



Photo by wikimedia commons user lonna22.

A Change in the Wind

Green Energy goals drive economic opportunity

There's a changing landscape for Green Energy. A White House announcement in February committed \$100 million in funding to support low-carbon energy technologies. State and local governments up and down the Eastern Seaboard are committing to clean energy goals, some setting timelines for reaching 100% of energy derived from green sources.

2020 was a banner year for the wind industry. Developers commissioned 16,913 MW, representing an 85 percent increase over 2019, according to American Clean Power's 2020 report.

On March 18, the Chamber will host a Virtual Forum: Offshore Wind Energy sponsored by Burns

& McDonnell and Sea Services North America. The forum will examine opportunities and impacts for our region. Industry experts will lead discussions on offshore wind energy, including economic development on and off the water, investments in local infrastructure, and workforce expansion and planning.

The forum spans three sessions related to our region. Representatives from Eversource Energy and Orsted, who are leading the wind project in New London, will provide an overview and updates. Equinor Wind will share their work in the industry. Tony Appleton, Director of Offshore Wind for Burns & McDonnell, and Paul

Vigeant, CEO of OSW Advisers, will offer economic, engineering, and environmental perspectives. The final session covers State Pier development updates.

"Gaining an understanding of this unique economic driver is essential for eastern Connecticut," said Tony Sheridan, Chamber president and CEO. "Our region has natural assets and a manufacturing base that position us well to benefit from this burgeoning industry. We are pleased to be able to bring together this forum and have conversations exploring this opportunity and the potential long-term impacts."

More details about the event are available at ChamberECT.com/events. Sessions begin at 9:45 a.m. and the forum concludes at 1 p.m. Register to attend individual sessions for \$10 each or the whole day for \$25.

ON THE BLOG

ChamberECT.com/blog

Get the story on events, connect with resources, gain insights from a guest blog, and see holiday promotions, all on the Chamber blog.

Senator Blumenthal Provides COVID Relief Updates, Answers

Questions: Read highlights of our conversation on February 18 and connect to the video.

Holiday Shopping Trail's Successful Pivot: Stats

from our annual shop small promotion show the shift to online made the Trail even better.

Networking Now: When you think Chamber, you think networking. We've brought it online until we can meet in person again.

CT Paid Leave: What You Need to Know: CEO of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Authority provides a detailed overview. See the video.

Share your news through the member login or email communications@chamberect.com.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.



MSMHS Students gain career insights in conversation with Young Professionals

If you've raised a teenager, or remember being one, you are familiar with the existential dread accompanying career and college planning. Stacy Herr, the Chamber's Program and Event Manager, is helping her high school junior navigate the process, and she brought that perspective to coordinating a conversation on careers with local professionals.

"Kids often think they are locking into a career path for the rest of their lives with the choices they make now," said Herr. "We know that just isn't the case. Most of us look back on our careers with some surprise at all the interesting twists and turns."

Marine Science Magnet High School juniors and seniors heard about career paths traveled by members of the Chamber's Young Professionals and Leadership Eastern CT programs in two sessions February 19 and 23, attended by a total of 70 students.

In the virtual conversation, professionals not only shared their academic choices and first jobs, they shared stories about learning from mistakes and setting new career goals as an ongoing process.

"The panel members opened the students' eyes to different job possibilities, the importance of building relationships and working with others, and the idea that not everyone has to take a traditional path to find the job they really want in life," said MSMHS Assistant Principal Colleen Hardison.

The ten panelists, who joined students for one or both sessions, represented a broad range of careers in eastern Connecticut, or transferable to locations around the globe. General Dynamics Electric Boat's Mike DiFranco was the only professional who said he followed a straight line from his college career planning to his job in engineering.

Highly transferable skills in areas such as effective communication, organization, and relationship building have been key to success across diverse positions. Panelists shared experiences from their different industries that draw on their talents and education in ways they may not have anticipated.

Networking, said these active members of the Chamber groups, is a key component of building a successful and personally

enriching professional life. Living that belief, all the panelists provided email addresses so students could reach out with more questions, and further, offered to serve as mentors for students interested in their fields.

The candid conversation opened the door to discussions on financial compensation, the rewards of working in the nonprofit sector, and other questions students don't always get to ask adults. As they engaged with panelists in the 45-minute sessions, students felt fears about making the wrong career choice dissipate, understanding career paths are not set in stone.

