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A Decade of Impact:

Building a Culture of Sustainable Thinkers Through Energy, Education, and Equity

Foreword:

This report is more than a collection of programs. It's a living autobiography of passion, persistence, and purpose. It is the legacy of **Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES)**, **Green Eco Warriors (GEW)**, **Efficiency for All (EFA)**, and our flagship **M=POWER** and **M=POWER 2.0** initiatives. Together, we have spent more than a decade reaching for higher goals, not just the low-hanging fruit; while always choosing the *right* thing over the *easy* thing. **This is our story of building equity, protecting our planet, and creating pathways to careers, comfort, and clean energy.**

Chapter 1- Who We Are & Why We Exist:

We were born out of a need; a desperate, urgent call to protect the planet and serve the people often *forgotten* in environmental and energy conversations. Our founders saw beyond statistics. They saw single mothers shivering in unheated homes, elders breathing in moldy air, and children growing up believing climate change was someone else's problem to solve.

Energy Efficiencies Solutions, Green Eco Warriors, and Efficiency For All are not just organizations. They are movements. They represent the heartbeat of environmental justice communities fighting for clean air, affordable energy, and a future worth inheriting. Born from the vision of **Leticia Colon de Mejias** and her tireless team, these groups have served over 17,000 households and empowered more than 40,000 students and families.

We serve because we believe:

- Everyone deserves a healthy, safe, and affordable home.
- Education is the key to lasting change.
- Clean energy is not a *luxury*. It's a *right*.
- Sustainable futures require inclusive workforce development and equitable policy.

Chapter 2 - Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES):

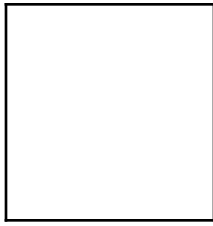


Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES), a community-based organization founded in 2010 by a building scientist, an engineer, and a community educator, was born out of necessity; to confront a crisis that far too many chose to ignore: *the devastating link between energy waste and human*

suffering. With a steadfast commitment to Quality, Integrity, and Community Service, EES works every day to help homeowners, renters, and commercial properties reduce energy usage and lower pollution. Our rallying call, “*Save Energy, Save Dinero!™*,” echoes throughout Connecticut as a promise of



hope, health, and economic justice.



through cracked windows, where families layered coats instead of turning on heat they couldn't afford. We met children sleeping near ovens left open overnight to stay warm. These were not just homes: they were cries for help. And we listened. Our teams did more than assessments; we bore witness to silent struggles and carried those stories to decision-makers and policy boards, turning *pain* into *progress*.

We walked into homes where winter crept in

Impact Highlights:

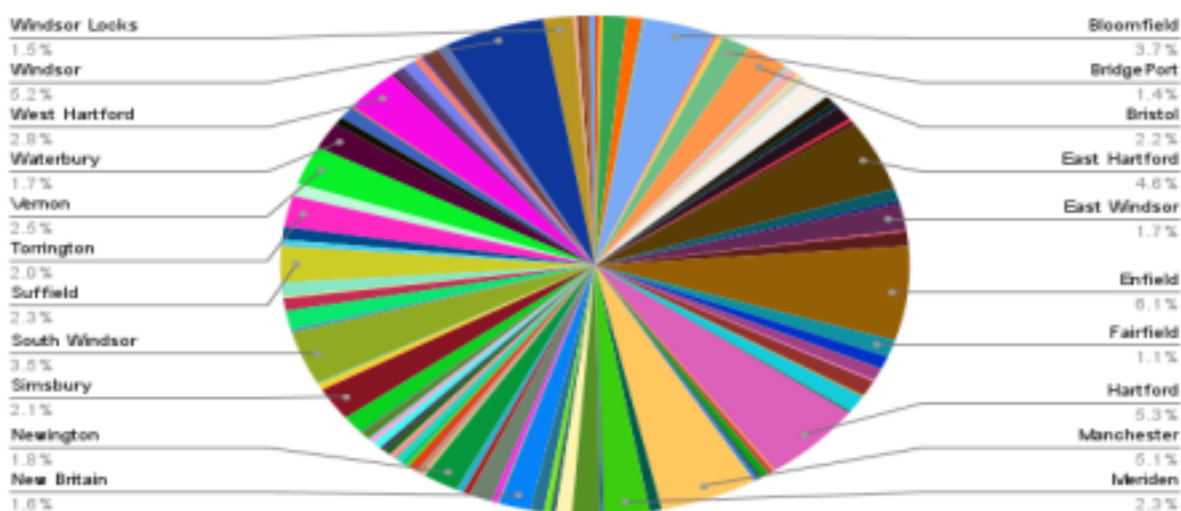
- Over **17,000 households served** in **140 Connecticut towns**
- Over **10 million square feet of multifamily housing retrofitted**
- Co-founders of **Efficiency for All (EFA)**
- Creation of **CTAC** (Contractor Technical Association), a coalition advancing inclusive energy practices

We made the invisible, **visible**: carbon monoxide risks, toxic mold, inefficient heating systems, and leaky insulation. Our assessments uncovered these dangers, but more importantly, we educated families about their rights, empowering them to demand more and expect better. When we found that over 50% of homes had serious barriers like mold, asbestos, or failing infrastructure, we fought to create the state's Barrier Remediation Program; so that no home would be disqualified from help just because it needed more.

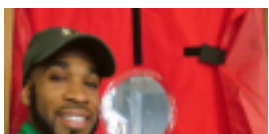
Communities Served by EES:

EES has reached families across 140 of Connecticut's 169 towns, focusing especially on underserved and distressed communities. Our full-service energy conservation company has completed over **5,000 deep energy retrofits**, improving insulation, replacing failing heating equipment, upgrading windows, and installing energy-efficient water heaters.

