

Connecticut Nursing Home Benefits from Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Apple Rehab Laurel Woods facility in East Haven, recently completed energy upgrades with assistance from their utility company, UI and the state's Energize Connecticut programs. Offering technical guidance, UI helped Laurel Woods identify several cost-saving opportunities to improve overall energy performance.



Upgrades:

Through the Small Business Energy Advantage program, Laurel Woods **upgraded fluorescent lighting to LED** technology throughout the facility.

They also **replaced outdated motor controls for their walk-in freezer, cooler unit and kitchen fume hood** with equipment designed for more efficient operation.

Savings:

The efficiency improvements immediately reduced energy costs and streamlined maintenance, translating to an estimated **\$38,000 in annual energy** savings with only a two-year payback period for the upgrades. Laurel Woods also secured nearly **\$76,000 in incentive** payments through the Energy Efficiency Fund to help cover some of the project costs.

At first, Apple Rehab Laurel Woods Administrator was skeptical about taking on upgrades, but quickly saw how the savings would allow them to routinely assess and upgrade equipment and technology, which directly benefits patient care.

Other Examples:

In addition to Laurel Woods, UI has worked with many other nursing homes and senior living facilities, including **Whitney Center of Hamden** and **Mary Wade Home**, a non-profit senior care community in New Haven, on an \$11 million new construction project of its Adult Day Center and Skilled Nursing Facility, resulting in an annual savings of nearly \$30,000. Nursing homes served by Eversource have also received technical assistance and financial incentives for energy upgrades.

Available Assistance:

Nursing homes can get assistance from Energize Connecticut in identifying energy efficiency opportunities to reduce operational costs and increase sustainability. They can tap into the

expertise and resources within their local utility to help develop a strategic plan and assess available financial assistance to support implementation of efficiency measures.

Efficiency measures can be incorporated into the maintenance, design and operation of any facility with cost-effective, energy-saving solutions including:

- Lighting Upgrades (LEDs and fluorescent fixtures, occupancy sensors)
- Upgraded HVAC equipment and programmable thermostats
- Kitchen and foodservice improvements (refrigeration controls, exhaust fan, sink faucet aerators, and water-efficient spray valves)
- High-efficiency washers and dryers as part of laundry services

Energize Connecticut programs can help your nursing facility save money and reduce energy usage. It is a partnership between the CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills.

Want More Information? You can:

- Go to www.EnergizeCT.com, or
- **Eversource** customers: contact Randy Vagnini, 860-665-4753; randall.vagnini@eversource.com
- **UI** customers: contact Dennis O'Connor, 203-499-3715; dennis.oconnor@uinet.com
- Contact **CT DEEP**: Mary Sherwin, 860-424-3243 or Connie Mendolia, 860-424-3243, or
- Visit DEEP's [Nursing Home webpage](#) at www.ct.gov/deep, then search "nursing homes"

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