Anyone interested in hosting a panel or supporting career education as a volunteer on our Education Council, contact Stacy Herr, sherr@chamberect.com

"The panel members opened the students' eyes to different job possibilities"

Our Thanks to Our Panelists

Jeremy Barstrom, Design Build Supervisor, General Dynamics Electric Boat

Emma Bayer, Supervisor of Visitor Services, Mystic Seaport Museum

Mike DiFranco, Design Build Supervisor, General Dynamics Electric Boat

Julie Gehring, Director of Mentorship & Student Development, Werth Institute - University of Connecticut

Kayla Hedman, Marketing Director, Fishers Island Lemonade

Alexis Kahn, Cash Management Sales Manager, Chelsea Groton Bank

Wilmer Lambert, Engineering Specialist, General Dynamics Electric Boat

Kaiser Leuze, Guest Experience Manager, Mohegan Sun

Heather-Renae Paul, Community Support Program & Mental Health Waiver Program Unit Director, Reliance Health Inc.

Konrad Poznanski, Draftsman, General Dynamics Electric Boat



Why YP?

Connecting in Young Professionals network offers big benefits

If you are a professional early in your career, or you mentor one, you know there's a lot to navigate. Success in career, community, and life balance requires building a strong foundation of skills and support.

Young Professionals of Eastern CT, a program of the Chamber, has been designed to offer flexible opportunities to engage professionally, connect socially, and build a lasting network.

Targeted to young professionals, 40 or under, who work, live, or serve clients in eastern CT, the group offers networking, volunteer opportunities, seminars with top-level executives, professional development, and some just plain fun social activities.

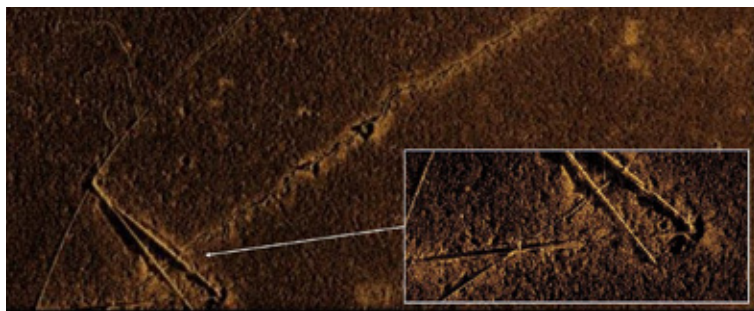
Meeting people in the same stage of life and career can be limited within a work environment, especially during the pandemic. The Chamber has found that supporting and retaining talent in eastern CT is best accomplished by having people feel connected to the region and to each other.

Subscribe to the YP newsletter at YPECT.com to keep up-to-date with YP events, news, community events, special offers, and community service. 2021 programming made possible in part by Charter Oak Federal Credit Union and Homestead Funding - Keith Turner.

Mentors and employers, encourage your people to learn more about the Young Professionals network at YPECT.com and help them stay connected to the region professionally and personally.

Photo: Young Professionals gather pre-COVID for networking. Connecting socially and professionally has moved online.

MEMBER NEWS



SeaScout Image: Anchor and lumber on the bottom of Thames River near New London ferry docks. Credit: Thayer Mahan

ThayerMahan-UConn team begins high-resolution seabed surveys of Thames River

ThayerMahan, Inc., a world leader in autonomous maritime security solutions, completed an underwater survey using its SeaScout system to capture high-quality hydrographic imagery of Connecticut's Thames River. The survey is being conducted under a National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology (NIUVT) project in conjunction with the University of Connecticut (UConn)'s Department of Marine Sciences.

The two-year project will locate and monitor the shifting boundaries of key biological habitats and short-term, small-scale changes in bathymetry important to the health of the Thames River and Long Island Sound ecosystems. Baseline data will be re-evaluated to identify changes in the region and enhance security within the New London port area.

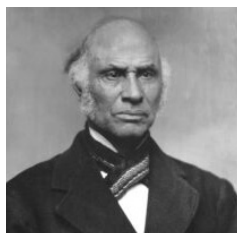
For more information on ThayerMahan's subsea capabilities: thayermahan.com/sectors/subsea-infrastructure

Mystic Seaport: \$4.9 million grant will support project to interrogate legacy of colonialism, subjugation in New England

A \$4.9 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Brown University's Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice will fund a partnership with Mystic Seaport Museum and Williams College that will use maritime history as a basis for studying historical injustices and generating new insights on the relationship between European colonization in North America, the dispossession of Native American land, and racial slavery in New England.