HES Assessment Percentages by CT Town



Our retrofits weren't just technical; they were **transformational**. From multifamily buildings to single-family homes, we brought relief to families struggling under the weight of high bills and dangerous conditions. We worked together with schools, colleges, and community leaders to ensure no one was left behind. Our work has been



nationally recognized with awards for **Market Leadership** and **Community Engagement**.

Each Home Energy Score (HES) assessment included a comprehensive health and safety inspection:

- Low-flow showerheads & faucets
- Blower door-guided air sealing (including door kits, window caulking, attic & basement sealing)
- Duct testing and sealing
- Heating system testing and prioritization
- Insulation evaluation and installation
- Full energy reports with customer education and ROI upgrade recommendations

We didn't stop at service. We taught families how to take control. We showed them how to read energy bills, how to apply for rebates, and how small changes could yield big savings. We helped transform homes (and lives) with information, access, and action.

Removing Barriers:

Our deep commitment to distressed communities revealed something others ignored: energy injustice is often rooted in the structure itself. Over 50% of the homes we served had one or more barriers—mold, asbestos, outdated wiring, or other hazards that disqualified them from traditional weatherization programs. But instead of turning away, we turned up the volume.

We spoke out. We documented. We collaborated. Our advocacy led to a **statewide Barrier Remediation Program**—a monumental policy change that now makes it possible for thousands of families to qualify for upgrades they were once denied.

Leadership in Education & Policy:

EES is more than a service provider. We are a statewide leader. We worked with bipartisan state leaders, contractors, and small businesses to form **CTAC**, which now advises the Energy Efficiency Board and DEEP on inclusive policies. We showed how clean energy must include everyone—and helped shape a more informed, equitable approach.

One of our proudest achievements was co-founding **Efficiency For All (EFA)**, which is now a fully independent nonprofit. With its own training center, EFA offers adult energy training, career development, and policy advocacy focused on equity, resilience, and justice.

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Conclusion:

Energy Efficiencies Solutions is not just a company; it's a commitment to humanity. We believe energy efficiency is not about numbers, but about **neighbors**. It's about walking into a cold home and walking out knowing we've left behind warmth, dignity, and hope. We continue to serve, to advocate, and to innovate because we know: **saving energy saves lives**.

Green Eco Warriors began with one bold question: *What if our children could become heroes?* Not in some distant future - but now, in their own schools, homes, and communities. Since 2008, this vision has taken root and grown into a transformative movement.

Our message is not one of *fear*. It is one of *joy, courage, and empowerment*. Dressed in capes, children battle “The Phantom Draw,” our villainous mascot of wasted energy. They sing, dance, write, and act. And in doing so, they discover something far more powerful than electricity: ***their voice***.

We’ve reached over 30,000 students through:

- Comic books that feature *Black and Brown heroes* saving the planet
- Summer camps where *city kids connect with forests, farms, and fish*
- Virtual resilience lessons during the COVID pandemic that combined *science, storytelling, and song*

We taught children that sustainability isn’t someone else’s job. It’s theirs. It’s ours. And they rose to the challenge.

One child told us, “*Before Green Eco Warriors, I didn’t know I mattered. Now I know I can change the world.*”



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Our Purpose - Creating a Culture of Sustainable Thinkers:

Green Eco Warriors, Inc. (GEW), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, exists to engage, educate, and motivate. We intentionally design **accessible, inclusive environmental**

education that reflects the diversity of the students we serve. Our tools align with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core, but most importantly - they *resonate*.

We teach not just the “*how*” of energy conservation, but the “*why*.”

Over the years, we’ve partnered with youth, families, educators, and entire communities to develop programs that do more than inform. They inspire:

- **Recycling guides, comic books, youth-led performances**
- **Afterschool programs, summer camps, urban forestry internships**
- **Affordable housing, healthy cooking classes, entrepreneurial training**
- **Community parks, science kits, television shows, and policy summits**





We have reached schools across the U.S. and internationally with bilingual educational tools in **Mexico, Guatemala, and Peru**. Whether on Zoom or in a gymnasium, the Green Eco Warriors create moments that change lives.

At the **Center for Latino Progress**, we have also been able to introduce easy to understand energy conscious concepts to our participants in our adult programs to create opportunities for continued learning at home. The Green Eco Warriors program delivers a strong message about the importance of carbon reduction through interactive videos and plays and participants are encouraged to share what they have learned with their families, spreading awareness from their classrooms to their homes and to their communities.

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Urban Forestry Internship - Connecting the Dots Between Planet & People:

Through the **Green Eco Warriors Urban Forestry Internship**, in partnership with EFA Workforce, we are building a deeper connection between youth and the natural environments that surround them; even in cities.

This internship fosters **diversity in knowledge** about healthy habitats, environmental defense, and the interconnectedness of nature and human health. It opens the door to science-based learning that is too often absent from schools without labs.

Interns explore vital topics:

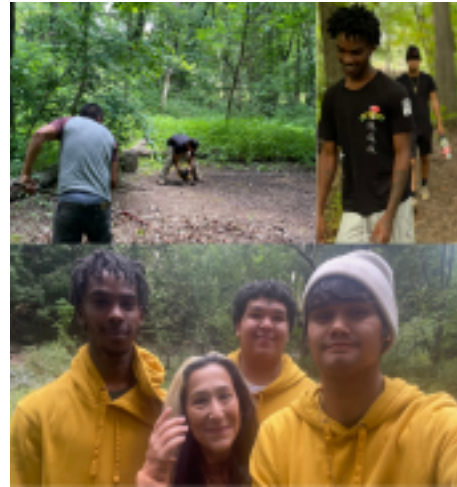
- Urban forestry
- Climate change
- Energy and water systems
- The impact of pollution on people and ecosystems

The internship includes **hands-on learning** that gives students a sense of purpose and stewardship:

- **Trash removal projects** to protect native wildlife and restore habitats
- **Invasive species removal** with safe, eco-friendly techniques
- Understanding the needs of bees, birds, bats, and forest health across all seasons

Interns organized **urban woodland cleanups**, learning to care for forests even in winter. They left not just with knowledge, but with a mission: to become guardians of their local green spaces.

