



Major Players in Connecticut Energy Policy

Federal and state agencies, private utilities, and nonprofits/advocacy groups are involved.

FEDERAL AGENCIES



U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

The DOE was established in 1977 in response to the energy crisis by combining several different agencies into one over arching authority. The agency's mission is to advance the country's national, economic, and energy security; promote scientific and technological innovation; and ensure the environmental cleanup of the national nuclear weapons complex.

The DOE is headed by a President-appointed Secretary, with divisions devoted to several types of non-renewable and renewable energy research. In 2005, the DOE had an enhanced role in the designation of National Interest Electric Corridors, which give transmission utilities seeking to construct transmission facilities the right to override state and local permitting decisions for electric transmission facilities.

<http://www.doe.gov>



Federal Energy Regulatory Council (FERC)

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, is an independent agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. FERC also reviews proposals to build liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines as well as licensing hydropower projects. The FERC consists of up to five commissioners appointed by the President who serve for five year terms, and was created in 1978 as the successor to the Federal Power Commission.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 gave FERC additional responsibilities, including overseeing the reliability of the nation's electricity transmission grid, penalty authority to prevent market manipulation, and supplementing state transmission siting efforts in national interest electric transmission corridors and review of company mergers, acquisitions involving electric utilities. Since deregulation, FERC has become increasingly involved in the pricing of electricity for Connecticut's utilities. It was influential in the creation of ISO-NE as the administrator of New England's wholesale electric markets.

<http://www.ferc.gov>

FEDERAL AGENCIES



Independent Systems Operator – New England (ISO-NE)

The ISO-NE, is a regional transmission organization (RTO), created when New England states began to require a separation of electricity distribution and generation. The ISO-NE is charged with three main responsibilities dealing with the electricity grid:

- 1) monitoring the grid on a minute-to-minute basis to ensure reliability
- 2) development and oversight of the wholesale electric marketplace, and
- 3) managing bulk electric power systems.

ISO-NE is a not-for-profit corporation that works independently from the states it regulates.
<http://www.iso-ne.com>

New England Power Pool (NEPOOL)



An alliance of approximately 100 utility companies who manage and direct all major energy production and transmission in the New England states. NEPOOL was created in the early seventies after a region-wide blackout, and was designed to ensure reliable communication and delivery of electricity throughout New England. Dispatch functions were replaced in the mid-nineties with the creation of ISO-NE. <http://www.iso-ne.com>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)



The EPA was established in 1970 to protect human health and the environment. It houses 10 regional offices, several labs and a headquarters office in Washington D.C., and employs 18,000 engineers, scientists and policy analysts. The EPA is led by an Administrator who is appointed by the President. The EPA's responsibilities include:

- 1) developing and enforcing environmental regulations providing grants to a variety of programs including public education, drinking water funds, and brownfields
- 2) conducting environmental research
- 3) publishing information on a wide array of issues relating to the environment; and
- 4) sponsoring partnerships and programs designed around pollution prevention and energy conservation.

<http://www.epa.gov>.

STATE AGENCIES



[CT Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\)](#)

The DEP is responsible for implementing environmental policy passed by the legislative and executive branches. Although various DEP departments deal with energy policy and climate change issues, the Climate Change and Energy Team, within the Bureau of Air Management has primary responsibility. The Team works with many groups—including FERC, DPUC, CEAB, ECMB, and CCEF—to ensure that environmental impacts, such as climate change, are considered when implementing state energy policy.

In addition, the Office of Pollution Prevention provides assistance to Connecticut's businesses, institutions, municipalities, and residents to improve their energy efficiency and invest in renewable energy sources.

The DEP also has primary responsibility for implementing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) which will go into effect in 2009. <http://www.ct.gov/dep>

[Department of Public Utility Control \(DPUC\)](#)

The Department of Public Utility Control is statutorily charged with regulating, to varying degrees, the rates and services of Connecticut's investor-owned, electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunication companies. The Department is the franchising authority for the state's cable television companies.

The DPUC is headed by a Chairman and has an additional four commissioners, each appointed by the Governor. The DPUC is responsible for ensuring that residents receive adequate energy services at reasonable rates and those utility companies are operating efficiently.

[Office of Policy and Management \(OPM\)](#)



Created in 1977, OPM is composed of eight divisions. The Energy Management Unit within the Policy Development and Planning Division is responsible for energy policy as well as increasing energy efficiency in state-owned and leased buildings. It is also charged with developing energy performance standards for state-funded construction and oversees energy purchases for state facilities, including natural gas and electricity. <http://www.opm.state.ct.us>

[Office of Consumer Counsel \(OCC\)](#)



The Office of Consumer Counsel is an independent state agency with statutory responsibility to represent customers of Connecticut's five regulated utilities—electric, gas, water, telephone, and to some extent, cable television, primarily in matters that go before the Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC). The OCC is comprised of attorneys, accountants, financial analysts, and support staff and is mainly responsible for ensuring reasonable rates and adequate service, particularly when representing consumers before the DPUC, FERC, state and federal courts, and the legislature. <http://www.ct.gov/occ>

[Connecticut Attorney General](#)



Connecticut's Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the state responsible for intervening on various types of proceedings involving electricity matters (including proceedings before the DPUC and FERC), to protect the state, the public interest, and Connecticut consumers. <http://www.ct.gov/ag>

STATE AGENCIES



Connecticut Siting Council (CSC)

The CSC was formed in 1972. The Council's original jurisdiction was siting power facilities and transmission lines, and has since been extended to include various other forms of infrastructure including telecommunication sites. <http://www.ct.gov/csc>.



