

# Take the Stress Off, Love Your Home

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven launches Home Energy Counseling Program

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Did you know a typical household wastes around 30 percent more energy than an efficient one does? [Connecticut](#) promotes energy efficiency to help customers cut their consumption and bills through services like energy assessments, but where do you begin? Enter NHS New Haven's new pilot program, *My Home* and energy consultant, Michael Uhl.

Mike moved to New Haven six years ago from a west-side neighborhood of Baltimore, where he learned about the systematic challenges facing families. "The experience compelled me to do more. I want to make homes where families are not gentrified away from communities and the air is clean."

After his relocation, he found NHS of New Haven. "NHS staff were building and envisioning an equitable future, with the years of experience to know New Haven residents' needs." With his own experience in next-generation, high performance building services through his business, System Smart LLC, they stayed connected on topics that serve the interests of residents.

"I *My Home* makes improving a residence simpler," Mike explains, "We are centered on the participant. The program solves frustrations of homeowners and renters, while attaining greater financial freedom and environmental improvements." By guiding participants to financially-viable, energy-saving upgrades for their specific near-term needs, the program systematically leads a resident through steps to make living more affordable and responsible.

"There is clear demand," Mike observed, "the program is timely, strategic and effective." And there is community support. Local universities and professors are pledging students' service-learning projects to build tools for scaling the program. It uniquely addresses problems of housing affordability, climate change and air quality, while building community trust, home improvements and financing.

The average monthly residential [electricity bill](#) in Connecticut is \$127. That's 19% higher than the national average. Residential energy accounts for 12% of greenhouse gas emissions and 33% of total U.S. energy-related CO2 emissions. Moreover, low-income households face an energy burden three times higher than other households. This forces tough budget choices because home energy costs demand a larger portion of their income.

"NHS and its partners are agnostic to technologies, financing and contractors, allowing the team to focus on customer needs," Mike explains. By facilitating the process and experience of residents, enlisting technical consultants to provide deep energy, financing or processing management expertise, "NHS can quickly build and easily manage program sustainability."



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**About NHS New Haven:**

Founded in 1979 as Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven, NHS New Haven is empowering families and revitalizing New Haven via social, economic, and environmental health. Their holistic approach to development includes creating affordable housing, building community, providing financial education and resident leadership training, and fostering environmental stewardship. Learn more at [www.nhsfnewhaven.org](http://www.nhsfnewhaven.org)



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