Our lessons hold **life value**. They prove that a healthier planet means healthier people - and our young



warriors are leading the charge.



Green Eco Warriors in Action: Community Impact & Storytelling:

At **Betances STEM Magnet School** in Hartford, we delivered books, comics, and live presentations to over 400 students and families. Children performed plays about environmental protection, climbed ropes courses, met filmmakers, and left the day believing they could save the planet. Supported solely by donations from energy conservation companies, this program proved how far belief and support can go.

From 2008 to 2021, our **environmental summer camps** taught children between the ages of 5 to 17 guitar, swimming, archery, aquaculture, and more. But beyond the activities, students learned confidence, teamwork, and respect for nature.

Green Eco Warriors hosted the **EPA Region 1** Administrator and staff along with some community leaders and environmental justice advocates. Interns and volunteers hosted a tour of the wetland woods, water cycle pond, greenhouse, tiny house projects, and a table discussion about the connections between energy, DEI, community engagement, advocacy, and drawing down energy demands.



During the COVID pandemic, our **online courses** brought joy and movement to students stuck at home. Our Zoom classes weren't just about science; they were about staying hopeful, dancing through despair, and *learning to turn challenges into action*.

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Through a partnership with **WinTV**, our books and comics were transformed into student-led **television shows**. High schoolers from Windsor and Saint Gabriel Schools became producers, writers, and storytellers, creating new narratives of climate action.

At **Writer's Clinics**, hundreds of students received blank books, crayons, and challenge prompts to imagine themselves as the heroes. With support from Hartford libraries and schools, they wrote and published stories that now sit proudly on community bookshelves.

Policy seminars brought students together with **Yale, Wesleyan, UConn, DEEP**, and others. Some became researchers. Others became advocates. *All became warriors.*

Our **Street Team** visited over 50 schools and 70 events in CT and MA, spreading awareness like wildfire.



Testimonies from the Front Lines:

"It is often difficult to find affordable programs that are truly meaningful. The Dinero the Frog presentation was phenomenal! The materials were current, scientific, and super fun. My students were totally engaged."

— Nina Sartori, Science Teacher, Brookings Museum Magnet School, MA

"In 10 years of researching and delivering energy awareness programs nationwide, I've never seen a more energetic or effective student presentation than the Green Eco Warriors."

— Jeff Barrie, Producer/Director, Kilowatt Ours, Nashville, TN

"Green Eco Warriors helped our adult learners engage their own families. The message doesn't stop in the classroom—it continues at the dinner table."

— Raul Irizarry, Center for Latino Progress, Hartford, CT

Our Ongoing Mission:

Green Eco Warriors is a multicultural, minority-founded nonprofit. We are intentional about *everything*. From our diverse Board and staff to the representation in our characters, we want every child to see themselves as a *superhero for the planet*.

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Goals:

- Educate 100 new schools with science-backed, equity-centered materials
- Provide K–12 curriculum that empowers, engages, and transforms
- Equip students to become **advocates, researchers, performers, and leaders**

Our donation program ensures that every \$1,000 brings a full curriculum set to a new school. These kits cover **plastic pollution, climate action, recycling, energy justice**, and more.

Why We Fight:

We believe in protecting people and the planet. That’s the Warrior Way. From wetlands to woodlands, from classrooms to Congress - we show up.

With every comic, every camp, and every performance, we plant the seeds of a sustainable future. **And our students?** They don’t just learn the science. They *become* the change.

Support Green Eco Warriors:

Donate at: <https://www.gewportal.org/donate/>

Help us equip the next generation of climate heroes—one school at a time.

Chapter 4- Efficiency For All (EFA) & M=POWER:



Efficiency for All (EFA) and **M=POWER** were born from a critical truth: energy justice is not possible without **people-powered solutions**. They are the natural evolution of a movement grounded in service, compassion, and an unrelenting fight for equity.

When we investigated our communities, we saw the same cycle repeat itself: unemployment, housing insecurity, poor health outcomes, and a lack of access to opportunity. But rather than accept this as the norm, we asked: “*What if we changed the system from the inside out?*”

And we did.

M=POWER is not just a program. It’s a life-changing intervention.

It finds people where they are—often at their most vulnerable—and offers not just training, but hope. It turns hardship into purpose, and potential into progress. Whether someone is reentering society from

incarceration, aging out of foster care, surviving homelessness, or simply overlooked by traditional workforce systems, M=POWER says: *You matter. You belong. You can lead.*

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M=POWER 1.0 (2011–2020) - A New Model of Workforce Equity:

In its first decade, M=POWER partnered with CT’s workforce boards, energy conservation companies, and community organizations to create an innovative pathway to employment in the clean energy sector.

Key Achievements:

- **194+ participants trained**
- **500+ nationally recognized certifications earned**
- **94% job placement rate**, with 87% retention over time
- Starting wages of **\$17/hr**, growing to **\$25+/hr** within one year
- Wraparound support included housing assistance, ID recovery, transportation, legal aid, and childcare

But these aren’t just numbers. These are **human transformations**.

