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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Connecticut Science Center Unveils New Energy City Exhibit **New permanent interactive exhibits highlight smart “green” energy strategies**

Hartford, CT, December 9, 2014 –The Connecticut Science Center has “amped” up the fun factor in its Energy City gallery with brand-new hands-on activities that teach visitors all about energy. Science Center guests will discover the importance and benefits of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy-saving measures that can be applied in their own homes. The new exhibits are made possible with the generous support of Energize Connecticut, an initiative dedicated to showing Connecticut residents how to make smart energy choices.

“All the partners that represent Energize Connecticut—the Energy Efficiency Board, DEEP, the Green Bank, Northeast Utilities and the United Illuminating Company—are proud to support the Energy City gallery at the Science Center,” stated Bill Dornbos, Connecticut Director and Senior Attorney at the Acadia Center and Chairman of the Energy Efficiency Board. “Giving consumers—of all ages—the chance to see, and actually interact with smart energy technology helps them make better energy choices in their own homes.”

The new Energy City includes Paths of Electricity, where visitors can design their own energy pathways for a model city, choosing from three renewable power sources and connecting pieces of an “energy chain” to power up the model city’s electric lights. At City Hall, guests can explore a series of “Empowering Your Community” videos showcasing useful energy-saving measures, such as new lighting choices and home insulation. To learn the benefits of high-efficiency light bulbs, guests head to ENERGY STAR® Lighting. Here, they see that while energy-efficient bulbs cost more than traditional light bulbs, they are well worth the investment: high-efficiency bulbs save both money and energy in the long run. Visitors experience this first-hand as they turn a hand crank generator to power different types of bulbs, learning just how much more energy is needed to power traditional bulbs. At the Smart Appliances and Smart Lighting exhibits, featuring household appliances provided by F.W. Webb Company/Frank Webb Bath Supply, and lighting provided by Connecticut Lighting Centers, guests play touchscreen strategy games, making changes to save money and raise a home’s overall energy efficiency. Younger Energy City tourists will enjoy the Energy Conservation House, where they can play energy-efficient house with appliances that are just their size. They can also play search-and-find games to discover air leaks in window frames and feel the difference between insulated and un-insulated pipes at a cut-away wall.

“Energy sources and energy use are among the most important issues we face, and we take these issues very seriously here at the Science Center,” said Matt Fleury, Connecticut Science Center President and CEO. “We are proud of the fact that the Science Center is LEED-Gold certified, and we love the idea that our guests can visit the new Energy City and learn how to make their own homes more energy-efficient.”

Access to these new interactive exhibits is included with the purchase of General Admission or with a Connecticut Science Center Membership. Kids under 3 are FREE. For information, including pricing and hours, visit CTScienceCenter.org.

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About the Connecticut Science Center The LEED-Gold certified Connecticut Science Center, located in downtown Hartford, sparks creative imagination and an appreciation for science by immersing visitors in fun and educational hands-on, minds-on interactive experiences while maintaining an environmentally conscious presence. Serving 1.6 million people since opening in 2009, the Science Center features more than 165 exhibits in ten galleries and a range of topics, including space and earth sciences, physical sciences, biology, the Connecticut River watershed, alternative energy sources, Connecticut inventors and innovations, a children's gallery, and much more. Other features include four educational labs, a 200-seat 3D digital theater, function room, gift store, and ongoing events for all ages. The Science Center is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing science education throughout the state of Connecticut and New England, providing learning opportunities for students and adults of all ages, and engaging the community in scientific exploration. The Connecticut Science Center is also the home to the **Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Academy for Teachers**, offering powerful Professional Development for educators. More information: www.CTScienceCenter.org or 860.SCIENCE.

About Energize Connecticut Energize Connecticut helps you save money and use clean energy. It is an initiative of the Energy Efficiency Fund, the Connecticut Green Bank, the State, and your local electric and gas utilities, with funding from a charge on customer energy bills. Information on energy-saving programs can be found at EnergizeCT.com or by calling 1.877.WISE.USE.