The collaborative project, titled "Reimagining New England Histories: Historical Injustice, Sovereignty and Freedom," will create new work and study opportunities at all three institutions, particularly for scholars, curators, and students from underrepresented groups. It will result in a new Mystic Seaport Museum exhibition on race, subjugation, and power, and a "decolonial archive" spotlighting a diverse collection of stories from several New England communities.

The grant was awarded by the Mellon Foundation as part of its Just Futures Initiative, a by-invitation competition that invited 38 colleges and universities to submit project proposals that would address the "long-existing fault lines" of racism, inequality, and injustice that challenge ideas of democracy and civil society.



Tinted portrait of Antoine DeSant (c. 1816-1886), who was born at Boa Vista, Cape Verde Islands. DeSant went on whaling voyages out of New London in years 1832-1848, including several voyages aboard the whale ship Tuscarora. He later became a successful businessman in the city. ©Mystic Seaport Museum, 1992.119.1

Three Rivers Community College named 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School

Three Rivers Community College is pleased to announce that it has earned the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School designation. Each year, the prestigious list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members, veterans and their families, helping them select the best college to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

The College has a Veterans Organization Student Group and an OASIS Center, which serves as the focal point for veterans' activities and access to services such as academic advising, Veterans Administration educational benefits, and counseling.

In 2019, Three Rivers became an officially associated chapter of the Veteran Students of America. Three Rivers has also dedicated two parking spaces to Purple Heart recipients, and the Three Rivers Veterans Organization puts together a large Thanksgiving Dinner food drive each year, completely meeting the needs of the Norwich Vets Center.

For more information about Three Rivers commitment to supporting military students, visit Three Rivers website at www.threerivers.edu/veteran.

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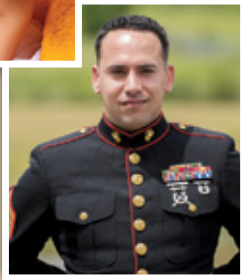
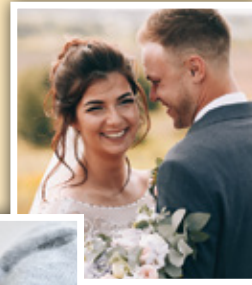
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ShopBlackCT.com

A volunteer initiative and not-for-profit website featuring more than 1,300 Black-owned businesses in CT. The mission of ShopBlackCT.com is to challenge structural racism and transform the legacy of economic and social inequity in the U.S. by providing a platform to drive business to and awareness of local Black-owned businesses.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Virtual Forum: Offshore Wind Energy

MAR 18 | 9:45 am - 1:00 pm

Sponsored by Burns & McDonnell and Sea Services North America

Young Professionals of Eastern CT Virtual

YPsocial: Trivia Night

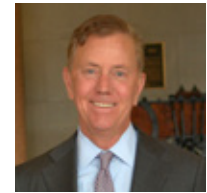
MAR 18 | 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Webinar: Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz on Access Health CT

MAR 22 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Business After Hours: Virtual Networking

MAR 22 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm



Virtual Business Breakfast featuring Governor Ned Lamont

APR 7 | 9:00 - 10:00 am

Tips from the Top: Glendowyn Thames, Deputy Commissioner, DECD

APR 20 | 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Virtual Business Breakfast with John Burkhardt, Senior Vice President, Pfizer

MAY 19 | 8:30 - 9:30 am

Sponsored by Pat Munger Construction and SCIENT Federal Credit Union



Virtual Business Breakfast featuring Congressman Joe Courtney

JUNE 9 | 8:30 - 9:30 am

Pre-registration is suggested for most events. Call (860) 701-9113 or visit ChamberECT.com to learn more about any event. Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to event. No-shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed.

BENEFACITOR NEWS

ConnectiCare supports community organizations around Connecticut

ConnectiCare has always been dedicated to the health of the communities it serves. This past year, under the weight of the COVID-19 pandemic, that mission was more important than ever.

ConnectiCare is contributing to 45 non-profit and municipal organizations throughout the state through its participation in the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.

We continue, as we have in the past, to make donations to organizations that directly support community health in a trying time as well as those that enrich the lives of residents, today and in the future. The ongoing pandemic only changed how we delivered the contributions. We sent donations to each organization without the formal, in-person presentation that we have traditionally enjoyed.