Jorge, who came to us after aging out of foster care, is now a certified crew leader mentoring others.

Amira, a single mom with no prior experience, now installs insulation and is working toward becoming an energy auditor. **Devon**, formerly unhoused, now teaches new students the very skills that helped him find purpose and financial independence.

We taught our students how to air seal an attic. But more than that, we taught them to believe they could build a life of stability and pride.

M=POWER 2.0 (2024–present) - Resilient Homes & Resilient People:

In partnership with the **Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH)**,

M=POWER 2.0 became the first residential retrofit program in the country designed specifically for Environmental Justice (EJ)



communities.

Launched on Hazel Street in New Haven, M=POWER 2.0 combines deep

home upgrades with community employment.

Key Impacts:

- 30 homes enrolled in the **Energy Retrofit Resilience Project (ERRP)**
- Local contractors from the community hired and trained
- Focus on home safety, efficiency, and energy burden relief
- Inclusive of mold remediation, air sealing, insulation, and more

Each home is more than just a building. It's a **safe haven**, a **beacon of justice**, a **statement** that low-income residents deserve the same comfort, health, and energy savings as anyone else.

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In the words of one homeowner: *"You didn't just fix my house. You gave me peace."*

EFA - Training, Policy, & Advocacy:

While **M=POWER** transforms individuals and homes, **Efficiency For All (EFA)** fights to change the system that made the program necessary in the first place.

EFA is now a fully independent **501(c)(3)** nonprofit with its own training facility. It has become a powerhouse in clean energy workforce development, environmental justice policy, and community education.

EFA's Key Initiatives:

- **Workforce development:** Training adults for BPI certifications and green career tracks
- **Policy planning:** Advocating for equity in state energy planning, and utility accountability
- **Ratepayer protection:** Empowering communities to fight against unfair practices and utility fund sweeps

EFA's leaders have provided public testimony at the state and federal level, shaped workforce inclusion models, and served on councils including **GC3, DEEP panels, and NEJAC**.

They've helped define what it means to do the *right* thing in the energy sector; not just the *easy* thing. They've reminded us that policy must reflect the lived experiences of the people it serves.

Together - People, Purpose, Power:

M=POWER and EFA are two sides of the same movement: one uplifts the individual, the other reshapes the system.

They are living proof that climate justice and economic justice are inseparable. That you cannot retrofit homes without first restoring dignity. That opportunity is not something you give - it's something you *create, cultivate, and defend*.

We are building more than careers. We are building **leaders, advocates, and hope.**

We are building the future: one home, one worker, one



policy at a time.

Next Steps:

- Expand M=POWER 2.0 to retrofit **100 EJ homes statewide**
- Scale EFA's training programs across more CT cities
- Continue shaping workforce equity policy at the state and federal level

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Because everyone deserves to be **safe**. Everyone deserves a **future**. And everyone deserves to **be seen**.

Chapter 5 - Stories of Transformation:

Behind every program, every retrofit, and every training session are the people whose lives have been forever changed. These stories are not side notes; they are the heart of our work. They remind us why we do this. They prove that justice, equity, and sustainability are not abstract ideals. ***They are lived experiences.***

These are the voices of the movement:

Ms. Gloria – A Grandmother Finds Peace:

At 82 years old, Ms. Gloria had lived in the same New Haven home for more than five decades. The house held memories, but it also held danger. Her gas stove leaked carbon monoxide. Her heating bills were so high that she slept in the living room next to the oven, its door propped open for warmth.

She was proud but tired. She had done everything right. Even still, comfort was out of reach.

After **M=POWER's** intervention, her home was *transformed*. The gas leak was eliminated. Insulation was installed. Air sealing and weatherization made her home warm and efficient. Her energy bills plummeted.

“Now I can live with peace in my heart,” she said. *“You made my home safe again.”*

Ms. Gloria's story is a testament to what happens when compassion and technology meet community care.

Isaiah – From Silent Student to Environmental Leader:

Isaiah was nine when he attended his first **Green Eco Warriors** summer camp. Quiet and reserved, he rarely raised his hand in class. But something shifted when he was handed a comic book featuring Dinero the Frog and asked to write his own story.

He found his voice.

By his second summer, he was standing on stage performing in an energy-themed play. By high school, he was speaking at town halls. Now, Isaiah is studying environmental science at UConn.

“You gave me my first stage,” he told us. *“You made me believe I was smart.”*

Jorge – From Shelter to Crew Leader:

When Jorge entered M=POWER, he was living in a shelter and didn't know what was next. With no job history and no clear path forward, he felt stuck. But he showed up. *Every day.*

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Through **M=POWER's** training, he learned weatherization, customer service, and building science. He earned certifications, bought his first car, and moved into his own apartment.

Today, he's a crew lead with a full team under him—and he mentors new students just like he once was.

"You didn't just train me," Jorge said. "You changed my life."

Albert – From Unbearable Heat to Comfortable Living:

Albert, a Windsor resident, learned about the **EnergizeCT HES-IE** program at his town's annual Monarch Butterfly Event in 2024. He was enrolled through the **EFA Community Partnership Program**, which reached over 200 residents from EJ communities in Windsor, Hartford, Bloomfield, and East Hartford.

Like more than 100 others who received deeper upgrades through this program, Albert's home insulation story revealed a powerful truth: even homes equipped with modern technology like heat pumps can fail to deliver comfort if **basic insulation and air sealing are missing.**

Albert's converted family room was unbearable; too hot in summer and too cold in winter. Despite setting the thermostat to 83°F, the room never warmed above 60°F in the winter. The heat pump ran constantly, driving up energy bills without delivering comfort. Albert's wife avoided the room entirely during both seasons.

