Connecticut: A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The need for fundamental meaningful climate legislation.

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An ACT Concerning the CLIMATE EMERGENCY and the Necessary Actions to meet Connecticut’s Emissions and Net Zero Goals

PURPOSE:

1. Declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY.

2. Access more opportunities for FEDERAL FUNDS.


An ACT Concerning the CLIMATE EMERGENCY and the Necessary Actions to meet Connecticut’s Emissions and Net Zero Goals

STRATEGY:

1. Begin CCL* process for foundational climate laws.
2. Build on young people’s involvement and vision.
3. Include CT organizations and communities in process.
4. Address concerns of those not supporting effort.
5. Seek bipartisan political, state & business support.
6. Call and talk with “everyone”.

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*Citizens’ Climate Lobby
Source of the Problem and Foundational Climate Laws

Foundational Climate Laws directly address the source of the problem: **the factors causing climate change.**

Burning fossil fuels is the source problem of GHGs.

Therefore, pass laws addressing the source through:

- Carbon pricing/cashback mechanisms.
- A moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure/buildings.
- Aggressively promoting renewable energy.
- Seeking increases in federal funding.

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Federal Funds

• Federal Funding increases in emergency situations.

• The Climate Emergency is such a situation.

• There is over $18 billion in Federal Funds for climate, environmental and community resilience programs.

• Connecticut already receives some of this; the goal with this bill is to increase funding towards meaningful climate programs for Connecticut’s communities.

• With this effort Connecticut can get back on track towards achieving GHG reductions and a net-zero carbon grid.

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NOW: declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY
CONNECTICUT
Emissions Reduction Goals

• 2030: 45% GHG reduction
• 2040: 0% Carbon electricity sector
• 2050: 80%+ GHG reduction
Connecticut Energy Sector

Connecticut: % power produced from energy sources - 2001 to 2019

- Nuclear: 51%, 52%
- Natural Gas: 17%, 41%
- Coal: 13%, 17%
- Petroleum: 17%

7% from biomass, solar, wind & hydro

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Connecticut Energy Profile

- **Home Heating:**
  - 80.1% by natural gas & oil (ng = 36% and oil = 44% of households)
  - 17.3% by electricity (2.7% other sources)

- **Electricity Generation:**
  - Natural Gas 56%
  - Nuclear (Millstone) 38%
  - Solar 2% Biomass 2% Hydro 1% Wind <1%

If all new infrastructure and buildings are electric, Connecticut can reduce natural gas and oil consumption and reduce GHG emissions.

Source: EIA, 2021
Off Track – We Can’t Meet Our Targets

Without foundational climate legislation CT will not meet its GHG reduction targets.
A Price on Carbon Necessity:

GHG reduction targets can not be met without a price on carbon.

Source: Rhodium Group analysis
*example: Fed. HR2307 Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act
GHG emissions drop even more with a moratorium on new fossil fuel infrastructure/buildings.
Phased Moratorium

- **Moratorium**: no new fossil fuel infrastructure/buildings.
- **Mandate**: all new infrastructure/buildings electrified.
- **Electric**: This allows direct hookup to clean energy systems and the existing electric grid during buildup of clean energy systems.
- **Existing**: fossil fuel infrastructure/buildings continue to be supplied until equipment ages and requires replacement, at which time electric systems are installed.
- **Protects**: existing oil & gas distribution companies (existing jobs & clients) for at least 10+ years, and gives them time to make transitions to clean energy systems and jobs.
An ACT Concerning the Climate Emergency

2022
- Climate Emergency
- Young People Involved
- Support for Federal C-Pricing & Cash-Back
- microgrid support

2023
- Federal Funds
- Farm Support
- Nature-based Solutions for Flood Control

2024
- CT Matching Funds
- No EV impediments
- Renewable Energy on all new buildings
- F.F. Divestment
- Job Training

2025
- Fossil Fuel Moratorium on NEW infrastructure & Buildings

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Strong support from young people across Connecticut for the Climate Emergency bill
Energy Mix: 2050 – minimal fossil fuels

Energy Source Balance in New England 2016 to 2050

- Biomass
- Nuclear
- Coal
- Natural Gas
- Oil, Gas, Jet fuel
- Other zero-C
- Hydro
- Wind (all)
- Solar (all)

ISO-NE 2016
RJK & GHS 2050
Energy Sage 2050
Mark Jacobson est. 2050

Kuhns, 2018

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Immediate Action

- Email the Connecticut General Assembly Environmental Committee co-chairs asking for their support to raise the bill in committee:

  - State Senator Christine Cohen
    - cohen@senatedems.ct.gov

  - State Representative Joe Gresko
    - Joseph.gresko@cga.ct.gov

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