



Environmental Advocates' 2010 Legislative Proposals

as of 12/22/09

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Proposed Legislation for 2010	Lead Group	Support Group	Fiscal Impact
Agriculture/Farms			
Assure future residents of the availability of agricultural land to produce food and support agriculture business. Work vigorously to defend against any proposed budget cuts to funding for the CT Farmland Preservation Program & the CT Agriculture Viability Grants Program.	WLA, CFBA	WHLT, CCM, EC, CT NOFA, ARTFARM	Will require funding. Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Respond to the growing interest in local food and the rise of small and community farm enterprises. Secure funding for the Community Farms Farmland Preservation Program (established in Public Act 08-174).	WLA CFBA	WHLT, EC, CT NOFA, PRWRI, ARTFARM	Will require funding. Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Further the recommendations of the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board regarding the permanent conservation of state-held agricultural lands (Special Act 09-8).	WLA, Audubon	WHLT, CCM, EC, CT NOFA	Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Budget Appropriations			
The DEP Conservation Fund was dissolved and its balances were transferred into the General Fund as part of the 2009-2010 budget. Restore whole or pieces of Conservation Fund to the DEP's budget.	CFPA, Audubon, CFE	WHLT, TMA	
No state funds should be used for any study of the implementation of the proposed Super 7 highway northward from Norwalk. Transfer land from DOT to DEP.	Sierra	Audubon, RPA, EC	
Seek state funding sufficient to secure federal dollars for wildlife programs in Connecticut.	Audubon		
Enact an annual renewal fee for the Long Island Sound License Plate that will be dedicated to habitat restoration.	CFE, Audubon		
Energy/Global Warming			
Stop budget raids of the Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Funds.	CFE		
Ensure implementation of the Carbon Cap (DEP plan report due July 2010).	CFE		
Create a self-sustaining solar power industry.	CWA, Sierra, EC, CFE	CT NOFA, ARTFARM	Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Increase energy efficiency of existing building stock.	ENE, CFE	Sierra, RPA, EC	Lower energy costs for bill payers in impacted buildings.
Authorize Municipal Residential Financing program to make it easy for homeowners to undertake deep energy efficiency and clean energy retrofits.	CWA, EC, CFE	Sierra, RPA, ARTFARM	Create jobs. Save homeowners money.
Render null and void any absolute prohibitions on the use of clotheslines	Sierra	ECHO, CT NOFA, ARTFARM	
Enhance school energy performance and indoor air quality of public schools by providing state reimbursement for major HVAC upgrades on the same basis as for new construction.	Sierra	CCEJ, CCM	



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Mandate state of the art energy performance for commercial, residential, and public buildings, and add comprehensive green building standards to the state building code.	Sierra	ECHO, EC, ARTFARM, CFE	
Amend as necessary all laws to require that all CT hydropower meet the standards of the Low-Impact Hydropower Institute.	RA	Sierra, PRWRI	Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Provide for regular ongoing identification and adoption of energy efficiency standards for new products not regulated at the federal level. Direct Connecticut to work with the Multi-State Appliance Standards Collaborative to continue to identify additional opportunities for efficiency standards for new products.	CFE		
Remove prohibitions on clotheslines	Sierra		
Support innovative finance models for new energy business development.	CFE		
Enforcement			
Provide that fund managers and investment advisors cannot be sued in state court for taking into account the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance of companies in their investment decisions and advice.	Sierra	PRWRI, CFE	
Establish a visible and effective energy presence in the legislative branch through a new department and/or commissioner.	Sierra		
Environmental Justice			
Make changes to Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority Board to include representation from communities that host facilities, one seat reserved for a public health representative, stronger representation from environmental community.	CCEJ	ECHO, PRWRI	
Improve Environmental Justice Law passed in 2008: extend law to Department of Public Utilities and Department of Economic and Community Development.	CCEJ		
Open Space & Forestry			
Professionalize the science of forestry and increase jobs in Connecticut. Propose amendments to the Forest Practices Act of 1991 that will 1) allow foresters to plan and design timber harvests as intended under the original act; and 2) allow certified foresters to plan and design a portion of timber harvests on state lands (thus allowing the DEP Forestry division to better facilitate sustainable forestry, increase forest health, and create green jobs).	CFPA	Audubon, ARTFARM	Will increase revenue. Create jobs.
Create a community green fund. Enable towns, if they wish, to establish a fee on real estate conveyances to fund open space and other environmental priorities.	Sierra, Audubon	CCEJ, WHLT, CT NOFA, PRWRI, ARTFARM, CFL	