Connecticut Energy Advisory Board (CEAB)

The CEAB was reestablished and restructured in 2007 by PA 07-242, Section 53. The CEAB is responsible for representing the state in regional energy planning, participating in the state's annual load forecast proceeding, reviewing procurement plans submitted by electric distribution companies, and issuing and evaluating requests for proposals related to energy policies. To view a summary of the impact of PA 07-242 on the CEAB, visit <http://www.ctenergy.org/>.



Energy Conservation Management Board (ECMB)

Created in 1998 by the state legislature, the ECMB advises and assists the state's utilities in developing and implementing cost-effective conservation programs. With approval from the DPUC, it directs the distribution of the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund monies raised through a surcharge on customers' electric bills. These programs are carried out by Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating Company. <http://www.ctsaveenergy.org>



Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)

The CCEF was formed in 2000 in order to promote, develop and invest in clean energy sources to benefit Connecticut's ratepayers. It is administered by Connecticut Innovations (CI), a quasi-public authority, and governed by an appointed Advisory Committee and CI's Clean Energy Investment Committee. The state legislature requires CCEF to develop a comprehensive plan to support renewable energy sources and increase additional demand. The current plan covers the period from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010. <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com>



Institute of Sustainable Energy (ISE)

The ISE was established at Eastern Connecticut State University in 2001 to identify and develop ways to promote sustainable energy. The ISE concentrates on four main areas relating to energy education, policy and conservation. These include:

- 1) public education campaigns and events for both students and professionals
- 2) development of ISE's resources to form a library of information regarding sustainability and clean energy
- 3) assistance in the development of state and local energy policy; and
- 4) support for the development of energy solutions, particularly for municipalities and universities.

The ISE is funded by the CCEF and receives grants and donations from a variety of other organizations including the U.S. EPA and the DOE and Connecticut's OPM, DEP, CCEF and Connecticut Green Building Council. <http://www.easternct.edu/depts/sustainenergy>

PRIVATE UTILITY COMPANIES

[Northeast Utilities \(NU\)](#)

Created in 1966, NU serves 75–80% of the state’s residents through its subsidiary, the Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P), which provides electricity for customers in 149 towns. It also implements the state’s energy conservation programs which range from low-income weather-ization to Energy Star incentives to rebates for geothermal installation. <http://www.nu.com>

[United Illuminating Company \(UI\)](#)

The United Illuminating Company provides electricity and energy-related services to customers in southern Connecticut. UI was formed in 1899, and continues to serve about 15-20% of consumers in the Greater Bridgeport and Greater New Haven areas. Similar to CL&P, UI is responsible for providing energy efficiency and conservation programs for its customers.

Both CL&P and UI offer clean, alternative energy options to customers who choose to purchase renewable energy from Sterling Planet and Community Energy. <http://www.uinet.com>

[Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative \(CMEEC\)](#)

The CMEEC is a publicly directed joint action supply agency created in 1976. It is co-owned by the municipal utilities in Groton, Norwich, Jewett City and two districts of Norwalk.

It also provides power for the CMEEC–participating utilities in Wallingford, Bozrah and the Mohegan Tribal Authority, and altogether, provides power for about 5% of Connecticut residents. CMEEC is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of two representatives from each of the six municipal utilities in its partnership.

CMEEC offers energy efficiency and conservation measures to its customers, including free CFLs, promotion of Energy Star products, and free energy audits. <http://www.cmeec.com>

NONPROFIT AGENCIES/ADVOCACY GROUPS



[Connecticut Climate Coalition](#)

The CT Climate Coalition is a coalition of over 90 organizations coordinated by Clean Water Action. It is part of the larger New England Climate Coalition, and was founded in order to ensure that the governor creates and implements Connecticut's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which details 55 actions that contribute to the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut. Current priorities for the coalition include expanded investments in energy efficiency programs for electricity, heating oil, and natural gas.



[Environment Northeast \(ENE\)](#)

ENE is a non-profit research and advocacy organization founded in 1998 to address a variety of environmental issues (particularly those relating to climate change, energy and air quality), while promoting sustainable economies. Its staff is comprised of policy research, economic, legal and technical experts that collaborate with other groups to identify and act on issues in Connecticut, New England and in the Eastern Canadian provinces. <http://www.env-ne.org>



[SmartPower](#)

SmartPower is a national nonprofit marketing organization that promotes the use of clean, alternative energy and energy efficiency and conservation. It works with states to promote both residential and municipal clean energy usage, and its core campaign, 20% by 2010, aims to have one-fifth of all energy usage come from renewable sources by the year 2010. SmartPower is currently working on a new energy efficiency campaign focused on young adults. <http://www.smartpower.org>



[Operation Fuel, Inc.](#)

Operation Fuel, Inc. is a nonprofit designed to assist families that are unable to afford fuel during the winter months. It is managed by an executive director and a board of directors comprised of representatives of utility companies, communities, and the state, and is funded mainly through donations from resident utility bills, grants, and an annual appeal. Operation Fuel works with local fuel banks in collaboration with social service agencies, nonprofits and community action groups to provide cash grants to households in need. <http://www.operationfuel.org>



[Environment Connecticut](#)

Environment Connecticut is a statewide advocacy group that supports a variety of environmental issues, specifically those related to air, water, and open space. <http://www.environmentconnecticut.org>



[Connecticut Fund for the Environment \(CFE\)](#)

Founded in 1978, CFE has championed various environmental issues in Connecticut using a combination of law, advocacy, and public education. CFE has been actively engaged in reducing the state's energy consumption through innovative policy solutions aimed at the transportation and building sectors, and its Save the Sound program has been very much involved in energy infrastructure siting projects in Long Island Sound. <http://www.cfenv.org>