



COVID-19 Update

[COVID-19 Tests, Cases, and Deaths by Town](#)

[CT Travel Advisory Updated 9-22-2020](#)

[Town Website](#)

Assessor's Office

On-site Building Permit Reviews

It is that time of the year when the Assessor's Office reviews the open building permits to update the Grand List.

Over the next couple of weeks, a representative from the Assessor's office will be driving around town looking at properties that have open building permits. They are an employee of Vision Government Solutions, driving a car marked with "Assessor's Office", and carrying photo identification along with a letter signed by Jessica Sypher, Assessor for the Town of Essex. [Click Here](#) to view the letter. Their information is on file with the Town of Essex Police.

Due to COVID-19 we will not be asking to come inside any homes, however our representative may knock on your door, maintain social distance, and ask to verify the information on the building permit with you.

We may need to measure an addition, shed, or deck to update the field card. The visit to the property can usually be completed in 15 minutes or less.

We thank you for your patience and cooperation while we learn to navigate the new protocols and procedures to complete our duties.

Sustainable Essex Committee

ESSEX HOMEOWNERS - TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE HOME ENERGY AUDITS OFFERED BY THE HOME ENERGY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM!

The Home Energy Solutions (HES) program that is funded by a small fee on our electric bills is offering FREE home energy audits until the end of 2020. There are new, more generous rebates for efficiency improvements, with no-cost efficiency work for those who are income eligible. There are larger incentive payments for windows, air or ground source heat pumps, or insulation, and the audit includes several free conservation measures during the visit. The program is free if you have not had an audit in the past 36 months. This revised program is designed to make up for the time lost this year because of the pandemic and includes new safety procedures to cope with COVID19. One of them is a virtual pre-audit by phone. You can apply for a free home audit by phone at 1-877-WISE-USE (9473-873) or

Enhanced Weatherization Incentives Now Available with EnergizeCT's Home Energy Solutions® (HES)

- "HES" home energy assessments are now **FREE** for eligible customers
- Receive up to **100% off approved insulation projects** that may be recommended during your assessment
- Strict COVID19 protocols ensure your safety
- All HES 2020 benefits are available to renters with landlord's approval
- Incentives for air conditioning and new EnergyStar® appliances
- Rebates for upgraded heating systems
- Generous incentive for air source heat pumps, and an even more generous incentive if your home is heated now with oil, propane, or electric resistance
- For income-eligible homes, *many upgrades are done at no cost*
- *Insulation must be installed by March 30, 2021; Heat pumps by Dec 31, 2020*



Weatherize your home now during this special promotion to reduce energy costs. Your home will be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

- **PHONE:** Call 1-877-WISE-USE for more info
- Learn more at <https://www.energizect.com/your-home/solutions-list/home-energy-solutions-core-services>.
- Limited time offer – act promptly!

Sustainable Essex Committee, Town of Essex

PURA extends COVID-19 payment program enrollment date

The Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) today [announced](#) that it has issued a ruling that will extend the enrollment period for the COVID-19 Payment Program for non-residential utility customers through November 1, 2020. The enrollment period for the program for both residential and non-residential utility customers will now extend through November 1. PURA is also reminding all residential customers that the "shut-off moratorium" currently in place for state-regulated electric, gas, and water utilities is scheduled to conclude on September 30, 2020. PURA encourages all customers experiencing difficulty paying their utility bills to contact their utility company and ask:

- First, whether the customer is eligible to be "coded hardship." Special financial assistance programs are available to hardship customers. (For more information, [see the Operation Fuel website](#)); and
- Second, if ineligible for hardship status, to be placed on a COVID-19 payment plan.

COVID-19 payment plans are available to any customer requesting financial assistance, without demonstrating financial need; require no initial or down payment; can be up to 24 months in length; waive any fees or interest in the calculation of the monthly payment amount; and facilitate the repayment of the past due balances in addition to the customer's current monthly bill. Importantly, any customer enrolled in a COVID-19 payment plan who

is current with their payment terms cannot be disconnected even once the shut-off moratoriums have concluded.

Governor Lamont Announces Launch of Initiative To Provide Emergency Food Resources for Connecticut's Food Pantries

Farmers-to-Families Food Box Distribution Sign Ups Now Available at CTPantryResources.com

Under the initiative, food pantries in need of assistance can visit CTPantryResources.com, where they can connect to resources on food procurement and distribution, volunteer assistance, shipping and storage supports, and more.

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture is now utilizing the website to facilitate statewide distribution of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers-to-Families Food Boxes starting Monday, September 28 through Saturday, October 31. Interested food pantries or other parties must fill out an online form on the website to express their interest in receiving food boxes and confirm the ability to meet the following requirements:

- Able to accept at least 9 pallets containing 576 food boxes and 3 pallets of milk containing 576 gallons;
- Ability to unload the trailer using a pallet jack and/or forklift and/or loading dock;
- Provide on-site point of contact to receive and/or manage distribution of boxes; and
- Provide immediate distribution or have access to refrigerated storage.

Organizations that are unable to meet the criteria should contact their local emergency management director, who will connect them to regional coordinated efforts. [To locate regional emergency management directors, [click here](#).]

Connecticut has been designated a high-priority area by the USDA for distribution of Famers-to-Families Food Boxes. As such, more than 30 trailer loads will be delivered per week. Each trailer will contain 1,152 food boxes with five pounds of meat, five pounds of dairy, 12 pounds of produce, and one gallon of milk.

LATEST COVID-19 FACTS

- [Get the Latest Guidance](#)
- [COVID-19 Testing Sites Locator](#)
- [COVID-19 Self Checker](#)
- [Center for Disease Control](#)
- [State of CT Coronavirus Information](#)
- [Governor Lamont Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Emergency Orders Issued by Governor Lamont](#)

Or call the 2-1-1 Connecticut Hotline

Sign up for Safer Essex Emergency Alerts

Receive alerts about critical community information directly to your cell phone or email. Go to www.essexct.gov and search "Safer Essex" or

call 860-760-4340 x112.

Sign up for Essex News

Encourage your friends and neighbors to receive this newsletter.

[Click Here](#) to subscribe.

Town of Essex