During our HES-IE assessment, the team discovered that the attic above the room lacked proper insulation and air sealing. EnergizeCT contractors installed new insulation and sealed air leaks to establish a continuous thermal boundary.

"Now I am able to turn the thermostat down from 83° to 65° this winter, and the room is finally warm and comfortable," Albert said. *"I'm looking forward to summer 2025 and being able to enjoy the AC benefits too."*

Beyond comfort, Albert and his wife are saving money. With lower energy bills, they can better afford groceries, medical costs, and housing expenses. Albert's story illustrates how addressing unseen inefficiencies can unlock comfort, dignity, and financial relief for families everywhere.

Thermal boundary upgrades like Albert's don't just help one family; they lower peak demand on the energy grid and reduce the need for polluting power sources. That's a win for Albert, his neighborhood, and the planet.

Meadowbrook Apartments – A Community Restored:

140 units. Dozens of families. One shared struggle: high energy bills, poor insulation, and constant discomfort. The Meadowbrook Apartments retrofit changed everything.

EES and its partners retrofitted the entire complex by sealing air leaks, installing energy-saving measures, and creating healthier living spaces.

“I used to wrap my kids in blankets just to get through the night,” one mother said. “Now we sleep in peace. It’s more than comfort. It’s dignity.”

Student Authors – Writing Their Way to Empowerment:

At **Hartford Public Library’s Word Warriors Program**, students were given blank books, crayons, and the freedom to write. The prompt: *What does a hero look like to you?*

The stories poured out. Tales of children cleaning polluted rivers, families fighting climate change, and students teaching their neighborhoods about recycling. These books weren’t just a fiction-based writing exercise; they were reflections of who these students were *becoming*.

Many were published and now sit on library shelves across the city today.

A Movement Built on People:

These are just a few of the thousands of stories we hold.

Stories of children who discover they matter. Stories of workers who find not just a paycheck, but a purpose. Stories of families who finally feel warm, safe, and seen.

In every retrofit, every lesson, and every training, there is a beating heart. And in every heart, there is a story worth telling.

Because this isn’t just energy work. This is justice work. This is people work. This is the work of transformation.

Chapter 6 - Policy, Advocacy, & Environmental Justice:

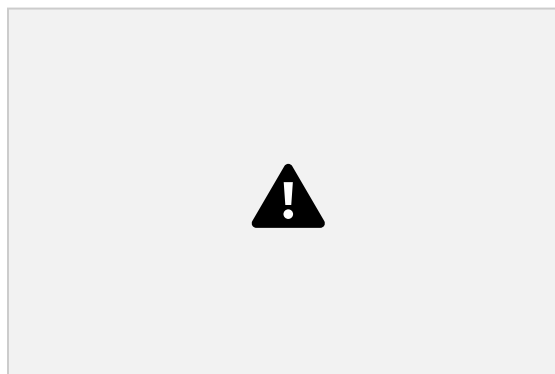
At the core of everything we do lies a belief that **people deserve a voice in the systems that affect their lives**. Whether it’s how energy programs are funded, how clean air is prioritized, or how workforce programs are designed; our work extends far beyond service delivery. It’s about rewriting the rules.

Efficiency For All (EFA), Green Eco Warriors (GEW), and Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES) have been unwavering in their role as advocates, community representatives, and champions for environmental justice in policymaking.

We do not just sit at the table - we bring the people with us.

Speaking Truth to Power:

We’ve stood in hearing rooms and legislative halls, carrying the voices of those who could not be there. We’ve shared stories of:



- Seniors having to choose between medicine and heating.
- Children suffering asthma attacks from mold and poor ventilation.
- Workers locked out of clean energy jobs due to systemic barriers.

Our testimony, lived experience, and data have helped shift conversations from charity to **accountability**.

Advocacy Milestones:

- Led the “**Stop the Raids**” campaign to protect ratepayer clean energy funds. • Successfully advocated for the **Barrier Remediation Program**, enabling more than 50% of previously disqualified homes to access services.
- Testified before U.S. Congress in support of the **Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act**. • Participated in hundreds of state and federal **energy, workforce, and environmental justice panels**.

Congressional Testimony Links:

- <https://www.congress.gov/117/meeting/house/112460/documents/HHRG-117-CN00-20210420-QFR003.pdf>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/decarbonizing-requires-reaching-areas-need-upgrades-colon-de-mejias> https://www.chfa.org/assets/1/6/2020_December_Public_Input_Binder_for_Website.pdf • <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2021/etdata/tmy/2021SB-00882-R000304-Colon%20de%20Mejias.%20Leticia-Green%20Eco%20Warriors-Support-TMY.PDF>
- <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-06/NEJAC%20Public%20Meeting%20Summary%20November%202022.pdf>

Community-Led Policy Engagement:

We’ve built strategic coalitions with local leaders, utilities, contractors, schools, and environmental organizations. Our leadership serves on:

- The **Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3)**
- The **National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)**
- Working groups within **DEEP, Energize CT, and state legislative bodies**

These positions aren’t ceremonial. We show up with facts, with stories, and with demands grounded in decades of community experience. We don’t just suggest solutions. We co-create them.

Equity in Energy Starts with Access:

We’ve consistently advocated for policy rooted in **racial, economic, and energy equity** by: •

Prioritizing distressed communities for funding, workforce access, and retrofit programs.

- **Making science and sustainability education available in every zip code.**
- **Holding utilities and agencies accountable** to the people they serve.

Our team created culturally relevant, multilingual energy education materials, championed equity-based funding formulas, and built training programs that serve as national models.

For us, the clean energy transition means more than *green jobs*. It means *thriving communities* and *empowered lives*.

