contemplated and implemented by customers. The Initiative includes:

- Financial incentives based upon the lesser of:
  - 50% of Project Installed Cost
  - avoided energy cost (1 year) – up to $0.50 per annual kWh or $1,500.00 per summer peak kW for electric measures, and $6.00 per annual CCF (gas equipment replacements) or $3.50 per annual CCF (gas equipment/measure retrofits)
- "Comprehensive" is defined as projects having at least 2 end-uses, gas and/or electric, with no one measure having more than 85% of the project's annual $ savings
- At least 50% of the project's value must be from retrofit measure(s)

Note: All projects are subject to a $1 million per year per Federal Tax ID incentive caps.

The following are answers to some common questions.

Question #1:
What types of projects are eligible for the Comprehensive Initiative?

Answer
Retrofit projects that save energy in an existing commercial or industrial facility are eligible to participate in the Comprehensive Initiative. To qualify, a project must have at least two measures that save electric or gas energy in at least two different end uses.

Question #2:
What is an "end use"?

Answer
End uses are categories or classifications used to report energy savings. For the purposes of the Energy Efficiency Fund programs, end use categories are lighting, comfort cooling, comfort heating, process, refrigeration, water heating, EMS and other. The end use category of "other" is typically used to classify measures that affect more than one end use, like heating and cooling. A common example of "other" is motors in an air handler with hot water and chilled water coils. EMS is also a measure that typically has energy savings in more than one end use. As such, for Comprehensive Initiative projects, EMS will be classified as its own separate end use.

Question #3:
What types of projects or measures are **NOT** eligible for the Comprehensive Initiative?

Answer

- new construction
- major renovation (replacement of building systems)
- replacement of non-functioning equipment, components or devices (even if the system can function without it.)
- equipment replacements or upgrades that are being made to increase output/throughput or to meet new emissions or discharge requirements
- new roof
- change in occupancy use classification

Question #4:
Are there any minimum efficiency requirements for equipment, components or systems?

Answer

- Package air conditioning equipment must meet the minimum efficiencies identified on the Connecticut Cool Choice rebate application form as posted on the CL&P and UI websites. Call the Energy Efficiency Fund utility program administrator for efficiency requirements on larger units.

- All other equipment, components or systems must meet the minimum requirements of ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007 with all published addenda.

Question #5:
How are the installed costs allocated for measures that have electric savings only and measures that have both electric and fossil fuel savings?

Answer
The installed cost for measures with electric savings only will be the installed cost for the measure.

The installed cost for measures with both electric and fossil fuel savings will be based on an allocation of the percentage of the annual electric savings and the annual fossil fuel savings, in dollars. The allocated percentage of the installed cost for a measure that saves both electric and fossil fuel energy is calculated by multiplying the total installed cost of the measure by the billed value of the electric energy savings and dividing by the total billed value of the fossil fuel and electric savings.

Example: A new energy management system (EMS) with an installed cost of $66,000 is proposed as one measure of a comprehensive project for an electric customer on CL&P's Rate 55. The EMS is estimated to generate annual savings of 1,500 CCF of gas and 50,000 kWh of energy. There is no demand reduction associated with the EMS. The installed cost for the electric portion of the EMS will be calculated in the following manner:

Energy Savings	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Billed Savings
Gas (CCF)	1,500	$1.25	$1,875.00

Electric			
Energy (kWh)	50,000	$0.13217	$6,608.50
Peak Demand (kW)	0		0
Total Electric Savings			$6,608.50

Billed value of energy savings = $8,483.50 (1,875.00 + 6,608.50)
Electric percentage = 78% (6,608.50 / 8,483.50)
Gas percentage = 22% (1,875.00 / 8,483.50)

Allocated installed cost, electric = $51,480.00 (78% of $66,000.00)
Allocated installed cost, gas = $14,520.00 (22% of $66,000.00)

Question #6:
Can a gas measure be combined with an electric measure to qualify for a Comprehensive Initiative project?

Answer
Yes, the Comprehensive Initiative is designed around both electric and gas energy savings. To qualify, a project must have a minimum of two measures that save energy in a minimum of two end uses. No single end use can be more than 85% of the total project value based on annual $ savings.

Question #7:
Can the cost and savings of replacing natural gas boilers be included in a comprehensive project?

Answer
Yes, all costs and savings for this type of measure could be included in the Comprehensive Initiative evaluation, as long as the boiler is on a firm gas account and it represents <50% of the project's value.

Question #8:
When are other fuels used to qualify a Comprehensive Initiative project?

Answer
The installed cost and energy savings of a fossil fuel measure are used to determine the allocated costs of a combined electric/fossil fuel measure. At this time, the only fossil fuel that is eligible is natural gas. See Question #5 for an example of an energy management system (EMS) measure that has both electric and fossil fuel savings and how to split the cost relative to the estimated billed energy savings.

Question #9:
Does a retrofit project in a grocery store have two end uses if it proposes to retrofit the motors in the refrigerated cases with ECM motors and to retrofit the air handlers with VFDs?

Answer
Yes. The motors in the refrigerated cases are considered "refrigeration" and the air handlers are considered "comfort cooling," "comfort heating," or "other" (since it may provide both heating and cooling to the space.)

Question #10:
Are operation and maintenance measures included in the Comprehensive Initiative?

Answer
Operations measures and maintenance measures may be considered. Projects that are part of the Energy Efficiency Fund Retro Commissioning process are not included in the Comprehensive Initiative.

Question #11:
Can equipment replacement be part of the comprehensive project?

Answer
Like-for-like replacement of functioning equipment, whether electric or gas, is eligible as long as the resulting savings do not exceed 50% of the project's value. (See question #4 for the minimum efficiency requirements of electric equipment.)