

Energy savings to be the focus of city's expo

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STAMFORD - Residents will soon be able to shop for ways to save energy.

The city's first Energy Future Expo on May 20 was announced at a news conference yesterday by Mayor Dannel Malloy and state Rep. William Tong, D-Stamford, at the Government Center, where the free event is to be held.

"We are going to invite residents to come here and essentially shop among the vendors," Tong said.

The city plans to charge a \$300 fee to vendors, which is expected to include those offering alternative energy technology, and green builders and architects. Vendors from other environmental and conservation industries are invited to attend.

Participants have not been booked, but a vendor that uses solar energy to produce heat and hot water has expressed interest, Malloy said.

As a member of the state Energy and Technology Committee, Tong has been involved in energy reform. But these efforts can take time, he said.

For instance, the city is considering a property tax exemption for owners of hybrid or high gas mileage vehicles - an exemption allowed by a state law that went into effect Jan. 1.

Meanwhile, Tong said, the products he envisions for the Expo can have an immediate affect on residents' energy costs.

"The reality is fossil fuel is bad for us, (it) ultimately will run out," Malloy said. "We can't continue to do what we are doing and maintain our quality of life."

Connecticut Light & Power Co. and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund are sponsoring the Expo, which is slated to include two panel discussions as well.

Malloy shifted the presentation from geothermal to geopolitical when he invited Barbara Muller, director of the American Jewish Committee and a member of the Sustainable Stamford task force, to speak.

"It is vital to pay attention to our energy usage," she said. "Our lack of attention has caused us to fund those that would like to do away with our way of life," referring to support terrorists have received from oil money.

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