Real Policy, Real Impact:

These aren't abstract changes. Our advocacy has resulted in:

- Thousands of homes gaining access to weatherization services
- A statewide program to address mold, asbestos, and structural barriers
- Recognition of community-based organizations as essential delivery partners
- Expanded access to training, certifications, and careers in the energy sector

Because of *our* voices and because of *your* stories; **energy justice is now part of the official policy conversation.**

We're Not Done Yet:

Policy is a living process. The fight for environmental justice doesn't end with one law or one program. It's in **every meeting, every budget, and every door** we knock on.

We will keep pushing:

- For more inclusive and resilient infrastructure
- For greater transparency and accountability
- For funding that goes where it's needed most

Because justice is not a destination! It is a daily practice.

What You Can Do:

- **Join our campaigns:** Sign up for alerts and advocacy opportunities.
- **Testify with us:** Share your story at public hearings.
- **Support community-based solutions:** Fund programs that work because they come from the people they serve.

We are not waiting for change. We are making it.

One policy. One partnership. One person at a time.

Our work is not finished. In fact, we are just getting started.

The communities we serve – all resilient, resourceful, and full of promise - deserve a future rooted in equity, health, and opportunity. At **EES**, **EFA**, **GEW**, and through the **M=POWER** programs, we have built a foundation of trust and results. Now, we are ready to **grow**, to **scale**, and to **deepen our impact**.

We don't *chase* trends. We *respond* to real needs, with real solutions. We don't *wait* for permission. We *act* with purpose. We don't *settle* for incremental change. ***We aim for transformation.***

Our Vision for What's Next:

1. Expand M=POWER 2.0 to reach and retrofit **100 homes** in Environmental Justice (EJ) communities statewide. These upgrades will include insulation, air sealing, and critical health and safety repairs.

2. Grow our workforce development pipeline, training hundreds more residents (especially those historically excluded from green careers) with nationally recognized BPI certifications and job placement support.

3. Launch a dedicated education and training center in Windsor, CT, that will serve as a hub for community empowerment, youth internships, adult certification, and contractor support.

4. Deliver Green Eco Warriors curriculum to 100 new schools, empowering the next generation of climate leaders and conservationists through culturally relevant, science-based education.

5. Shape local and national energy policy, ensuring that the voices of real people guide the clean energy transition, and that equity is a non-negotiable standard in all environmental work.

What Makes Us Different?

We've proven time and time again that community-rooted models work.

We don't design programs in boardrooms; we co-create them in neighborhoods. We don't serve to check a box; we serve to change lives. We don't look for the low-hanging fruit; we climb higher, because that's where the need is.

And we do it all with a spirit of love, justice, and urgency.

Scaling with Integrity:

As we grow, we are committed to protecting the core values that built this work:

- **People First:** Every number we report represents a life, a story, and a legacy.
- **Equity Always:** Racial, economic, and environmental equity are not goals. They are requirements.

- **Do the Right Thing:** Even when it's hard. Even when it's unpopular.

Join Us in Building the Future:

You can be part of this movement. In fact, we need you.

Whether you're a policymaker, a parent, a teacher, a donor, or a young person dreaming of change; *there is a place for you here.*

Together, we will:

- Retrofit homes and restore hope
- Train workers and build careers
- Educate students and inspire leaders
- Write policy and rewrite futures

Because the future we need isn't somewhere out there. It's being built right now, by all of us.

Let's keep going. Let's change everything.

Executive Summary:

This report is more than a record of milestones; it is the living autobiography of a movement rooted in justice, service, and the belief that doing the right thing must guide our path forward.

Over the past decade, **Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES)**, **Efficiency for All (EFA)**, **Green Eco Warriors (GEW)**, and the **M=POWER / M=POWER 2.0** programs have together transformed thousands of lives across Connecticut. From underserved homeowners to young climate leaders, our work reaches across generations, systems, and communities with one goal: to build a more just, sustainable, and empowered future.

Our Reach:

- **17,000+ homes served** with weatherization, energy retrofits, and safety upgrades
- **10 million sq ft** of multifamily housing improved
- **30,000+ students educated** through science-based, equity-centered programs
- **500+ energy certifications earned** through workforce training
- **Thousands of tons of emissions reduced**, energy savings captured, and health risks mitigated

Our Impact:

1.Home Energy and Health

We bring warmth, safety, and dignity to families living in energy-burdened, unhealthy homes. We identify hazards like mold, carbon monoxide, and poor insulation - and fix them. We don't walk away from homes with barriers. We fight to remove those barriers, so no one is left behind.

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"You didn't just fix my house. You gave me peace." – Ms. Gloria, age 82

2.Youth Education and Leadership

Through Green Eco Warriors, children become heroes in their own communities. Our culturally relevant materials, comic books, summer camps, and hands-on internships teach energy, environment, and action with joy and purpose.

"Before Green Eco Warriors, I didn't know I mattered. Now I know I can change the world." – Isaiah,

3. Workforce Development



Our M=POWER program transforms lives—training and placing residents from marginalized communities into clean energy careers. With wraparound supports and dignity at its core, M=POWER builds workers who build the future.

“You didn’t just train me. You changed my life.” – Jorge, crew leader and M=POWER graduate

4. Policy and Advocacy

We don’t just serve communities—we fight for them. From leading statewide campaigns to advising federal legislators, we have helped shape equitable energy policy grounded in the voices of those most impacted.

“Energy justice isn’t a concept. It’s a right and a responsibility.”

