

GOVERNMENT WATCH

Malloy Eyes Massive Solar Investment Plan

Although the Connecticut General Assembly won't pass the massive energy and environmental overhauls that have been its hallmarks under the administration of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, several proposals are working their way through the legislature this session that could have significant impact on



Gov. Dannel P. Malloy

industry if they are approved before the end of June.

Malloy has proposed a residential solar credit program similar to the Zero-emissions/Low-emissions Renewable Energy Credit program

(ZREC/LREC). This new Solar Home Energy Renewable Credit Program (SHREC) will offer owners of solar arrays on residential property 15-year contracts from the state utilities to buy the energy credits.

The governor hopes this new program – the successor to the current Residential Solar Investment program – will attract \$1 billion in private capital over its lifetime.

Other proposals under consideration at the legislature include capping the basic monthly connection fee for electric ratepayers to \$10, roughly half of what Eversource Energy customers pay now; allowing electricity suppliers to charge ratepayers only fixed-rate contracts, and no more variable rates; establishing a Long Island Sound Blue Plan to protect the resources along the coast; launching a regulatory study of the impacts of renewable energy programs on ratepayers. ●

SMART BUSINESS: JACKSON LABORATORY

JAX Lands \$1.2M Energize Incentive

To help its sustainability efforts, the Jackson Laboratory of Bar Harbor, Maine, received a \$1.2 million Energize Connecticut incentive for its new Farmington facility, which has since been certified LEED Gold.

Prior to construction of the Genomic Medicine lab in Farmington, which opened in October, Senior Facilities Director John Fitzpatrick worked with Hartford utility Eversource Energy to utilize Energize Connecticut programs and create a customized plan to reduce the lab's energy footprint. Eversource, along with Orange utility United Illuminating, administers the Energize Connecticut initiative.

The energy-saving measures implemented during construction of the 184,000 square foot building will save JAX Genomic Medicine more than \$620,000 a year on its energy bill.

The total cost of the efficiency portion of the project was roughly \$2.4 million, so after incentives covered half of that, the payback will be less than two years. That helped achieve the Gold level of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design program.

"Working with Eversource, we were able to develop a plan and leverage the Energize Connecticut incentives into tangible actions that delivered a favorable return on investment," said Fitzpatrick. "The money we are saving can now be reinvested back into our operations in the form of new equipment and personnel with the promise to transform medicine and contribute to greater overall human health."

One of the most effective measures installed at the facility was a monitor-

Government Grades by Brad Kane

Transportation Overhaul – Gov. Dannel P.

Malloy went big with his proposed budget this year, calling for a \$110 billion, 30-year investment to make the state's transportation infrastructure a true intermodal system.

Grade: C+ Strong leadership was needed on this, but

Malloy's failure to identify a funding source for the spending left his pitch a little flat. It's OK, governor, you can say, "Tolls." It won't kill you.



Renewable Teamup –

Picking up the failed pieces of the plan to have all New England states work together to address the region's energy issues, the governors of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island

Grade: A-

came together to use their collective buying power to pay for significant renewable energy installations.



JAX will earn back the money spent on its energy upgrades in less than two years, thanks to incentives and increased efficiencies.

PHOTOS | CONTRIBUTED

ing system from Massachusetts vendor Aircuity used to regulate ventilation throughout the labs. For climates like Connecticut's where it is cold in the winter and hot and humid in the summer, an Aircuity system reduces the amount of outside air required to provide safe ventilation rates in the facility, therefore minimizing the amount of energy to heat or cool the building.

Standard occupied ventilation rates typically call for air to be refreshed every five minutes (12 times per hour). JAX Genomic Medicine's Aircuity system is so effective that laboratory air only has to be refreshed every 15 minutes, or four times per hour, an energy savings of 66 percent compared to standard control systems.

Other energy efficiency measures include pipe and duct insulation, energy saving light bulbs and occupancy sensors, high efficiency air handling and control systems, and customized water cooling technology.

"JAX Genomic Medicine is a great example of how ... commercial and industrial customers achieve bottom line savings, even before the shovels hit the ground on a new construction project," said Enoch Lenge, energy efficiency spokesperson at Eversource.

The lab is expected to save approximately 3 million kilowatt hours of electricity and more than 2,800,000 cubic feet of gas each year. ●



Grade: A

CTfastrak – After decades of back-and-forth on the need for more public transit, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is rolling out its express busway, CTfastrak,

between New Britain and Hartford on March 28. Malloy is taking it one step further by proposing an expansion east to Manchester.

Blumenthal Rejection – After the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority approved raising the power grid connection fee from \$16 to \$19.25 monthly for Eversource Energy's customers, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) wrote a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission calling



Grade: F

PURA horrendous and asking for an investigation, which was denied. Don't sling mud at state regulators to win political points.

By the Numbers

240,798

Gallons of paint recycled in the first year of Connecticut's stewardship program.

\$3B

Purchase price for Spanish utility giant Iberdrola to buy New Haven-based UIL Holdings, creating a U.S. company with 3.1 million customers.

\$480M

Amount the State Bond Commission approved for wastewater projects in Hartford, Bristol, Norwich.

Feb. 2, 2015

Date Northeast Utilities changed its name and the name of all of its subsidiaries (including Connecticut Light & Power and Yankee Gas) to Eversource Energy.

3

Years of probation that Thomas Faria, former CEO of New London's Sheffield Pharmaceuticals, received for discharging wastewater without a permit.

\$3.1M

Amount asked for in lawsuit filed by Connecticut Innovations over a loan made to Jim Barnes, the former head of Oakleaf Waste Management, for a wind turbine company. A settlement is near.

SOURCES: PAINTCARE, UIL, STATE BOND COMMISSION, EVERSOURCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CONNECTICUT SUPERIOR COURT