"Connecticut is our home. These donations are personal for us because they impact our families, friends, neighbors, and colleagues," says Kim Kann, senior director of public relations and corporate communications at ConnectiCare.

"We may not be able to visit recipients in person this year, but our thoughts are with them. ConnectiCare is proud to be a part of this program and to support these organizations as they continue to care for people around the state."

Among the recipients were Chamber members St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich and Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, Old Saybrook.

Charter Oak donated over \$100,000 in 2020 to region's food pantries

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union donated more than \$100,000 in emergency food assistance to eastern Connecticut's food pantries and food centers during 2020 to help boost food supplies to those in need during the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

Charter Oak initially donated \$75,000 in emergency grants in April for much-needed food supplies at food centers and food pantries serving New London and Windham counties. The credit union donated an additional \$32,000 in year-end assistance to these organizations in December for a total of \$107,000 in emergency food assistance.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly hard on our region's food pantries because the demand was so strong throughout the year, especially during the holidays," said Brian A. Orenstein, Charter Oak's President and Chief Executive Officer. "So in addition to our donations this past spring, we made sure to allocate an additional \$32,000 at year's end to help restock the shelves from the holidays so there are supplies available for the new year," he said.

The 16 eastern Connecticut organizations that received emergency food assistance from Charter Oak during 2020 included: Always Home in Mystic; Care & Share of East Lyme; Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic; Friends of Assisi Food Pantry in Danielson; Interfaith Human Services of Putnam-Daily Bread; Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center in New London; Groton Social Services Food Lockers; Montville Food Bank (Montville Social Services); New London Area Food Pantry; New London Community Meal Center; New London Homeless Hospitality Center; Norwich Community Meal Program DBA Lee Memorial UMC; Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center; Rosalyn Allen Food Pantry in Norwich; Saint Mary's Church Food Pantry in Jewett City; and Saint Vincent De Paul Place in Norwich.



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L+M Hospital and Westerly Hospital help reduce hunger across our communities through #GiveHealthy initiative

Yale New Haven Health (YNHHS) recently concluded its employee driven healthy food donation program as part of the #GiveHealthy Movement. The goal was to provide fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy food items to help hunger-relief organizations throughout the state and region during the winter months when donations are fewer.

System wide, Yale New Haven Health collected over 22,550 pounds of food during two months of the #GiveHealthy drive, which equates to 18,792 meals.

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital collected 4,727 pounds of food equaling 3,939 meals and was donated to F.R.E.S.H. New London, a community group dedicated to building and sustaining a healthy and just food system to establish community food security in Connecticut.

The employee food drive was conducted through #GiveHealthy, an organization that provides an online platform for hunger-relief organizations to set up "registries" listing items they need. YNHHS employees, departments and medical staff supported one or more hunger-relief organizations in YNHHS delivery networks' communities. Because the food will be shipped from suppliers directly to hunger-relief organizations, donors were able to purchase healthy food items, including fresh produce.



Credit: NTE Energy

NTE Energy to develop 5 GW of clean energy projects; nationwide portfolio to include solar, BESS assets

NTE is currently working with investment partners to advance development of a clean energy project pipeline that includes 1.2 GW of solar and 3.9 GW of battery energy storage systems (BESS), with 3,000 to 4,000 MW expected to reach commercial operation by 2026.

"Advances in clean energy technology and strong market demand for renewables are positioning 2021 to be a record year," said

Steve Remen, NTE managing director of renewable energy resources. "Building on our deep customer relationships and strong track record of successful project development experience, we have created a geographically diverse pipeline of solar and storage projects across the United States."

NTE's clean energy pipeline currently includes early-stage development of renewable and

storage assets to be located in the ISO-NE, MISO, ERCOT, NYISO, SERC, PJM and WECC markets. Some of these projects will be co-located with new or existing thermal generation projects, providing economies of scale.

"Using highly efficient natural gas generation to complement intermittent renewable energy provides our customers with firm, low-cost energy," Remen said. "By co-locating renewable projects with thermal generation, we can offer customers access to affordable renewable energy options backed up by reliable natural gas."

The NTE team has developed a total of 127 GW of energy projects, including wind, solar, combined cycle natural gas, coal, oil, biomass, hydro and more. In the past three years, NTE has developed, financed, constructed and commissioned 950 MW of generation projects. In addition to its clean energy pipeline, NTE has 2,700 MW of natural gas-fired electric generation in various stages of development, including the 650 MW Killingly (Connecticut) Energy Center, which is expected to begin construction this year.

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