



News Release

May 27, 2011

For Release: Immediately
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Central Hudson to Conduct Energy-Saving Pilot Project in Red Hook

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., the Town of Red Hook and the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli are working together to launch a pilot project to help residents and small business owners better manage their energy use and to reduce electric usage during periods of peak demand. The “Central Hudson Home Energy Saver” program pilot will also assess the potential of this technology to potentially reduce or avoid utility infrastructure upgrades by lowering peak energy demands on the local electric distribution system.

Central Hudson is seeking up to 200 home and small business owner volunteers in specifically identified geographic areas along two utility distribution circuits in the Red Hook area of Dutchess County to participate in the program. By attaching intelligent measurement and control hardware to major energy-consuming devices, such as air conditioning systems and electric water heaters, participants in the Central Hudson Home Energy Saver program will be able to monitor electricity use in real time to reduce their energy consumption, saving money, with no change in comfort or lifestyle.

Participants will also authorize Central Hudson to manage their connected devices during times of high electric use, usually during the hottest days, in order to reduce demand on local infrastructure and to potentially save homeowners on energy costs. Participants always have the ability to override all settings.

“The region encompassing Red Hook is a model for this pilot project, thanks to the communities’ direct involvement with programs to promote energy efficiency, and because the electric distribution circuits serving the area fit the project profile,” Paul A. Haering, Vice President of Engineering and Environmental Services at Central Hudson.

“The Red Hook area was selected, in part, because of its demonstrated leadership in and commitment to pursuing energy policies that benefit both the public and the environment in a cost-effective manner,” said Town Supervisor Sue Crane. “We are proud to be hosting the first smart grid pilot project in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and are pleased that our communities’ efforts to reduce both emissions and electricity costs are being recognized. We look forward to working with Central Hudson in collaboration on this exciting project.”

“Central Hudson’s Home Energy Saver pilot will help determine how this technology might be integrated into the electric system of the future,” said Haering. “The system provides homeowners with information and better control over their larger appliances, and can potentially reduce electric system use during peak days.”

To qualify for the pilot, participating homes or small businesses must be: a) located within the specified area; b) have a central air conditioning or heat pump system; and 3) must have an electric water heater or other large electric device, such as a pool heater or pump. Central Hudson will install a smart thermostat, control devices on the qualified

electric devices, and a new electric meter with wireless communication ability. Participants will be able to program operating times and/or temperature settings of their connected devices through an on-line web portal, and in addition may control their air conditioning system using the smart thermostat. They will also be able to monitor electricity use of their connected devices and entire home or business in real time, on line.

Eligible customers within the Central Hudson Home Energy Saver pilot area will be contacted via email and/or telephone by Central Hudson representatives to discuss potential participation. To view a map of the pilot area or more information, visit www.CentralHudson.com/HomeEnergySaver.

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