

Our Climate Crisis

Keep CT a Leader in Climate Action and Renewable Energy

Historically, Connecticut has been a national leader on environmental issues. But we are starting to lag behind. In fact, according to an Acadia Center report, **greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) have actually reversed course**, increasing by 4.4% from 2012-2014, the first two-year increase in GHG emissions since 2004.

The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) requires Connecticut to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 10 percent from 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80 percent from 2001 levels by 2050. **Connecticut is at risk of missing the 2020 goal.** The state legislature must continue to point Connecticut in the right direction.

Three *problems*, three *solutions*.

1 **PROBLEM: HARMFUL GREENHOUSE GASSES** **SOLUTION: NEW REDUCTION TARGETS**

Adopt specific strategies to achieve the 2020 GHG target set by the GWSA and set interim targets for reaching the 2050 target. The 30-year gap in targets is too great for progress and accountability.

SOLUTION: STRONG ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPORT

Support EVs through extensions to the rebate program (CHEAPR), allow direct manufacturer sales of EVs, and support critical EV infrastructure.

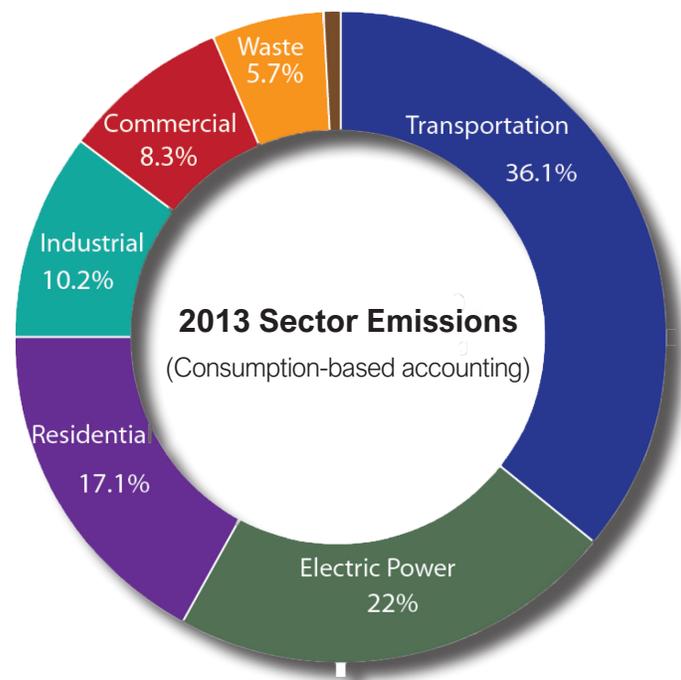
Transportation currently accounts for almost 40% of CT's greenhouse gas emissions. Dramatically accelerating EV adoption is essential to achieve CT's GHG reduction goals.

SOLUTION: SHARED SOLAR

Expand renewable energy through shared solar. Rooftop solar is not an option for 80% of residents and shared solar would allow a broader group of residents to get clean, renewable energy, save money, and unleash private investment into the state's growing clean energy economy.

While the state is initiating a small shared solar pilot program, a full-scale program that does not cap the number or size of projects is critical to meeting GHG reduction mandates.

PRIMARY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



Transportation alone makes up **36%** of GHG emissions. Commercial, Industrial and Residential makes up another **36%**. And Electric Power makes up **22%**.

2 **PROBLEM:** WEAK RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD

SOLUTION: Work to expand the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Currently our RPS requires up to 20% of electricity come from renewable resources like solar and wind by 2020. But there are no targets beyond 2020.

SOLUTION: Set more stringent targets for 10 and 20 years out, increase incentives for in-state renewable generation, and strengthen penalties for non-compliance.

3 **PROBLEM:** INEFFICIENCIES

SOLUTION: Incentivize green building, home heating, and maximize investments in energy efficiency by protecting Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds, which provide resources for efficiency and clean energy programs that create green jobs in CT. These funds save money for Connecticut residents, and are a smart investment in our future we cannot afford to lose.

SOLUTION: Together we can lead

Polling shows more than 80% of the population, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents, favor expansion of solar and wind industries.

LET'S BE A LEADER ON CLIMATE ACTION.

LONG TERM CLIMATE POLICY

The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) is working on aggressive climate action. We hope you will support our recommendations to the GC3 to reduce our carbon footprint and move beyond dirty fossil fuels.

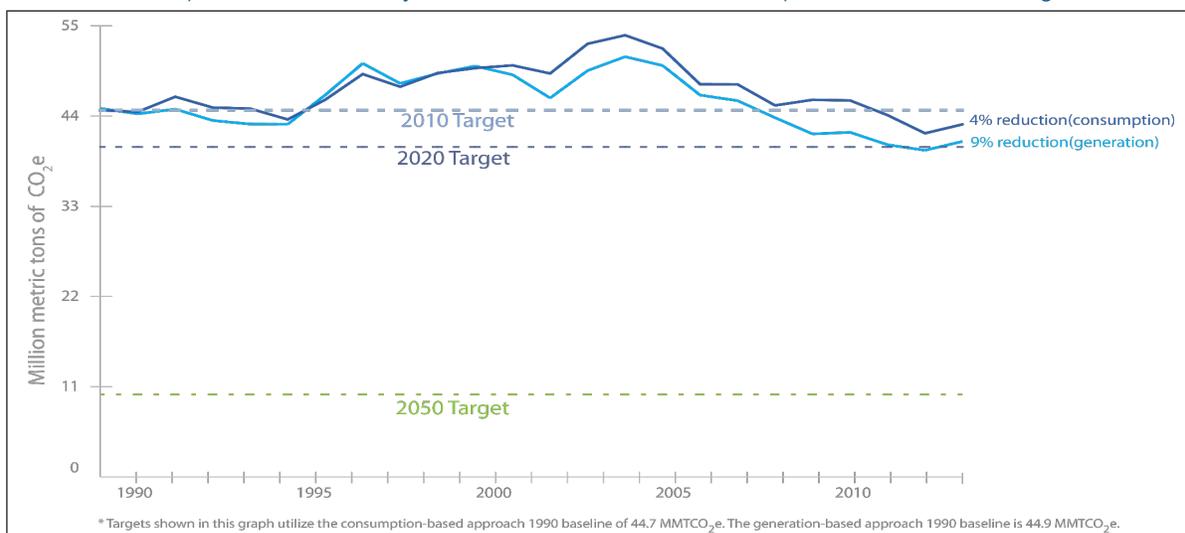
GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT PLAN

We must work on a proactive action plan to meet our 2020 targets and implement interim goals for years 2030 and 2040 in order to meet all GHG reduction targets.

COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY

We must urge DEEP to transition away from fossil fuels and towards 100% renewables with detailed strategies within the new CES.

CONNECTICUT ECONOMY-WIDE GHG EMISSIONS 1990-2013
Comparison of Electricity Sector Generation and Consumption-based Accounting



DEEP/GC3 September 2016

Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound
900 Chapel Street, Upper Mezzanine
New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 787-0646
ctenvironment.org



Connecticut Fund
for the Environment

Save the Sound