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Title: Milford joining energy program
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The city will start a pilot program to conserve energy at the public works and police buildings, as the Board of Aldermen approved a measure that could be used in all city locations if it is a success. The proposal initially came under fire from Democrats, who were skeptical of the high price and potential effectiveness of the company's plan by Nxegen Inc. of Middletown. The three-year contract comes at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

That price includes \$8,400 a year for "energy monitoring and reporting."

"I look at that as kind of a high price," said Alderman Nick Veccharelli, D-2.

However, Mayor James L. Richetelli Jr. said that now is the time to plug into the pilot program, as United Illuminating Co. is offering a 50 percent discount for municipalities to try it. The discount comes from a state subsidy."

"There's only a small window of time to take advantage of this," Richetelli said. "We want to start out small and measure the success of this program."

Nxegen representative John Carbone said the proposal calls for installation of energy-efficient lighting, as well as heating improvements. He said the monitoring of energy use is essential so the company can evaluate what needs to be changed.

Alderman Ben Blake, D-5, asked Carbone, at an aldermanic meeting this week at City Hall, whether the company guarantees drops in energy costs. Carbone responded that it is not a "performance-based contract, "but the simple measure Nxegen uses, such as installation of low-wattage light bulbs, is bound to save a lot of money.

Twenty-one municipalities in the state use the Nxegen program, according to Carbone. A five-year program has saved New Haven \$5.5 million, Carbone said.

Veccharelli said that while efficiency is important, he wants to make sure that lighting in city buildings is sufficient.

"I've been in some stores with new lights that save energy, but it's dark," he said.

Alderman Martin Hardiman, D-3, asked: "If this program is so good, why not do it at all of the buildings now?"

Richetelli responded that the city wants to see what the savings are before enacting measures for all buildings.

"We want to start out small and measure the success of this program," he said.

The board unanimously approved the contract.

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Author: Chris Rhatigan
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