



The kickoff meeting for **Solarize Old Lyme** was held on Thursday, Dec. 4th, with a packed audience in the Meeting Hall of Memorial Town Hall. Residents learned how they could get more information on installing solar for their home use, as well as information on incentives and

financing. There were lots of questions answered, and residents had a chance to speak to several installers who attended the meeting with samples of solar panels. For those who were unable to attend, you can learn more by visiting www.SolarizeCT.com/OldLyme

In 2014, several towns in Eastern CT, including Old Lyme, have signed a pledge to commit to Clean Energy Communities, an Energize Connecticut program that incentivizes Connecticut municipalities to support energy efficiency and renewable energy. Solarize Old Lyme is one of the ways that the town hopes to achieve that goal.

Under the Clean Energy Communities program, these towns pledged to reduce municipal building energy consumption by 20 percent by 2018, attain 20 percent of municipal electricity needs from renewable sources by 2018, or take other actions to support the deployment of clean energy.

“By signing the Clean Energy Communities pledge, we are acknowledging energy efficiency and renewable energy as a top priority,” commented First Selectwoman Bonnie Reemsnyder. “The Solarize Old Lyme program helps us in reaching our goal of 20% reduction/renewable sources. We are also encouraging people to participate in the Home Energy Solutions program to assist in making their home more efficient. It’s a great deal for residents!”

The **Home Energy Solutions program (HES)** is a convenient in-home service where CL&P-authorized energy specialists perform on-the-spot energy saving improvements. While these services are valued at an average of \$1,000, **the cost for the HES service is only \$99**, and the average home in Connecticut saves approximately \$250 in annual energy costs after completing HES. **Residents are encouraged to participate in the Home Energy Solutions program.** You can get more information by visiting the website <http://www.energizect.com/residents/programs/home-energy-solutions-core-services> or you can call 877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873)

Based on the level of resident and business participation in Energize Connecticut energy efficiency programs, each town can earn a Bright Idea Grant, ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, to be used toward a community-selected energy-saving project. Similarly, based on the level of participation in Energize Connecticut renewable initiatives, the towns are eligible to receive renewable energy systems equivalent to a one kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic system.

The Town of Old Lyme has scheduled another Solarize Old Lyme workshop for interested residents who were unable to attend in December. The workshop is scheduled for **Monday, Jan. 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Middle School Auditorium**, just prior to the Annual Town Meeting, which begins at 7:30 PM. You can also sign up for more information by visiting the website at www.SolarizeCT.com/OldLyme. For those who need assistance, there is a computer terminal set up in the Selectmen’s Office at Memorial Town Hall, and the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library is also offering assistance getting online.