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Protect the funding source for the Community Investment Act to provide dedicated monies for state open space, farmland, affordable housing, and historic preservation programs.	TNC, Audubon	WHLT, CCM, EC, CT NOFA, ARTFARM	Will not require expenditure of state bonds or appropriations
Increase bond funding for the state's two open space programs through the Face of Connecticut initiative. Focus on highest priority parcels identified by RNHT and matching grants program.	TNC, Audubon	WHLT, CT NOFA, ARTFARM	Will require spending. Create jobs.
Inventory and increase available information about protected lands in the state; require that information about deed restrictions be shared with the State at the time of filing on the local land records.	Audubon		
Recycling			
Provide incentives and/or prohibitions to encourage reductions in the use of retail plastic and paper bags.	Sierra	CT NOFA, ARTFARM	
Full expansion of the Bottle Bill			
Smarth Growth			
Build on 2009 legislation re: brownfield remediation, Complete Streets, regionalism incentives			
Work with Ongoing Committee to update the state Plan of Conservation & Development and the locational guide map.	1000 Friends		
Exclude environmentally-sensitive areas from the affordable housing land use appeals process.	CCM		
Enabling statutes to enlarge role of town Conservation Commissions			
Toxics/Public Health			
Producer responsibility for proper recycling of mercury thermostats.	CWA	CCEJ	Will increase revenue.
Establish an institute to assist Connecticut businesses in identifying safer alternatives to toxins and to assist state agencies in managing chemicals of high concern.	CWA, CT Nurses' Association, CCEJ, ECHO, Sierra	CPHA, Audubon, EC, PRWRI, CCEJ	Create jobs.
Identification of priority chemicals of high concern to be phased out of key consumer products when safer alternatives exist.	CWA, CT Nurses' Association, CCEJ, ECHO	CPHA, Audubon, EC, Sierra, CCEJ	
Regulate disposal of pharmaceuticals in water.	RA	CCEJ, ECHO, Audubon, PRWRI	
Jurisdiction of Product Stewardship Council			
Transportation			
Increase funding and maintaining existing bus fares for bus operations in order to improve and increase service.	Transit for CT	CCEJ, RPA, ARTFARM, LWVCT	Will require spending. Create jobs.
Invest resources to move stimulus eligible bus and rail projects forward, including: Hartford-Springfield rail line, New Britain-Hartford Busway, electrification of lines for high speed rail. Prioritize projects and match to available funds.	Transit for CT		
Water/ Wetlands			
Passage of DEP's stream flow regulation through the Regulations Review Committee.	RA	FRWA, Audubon, EC, PRWRI, HVA	Will require spending.



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Removal of secrecy laws applying to Water Supply Plans.	RA	Audubon, PRWRI, LWVCT	Increase revenue /cost-savings.
Protect and restore vegetated buffers alongside state waters.	RA, Sierra	Audubon, EC, PRWRI, CFL, LWVCT, HVA	
Declare protection of inland wetlands and streams to be state policy.	RA, Sierra	FRWA, Audubon, EC, PRWRI, CFL, HVA	
Increase funding for the Clean Water Fund to provide grants and loans to municipalities for sewage treatment plant upgrades.	TNC, Audubon, CFE	CCEJ, CCM, CFL, TMA, PRWRI	Will require spending. Create jobs.
Regulate packaged on-site sewage-treatment systems.	RA	Audubon, Sierra	Will require spending. Create jobs.
Restore funding for the Aquatic Invasive Weed Program.	CFL		
Create a Connecticut decentralized wastewater management and oversight program.	CFL		
Develop clarifying legislative statute to enable municipal storm water authorities to fund (bond) and implement local projects. Extend storm water regulations to all communities.	CFE	CFL	



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ARTFARM Art Farm			
Audubon Audubon, CT			
CCEJ Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice			
CCM Connecticut Conference of Municipalities			
CFBA Connecticut Farm Bureau			
CFE Connecticut Fund for the Environment			
CFL Connecticut Federation of Lakes			
CFPA Connecticut Forest & Park Association			
CPHA Connecticut Public Health Association			
CTNA Connecticut Nurses' Association			
CTNOFA Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut			
CWA Clean Water Action			
EC Environment Connecticut			
ECHO Ecological Health Organization			
ENE Environment Northeast			
FRWA Farmington River Watershed Authority			
HVA Housatonic Valley Association			
LWVCT League of Women Voters of Connecticut			
PRWRI Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative			
RA Rivers Alliance			
RPA Regional Plan Association			
Sierra Sierra Club			
TAC Toxics Action Center			
TGCC Town of Greenwich Conservation Commission			
TMA The Maritime Aquarium			
TNC The Nature Conservancy			
WHLT Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust			
WLA Working Lands Alliance			