

## Energy Programs for Businesses in Connecticut

Many state and federal programs exist to assist Connecticut business owners with efforts to become more energy efficient, save money on energy expenses, and increase their competitiveness in a challenging marketplace. From tax incentives to loans and grants, there are programs that address the concerns of new, expanding, and existing businesses.

### Expert Consultations Available to Start Assessments, Learn What's Available

- Business owners can take the “Business Sustainability Challenge,” and meet with consultants who will be able to match programs to needs in order to take advantage of everything available in the state. Incentives are available to those who participate. Every company looking at ways to improve their bottom line ought to utilize this important free resource from Energize Connecticut. Contact them via <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Business-Sustainability-Challenge>
- The Small Business Energy Advantage program offers incentives to reduce energy costs. The free audit will result in recommendations that include an offer for low or no-interest loans to pay for upgrades that will save money and energy while increasing productivity. The recommendations are non-binding, and the cost of the changes may be covered up to 50% by the program. See more at <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Small-Business-Energy-Advantage>

### Efficiency and Streamlining Measures

- Process Reengineering for Increased Manufacturing Efficiency (PRIME) brings LEAN manufacturing training into a facility to streamline processes, eliminate waste, and minimize energy consumption. The PRIME program provides a free energy assessment and companies may qualify for free funding of LEAN training events. Visit <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Process-Reengineering-for-Increased-Manufacturing-Efficiency> for more information.

### New Construction

- Businesses about to commence new construction project should consider taking advantage of tax credit programs for green buildings and other energy efficiency investments. The State of Connecticut offers tax credits for LEED building certification through the Green Buildings Tax Credit Program (<http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Green-Buildings-Tax-Credit-Program-UP>). There are also federal tax credits and grants available for energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in new construction. Visit them at <http://www.energytaxincentives.org/>
- For *new construction* or renovation of an existing facility, a team of energy experts will work with businesses to identify energy-saving opportunities and how to integrate them into design at the early stages. Incentive programs exist to include energy-saving measures in construction, <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Energy-Conscious-Blueprint>

## **Retrofits**

- A helpful first step for businesses seeking to improve energy use in an *existing building* is to contact the utility company to arrange for an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Service evaluation. Financial incentives are offered when recommended changes are made to a facility that will offset the costs of the upgrades. For more information, visit <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Operations-and-Maintenance>
- Older buildings can be retrofitted to improve energy consumption. The Retro-Commissioning (RCx) program helps owners reassess and enhance building system performance and then retrofit systems to address the problems. Incentives are paid after the retrofit is complete. See <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Retro-Commissioning>

## **Financing Assistance Available**

- Loans are available for small businesses that invest in energy saving projects. Two programs are offered depending upon the size of the company:
  - C&LM Financing from the Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) are interest-free loans up to \$100,000. Visit <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/CLM-Financing-Small-Business-Municipal-Loan-Program>
  - For commercial and industrial customers seeking to replace older equipment with energy efficient equipment, low-interest loans of up to \$1 million are available from the CT Energy Efficiency Fund with up to five years to pay back. See more at <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/programs/Low-Interest-Loans-for-Commercial-Industrial-Customers>

## **Other Energy Programs for Connecticut Businesses**

- The State of Connecticut has other programs to assist businesses with lighting, HVAC, and waste recycling. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, for example, offers financial incentives and low-interest loans to companies that install energy efficient heat and power systems. Companies looking to combine heat and power sources, replace lighting or water heating systems, may find programs that offer incentives. Visit <http://www.energizect.com/businesses/> to see all of the options and make a connection that will save energy and money.

Contact Justin Malley at the Bristol Development Authority for information about ways that the BDA can help your business grow! He can be reached at 860-584-6185, or via email at [justinmalley@bristolct.gov](mailto:justinmalley@bristolct.gov). Visit the BDA website at <http://www.bristolct.gov/bda>