The Road Ahead:

We are scaling our proven models with deep integrity and community trust. Our next chapter includes:

- Retrofitting **100 EJ homes** through M=POWER 2.0
- Expanding training programs through a new **Windsor-based training and education center**
- Reaching **100 new schools** with GEW curriculum
- Advancing **state and federal clean energy policy** with equity at the forefront

This isn’t just energy work. This is people work.

This is the work of healing, building, and restoring.

And it takes all of us.

“Many Hands Make Light Work.”

Awards & Recognitions

- **Business Star Award** — Capital Workforce Partners (2013, 2017)
- **40 Under 40 Winner** (2014)
- **SBA Minority-Owned Business of the Year** — Connecticut (2014)
- **Star Employer of the Year** — Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford (2014)
- **STEM Award** — Connecticut Science Center (2015), STEM Award Nominee (2020)
- **Tony Woods Award** — Advancing the Home Performance Industry in the Latino Population

(2015)

- **BPI Hall of Fame Inductee** — Building Performance Institute (2015)
- **GreenCircle Sustainability Finalist** (2016)
- **CT Green Award** — Hartford Business Journal (2016)
- **Largest Minority-Owned Business** — Hartford Business Journal (2017)
- **Energy Efficiency Employer & Leader Award** — Save The Sound, Connecticut Fund for the Environment (2018)
- **Hartford's Finest Business Award** — CTNOW/Hartford Courant (2019)
- **100 Women of Color Honoree** (2020)
- **Thatcherian Award** — The Village, Stamford, CT (2022)
- **Nancy Benedict Social Justice Award** — Connecticut Citizen Action Group (2023)
- **National Environmental Justice Achievement Award** — NECEC (2023)
- **Environmental Justice Achievement Award** — Northeast Clean Energy Council (2023)
- **Hispanic Champions for Justice Award** — Bridgeport, CT (2023)
- **Women in PHCP Industry Award** (2023)
- **Earthkeeper Award** — Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (2023)
- **Windsor Bridge Builder Award** (2023)
- **M=POWER CT Governor's Workforce Award** (2024)

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National & Industry Recognitions:

- **U.S. Department of Energy – Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Century Club Award** (Multiple Years)
- **National Center for Healthy Housing – Barrier Remediation Leadership Acknowledgement**
- **CT DEEP – Environmental Justice Leadership Recognition**
- **Energize CT – Community Engagement Excellence Award**
- **EES – CT Women-Owned Business Impact Award**
- **Green Eco Warriors – Educational Innovation in Sustainability Award**

Media Features:

PBS, NBC, CTN, NPR, and regional media outlets

Key Partnerships and Collaborations:

- CT Department of Housing (DOH)
- EnergizeCT / Eversource / United Illuminating
- Connecticut Green Bank
- Connecticut Technical High Schools
- Capital Workforce Partners, The WorkPlace Inc., Workforce Alliance
- Hispanic Health Council
- Hartford Public Schools / Windsor Public Schools / New Haven Public Schools •
- WinTV / Center for Latino Progress / SINA / Community Renewal Team (CRT) •
- National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)
- CT DEEP / Energy Efficiency Board (EEB)
- Yale University / Wesleyan University / UConn / Loomis Chaffee School

Policy Contributions and Testimonies:

- Testified in support of the *Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Act* (U.S. Congress)
- Led “**Stop the Raids**” campaign to protect CT energy efficiency funds
- Co-developed the *Barrier Remediation Program* for CT
- Advisory roles: **GC3** (*Governor’s Council on Climate Change*), **EEB**, **DEEP Equity Panels**
- Community planning input on **HUD**, **CDBG**, and **LIHEAP** state applications • **Homes served**: 17,000+

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Data Dashboard Summary:

- **Multifamily square footage retrofitted**: 10 million+
- **Energy savings**: Millions in avoided energy costs
- **Tons of emissions reduced**: Thousands annually
- **Youth reached**: 30,000+ (in CT, MA, NY, CA, NC, and internationally)
- **Workforce trained**: 194 participants, 500+ certifications
- **Community events attended**: 250+ outreach and education events
- **Schools engaged**: 50+ in-person, 100+ via curriculum kits

Published Materials:

The following materials were published to educate, inspire, and empower youth, families, and communities around environmental conservation, energy education, personal growth, and cultural pride. These books align with national educational standards and have been used in classrooms, community programs, and outreach initiatives across Connecticut and beyond.

- **Pesky Plastic: An Environmental Story** - A fun and educational tale about the dangers of plastic pollution in our oceans. This ecology-centered book introduces young readers to Sally, Allen, Pat, and their sea animal friends while teaching how everyday actions affect our environment. *Aligns with National Education Science Standards (NSES).*

- **Dinero the Frog Learns to Save Energy** - Dinero the Frog teams up with Poppi to explore where energy comes from, how it is used, and why conservation is critical for reducing pollution. *Aligns with NSES.*
- **Mrs. Busy Bee** - A heartwarming story about a busy bee who learns the value of slowing down and appreciating the little things in life. It offers gentle lessons about love, family, mindfulness, and self-care.
- **Defeating the Phantom Draw** - Through fun storytelling, this book teaches children where electricity comes from and how they can take action to stop energy waste. *Aligns with NGSS: 4-PS3-2, 4-PS3-4, 4-ESS3-1, 5-ESS3-1.*
- **Green Eco Warriors Fight for Our Planet's Survival: Defeating the Phantom Draw** - Join the Green Eco Warriors as they battle environmental villains like Mr. Corp, the Medler, and the Phantom Draw. A tale of teamwork, sacrifice, and the fight for our planet.
- **Green Eco Warriors – The Beginning** - The origin story of the Green Eco Warriors as they unite against forces that threaten Earth's health and sustainability. A call to action wrapped in an exciting adventure.
- **Butterfly Rhythm** - The coming-of-age story of a caterpillar named Butter who discovers a whole new perspective on life as she transforms into a butterfly. A metaphorical story about growth and discovering inner strength.
- **Hip Hop and the Wall** - Hip Hop the Frog leaves his pond and learns to overcome obstacles through perseverance and self-belief. A motivational story about following your dreams.
- **Over the Moon and Past the Stars** - A bilingual bedtime story that teaches children to love others as they are. With heartfelt rhymes and charming illustrations, this book also introduces Spanish vocabulary through repetition and visual cues.

