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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**TOWN OF STAFFORD SAVES ENERGY WITH LED LIGHTING**

***Stafford Schools and the Public Library Retrofitted with  
LED Outdoor Lighting, Reducing Energy Consumption by Approximately 75 Percent***

**April 12, 2011, Stafford Springs, Conn.** – The Energy Efficiency Fund, in partnership with Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P), joined with the Town of Stafford, to acknowledge the town’s outstanding achievement in energy efficiency through the installation of LED (light-emitting diode) outdoor lighting at five schools and the public library. Present at the event, held on April 11 at the Stafford Elementary School, were Congressman Joe Courtney, Stafford’s First Selectman Michael Krol, Stafford Special Projects Administrator Michael Waugh and Timothy Simmonds of CL&P.

The Town of Stafford changed its outdoor lighting from high energy consuming metal halide lights to energy efficient LED lighting, which will reduce energy consumption, according to First Selectman Krol, by approximately 75 percent. The town received an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as well as an incentive of \$49,000 through the Energy Efficiency Fund’s Energy Opportunities program to finance the project. The Energy Opportunities program provides business customers and municipalities with financial incentives to offset the premium costs associated with retrofitting existing equipment with energy-efficient technology.

“We commend the Town of Stafford for its leadership in energy efficiency and for utilizing the available financial resources from both the Fund and ARRA for this project,” said Rich Steeves, chairman of the Energy Efficiency Fund. “The incentives the town received enabled it to use efficiency measures as a way to reduce energy costs and meet future energy demands.”

“With the installation of the outdoor LED lighting at our schools and library, our town has gained a substantial energy savings of approximately 75 percent and, at the same time, has made a positive impact on the environment,” said First Selectman Krol. “We are extremely thankful to all who helped make this project possible and successful.”

The town worked with CL&P to conduct six outdoor lighting replacement projects at West Stafford School, Stafford Elementary, the middle and high schools, Staffordville School, and the Stafford Public Library.

During their lifetime of use, the new lights will save approximately two million kilowatt-hours, resulting in anticipated savings of more than \$410,000. That's the equivalent of powering approximately 237 homes for a year, or taking 167 cars off the road for one year. Carbon dioxide emissions will also be reduced by more than 950 tons.

"This was a big win for the Town of Stafford because of its foresight to participate in the Energy Efficiency Fund's program, which provided additional incentives that made the ARRA grant go even farther," said Timothy Simmonds of CL&P. "We are happy to see the major energy and cost savings that the town will reap because of this LED lighting replacement initiative."

"Stafford is setting a tremendous example for other communities," said Congressman Joe Courtney. "By taking action, the town will reduce electricity costs by \$18,000 per year – a savings they can pass along to taxpayers. These are impressive results and proof we need not wait for technological advancements to invest in energy efficiency. Stafford is proving that the assumption that 'it costs more to be green' is no longer true."

In addition to the lighting project, the town is currently working on a project at the water treatment plant; also through the Energy Efficiency Fund's Energy Opportunities program.

### **About the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund**

The Energy Efficiency Fund promotes efficient energy use, helps residents and businesses save on their electric and natural gas bills, advances economic development, reduces electric demand, and helps reduce air pollution. Energy Efficiency Fund programs serve residential customers, including limited- and fixed-income customers, as well as business and municipal customers. Connecticut's energy efficiency programs are funded by a charge on customers' utility bills and administered by the state's electric and gas utilities including: Connecticut Light and Power Company, United Illuminating, Yankee Gas, Connecticut Natural Gas, and Southern Connecticut Gas. Additional information on Connecticut's energy efficiency programs can be found at [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) or by calling 1-877-WISE-USE.