

## **Northeast Energy Efficiency Standards Project**

---

### **Environment Northeast ConnPIRG Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dan Sosland, Environment Northeast  
Phone: 860-836-7188; [dsosland@env-ne.org](mailto:dsosland@env-ne.org)

Christopher Phelps – ConnPIRG  
860-233-7554; [cphelps@connpirg.org](mailto:cphelps@connpirg.org)

Jim O'Reilly, NEEP  
Phone: 781-860-9177 x18; [joreilly@neep.org](mailto:joreilly@neep.org)

## **Connecticut adopts news energy efficiency product standards**

May 17, 2004 – Connecticut has become the second state in the Northeast following Maryland to adopt new energy efficiency standards for a range of residential and commercial appliances and products after Gov. John Rowland signed into law Senate Bill 145, “An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency Standards.”

By enacting these standards, Connecticut residents and businesses will save over \$380 million in energy costs by 2020; conserve over 430 gigawatt hours of electricity; reduce summer peak electricity demand by over 125 megawatts; and avoid the emissions of some 65,000 metric tons of carbon. The products covered by the Connecticut law include torchiere lighting fixtures; building transformers; commercial refrigerators and freezers; traffic signals; exit signs; large packaged air-conditioning equipment; unit heaters; and commercial clothes washers.

“This Public Act reflects Connecticut’s position as a leader in promoting energy efficiency,” stated state Rep. Terry Backer, one of the bill’s sponsors. “This legislation will help consumers by stabilizing energy prices, lowering electricity demand and reducing harmful power plant emissions.”

“We would not have reached this milestone today without the leadership of Sen. Melodie Peters and Rep. Terry Backer,” said Roger Koontz, senior attorney for Environment Northeast, one of the project’s lead partners in Connecticut.

Christopher Phelps, advocate for ConnPIRG, added: “Anyone who pays an electric bill in Connecticut should thank the legislators for passage of this bill.”

According to Susan Coakley, executive director of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc., “standards provide a demand side solution to meet future system needs. Connecticut’s adoption of standards signals a recognition of energy efficiency as the cheapest, quickest and cleanest means of saving energy and money, boosting Connecticut’s economy, protecting the environment and enhancing the reliability of the electricity grid.”

Ten states are this year are considering adopting efficiency standards as part of the Northeast States Energy Efficiency Standards Project, a joint effort of consumer, environmental, and energy efficiency groups advocating for state energy efficiency standards as a complement to federal standards. Earlier this year, Maryland adopted a similar measure, while eight other states – Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine – are also considering standards measures based upon the same model legislation.

The organizations that make up the Northeast Energy Efficiency Standards Project are: Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.; the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy; the Appliance Standards Awareness Project; Environment Northeast; the National Consumer Law Center; Natural Resources Defense Council; and the State Public Interest Research Groups (including PennEnvironment). For more information on the Northeast Energy Efficiency Standards Project, visit [www.neep.org/Standards](http://www.neep.org/Standards).

Reporters/Editors: Experts available for interviews on this topic include:

Regional:

Sue Coakley/Isaac Elnecave/Jim O'Reilly, NEEP, (781) 860-9177 ext. 18  
Bill Prindle, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, (202) 429-8873  
Andrew deLaski, Appliance Standards Awareness Project, (617) 363-9470  
Rob Sargent, National Association of State PIRGs, (617) 747-4317

Connecticut:

Roger Koontz, Environment Northeast, (860) 526-4852  
Chris Phelps, Connecticut Public Interest Research Group, (860) 233-7554

Maine:

Michael Stoddard, Environment Northeast, (207) 761-4566  
Dan Sosland, Environment Northeast, (207) 236-6470

Maryland:

Ed Osann, Natural Resources Defense Council (Maryland), (301) 535-4013  
Gigi Kellett, Maryland Public Interest Research Group (MaryPIRG), (410) 322-5035

Massachusetts:

Frank Gorke, Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group, (617) 292-4800  
Charlie Harak, National Consumer Law Center, (617) 542-8010

New Hampshire:

David Marshall, Environment Northeast, (603) 428-8114  
Jennifer Mantooth, New Hampshire Public Interest Research Group, (603) 229-3222

New Jersey:

Dale Bryk, Natural Resources Defense Council, (212) 727-2700  
Emily Rusch, New Jersey Public Interest Research Group, (609) 394-8155 Ext. 307

New York:

Kit Kennedy, Natural Resources Defense Council, (212) 727-2700

Pennsylvania:

Nathan Willcox, PennEnvironment, (215) 732-5897

Rhode Island:

Kate Strouse-Canada, Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group, (401) 421-6578