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- **Green Eco Warriors: Plants and Pesticides Pt. 1** - The Green Eco Warriors dive into the impact of pesticides on the planet and promote awareness about sustainable living. Can they save Earth from destruction in time?
- **Luis and the Giant** - A culturally rich tale inspired by Puerto Rican heritage. Luis teaches a giant (and the world) that love can conquer fear. A story that celebrates identity, bravery, and compassion.
- **Your Educational Success: Foundation Workbook (YES)** - A comprehensive guide to academic and professional success. Focuses on essential skills like goal setting, communication, organization, and self-reflection. Developed from real-life educational coordination experience.
- **Quadri Lateral** (*Written by Ventine Tyrone Richardson, illustrated by Leticia Colon de Mejias*) - A playful math adventure following a boy made of shapes as he explores polygons in the city. With his dog Tripod, Quadri helps young readers identify quadrilaterals in real-world settings.
- **Paul the Butterfly Duck** - A whimsical reminder to nurture children's dreams - no matter how unusual. Paul, who is both butterfly and duck, inspires belief in possibilities beyond the ordinary. A tribute to imagination and innovation.
- **The Little Brown Hen** - "Who will help me?" asks the Little Brown Hen. "Not I," reply her colorful companions. This vibrant retelling of the classic fable introduces children to the values of hard work, responsibility, and teamwork while teaching the basics of planting seeds. Aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core State Standards.



For additional documentation, photos, media links, or financials, please contact:
contactus@efficiencyforall.org

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About The Founder - Leticia Colón de Mejias:

Founder & CEO, Energy Efficiencies Solutions (EES)

Chair, Efficiency For All (EFA)

President & Founder, Green Eco Warriors

M=Power Program Director

Leticia Colón de Mejias is a dynamic entrepreneur, award-winning building scientist, children's author, and tireless advocate for equity in energy and education.

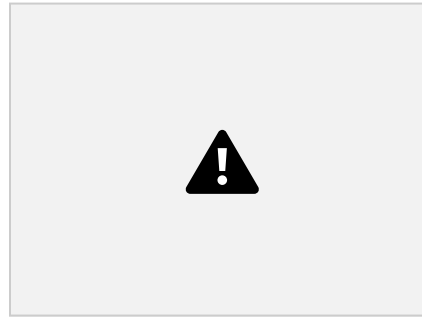


Author & Advocate: An award-winning children's book author (e.g. *Dinero the Frog Learns to Save Energy*), Leticia develops graphic texts and stories that align with national science standards and inspire environmental leadership.

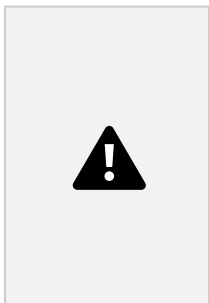
Accolades & Civic Leadership: Her numerous honors include U.S. DOE awards, Minority Small Business of the Year, National Department of Education recognition, and two Capital Workforce Partners Employer of the Year awards.

She is also Policy Co-Chair of the national Building Performance Association and serves on Connecticut's Commission on Women, Children, Elderly, Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs.

Driving Equity in Energy: Leticia has consistently advocated for fair access to utility-funded energy-efficiency programs for low-income and minority residents in Connecticut. Her testimony before Congress supported federal “blue collar to green collar” job training legislation.



Personal Resilience: Surviving four cancers and managing an autoimmune disorder since childhood, she credits her Puerto Rican father’s firewalking guidance and an unwavering spirit for driving her work. She famously said, “We do it because ... nobody can stop us. If we want something, we just go get it.”



Leticia Colón de Mejias combines technical expertise with compassionate leadership; transforming homes, industries, and beyond through the clean energy transition, inclusive workforce development, and youth environmental education.

Leticia is currently writing a novel, recording a podcast, and hosting youth summer camps at her home in Hartland, Connecticut. She remains a passionate advocate for all **Amer-I-Cans**, championing the right to home energy retrofits that promote clean, sustainable, and renewable energy.



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DOH New Haven Energy Retrofit Resilience Project Press Conference Articles / News Links

1. **WTNH News 8 -**

<https://www.wtnh.com/news/connecticut/new-haven/gov-ned-lamont-state-leaders-eye-success-of-housing-pilot-program/>

2. **Caroline LeCour LeCourNews Instagram -**
https://www.instagram.com/p/DMGBdv1u89O/?img_index=1

3. **WTNH News 8 on X -** <https://x.com/WTNH/status/1945000409493336446> 4.

CTHouseDemocrats on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0dqNyKt3BYg>

5. **NBC CT -**
<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/new-haven-residents-say-theyve-benefitted-from-home-retrofitting-pilot-program/3607146/>

6. **Connecticut Network -**
<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/new-haven-residents-say-theyve-benefitted-from-home-retrofitting-pilot-program/3607146/>

7. **New Haven Independent -**
https://www.newhavenindependent.org/article/retrofit_program_brings_healthier_safer_homes_to_newhallville_residents

8. **WSHU Public Radio -**
<https://www.wshu.org/connecticut-news/2025-07-15/ct-new-haven-affordable-housing-pilot> 28

