Building a Resilient Connecticut

A Critical Need:
The increasing frequency of weather-related power outages, especially long-duration outages from stronger storms, requires solutions that keep all Connecticut residents safe. Battery storage can help strengthen the power grid, provide energy security and equity for homes and businesses, and reduce fossil fuel emissions – the driving force of climate change and severe weather events.

In 2021, after two years of intensive research and planning to address this critical need, Connecticut’s Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) authorized Energy Storage Solutions. Beginning on January 1, 2022, the Connecticut Green Bank, Eversource, and UI launched the program, which is overseen by PURA and paid for by ratepayers.

Program Description:
Energy Storage Solutions is an incentive program designed to help Eversource and UI customers install battery storage at their homes or businesses. Battery storage can help customers across Connecticut – from homeowners and small business owners to industrial manufacturers and critical infrastructure facilities – be more secure in the face of our changing climate.

Battery Storage Solutions will help create a more resilient Connecticut, especially for vulnerable communities and those hit hardest by storm-related outages while providing benefits to all ratepayers during blue-sky days by reducing peak electric demand.

Key Program Elements:
- Ensure a net financial benefit to electric ratepayers
- Upfront and ongoing (performance-based) incentives to participating residential, commercial, and industrial end-use customers
- Improve the overall resilience of the participants and the grid
- Deploy no less than 40 percent of residential installations in vulnerable communities
- Foster sustainable economic development of Connecticut’s battery storage industry

How it Works:
Customers participate in Energy Storage Solutions by selecting an Eligible Contractor to install a battery system for their home or business. The contractor will install a standalone system that charges from the grid. On blue-sky days, the utility will dispatch energy from enrolled customers’ batteries to help reduce peak demand on the grid. When batteries dispatch energy derived from less expensive and lower-emissions sources, all ratepayers benefit from reduced costs and emissions.

Participating customers receive incentives that reduce the upfront cost of the system and additional performance-based incentives paid at the end of each summer and winter season based on how much energy they contribute to the grid.

Upfront Incentive: a participant’s battery is pre-programmed to discharge up to 80% of its capacity to meet the customer’s on-site load during summer weekdays. In exchange for doing this, the total cost of the battery is reduced via an upfront cost reduction.

Performance-based Incentive: a participant’s battery is called on to discharge up to 100% of its capacity to meet grid demand on especially high-demand days. This is expected to happen 30-60 times every summer and 1-5 times every winter unless the customer opts out of the event (participants opt in or out on an event-to-event basis). High-demand events will override any passive discharge scheduled for that day.