

Our Climate Crisis

Keep CT a Leader in Climate Action and Renewable Energy

The 2018 United Nations report confirmed that the world has 12 years to slow global warming enough to stem effects that exacerbate food shortages, wildfires, death of wildlife, warming oceans, and stronger storms.

Historically, Connecticut has been a national leader on addressing climate change.

Last year, Connecticut enacted new 2030 targets for both renewables (the Renewable Portfolio

Standard) and GHG emissions reductions (the Global Warming Solutions Act).

Now, you must take these new climate and clean energy targets from paper to practice by implementing concrete policies that will tackle climate pollution in all sectors of our economy, and increase deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Read on to find out how!

REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 45% BEFORE 2030

The Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) requires Connecticut to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 10% from 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% from 2001 levels by 2050. This year we have a new target of 45% from 2001 levels by 2030.

How do we get there?

ELECTRIFY CARS AND BUSES

Transportation currently accounts for about 38% of CT's greenhouse gas emissions. Dramatically accelerating zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) and electric bus adoption is critical to achieve CT's GHG reduction goals. Specifically:

- Support ZEVs through expansion of the rebate program CHEAPR and commit to fund it through 2025.
- Proactively implement EV-ready building code updates.
- Green Connecticut's state fleet by adding more EVs and green buses.
- Allow direct sales of EVs.

FIGHT FOSSIL FUEL & NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE

Prevent ratepayer investments from being used on outdated pipeline infrastructure. Utilize zero carbon renewable resources like wind, solar, and renewable thermal technologies combined with energy efficiency, to support a cleaner, reliable electric grid.

MAXIMIZE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The cheapest and cleanest energy is the energy that is never used. Many homes and businesses lose half of their energy from inefficiency (i.e. leaky windows, lack of adequate insulation).

Last year the legislature swiped over \$140 million from clean energy and efficiency funds that was helping to cut GHG emissions, saving businesses and ratepayers money, and creating jobs.

The state must recommit previously raided funds and add protections to make the funds raid-proof.

CT should expand investments of energy efficiency, focusing on reducing energy waste in state buildings, which saves money and creates jobs.

SMART AND EQUITABLE CARBON PRICING POLICIES

CT needs to lead the transition to a healthier, cleaner future by establishing a carbon pricing policy with neighboring states that reflects carbon's long-term environmental, social, and economic costs, while protecting low-income residents and reinvesting fees to:

- Expand clean energy and energy efficiency to further reduce carbon emissions, and to invest in climate adaptation;
- Finance targeted investments in environmental justice communities most affected by pollution;
- Provide financial assistance to workers affected by the transition away from fossil fuels.

TRANSITION TO 100% RENEWABLES BY 2050

SUPPORT DISTRIBUTED SOLAR

Connecticut’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requires electric providers to purchase at least 40% of their energy from Class I renewables (solar, wind etc.) by 2030. We must continue to strengthen our RPS to drive even more clean energy growth with the goal of achieving 50% renewables by 2030 and 100% renewables by 2050.

Support distributed solar energy through expansion of rooftop, business, and shared solar, and implement fair compensation for self-generated solar—essential to growing our solar production in the state.

Shared solar allows a broader group of residents and businesses to get clean, renewable energy, save money, and unleash private investment into the state’s growing clean energy economy.

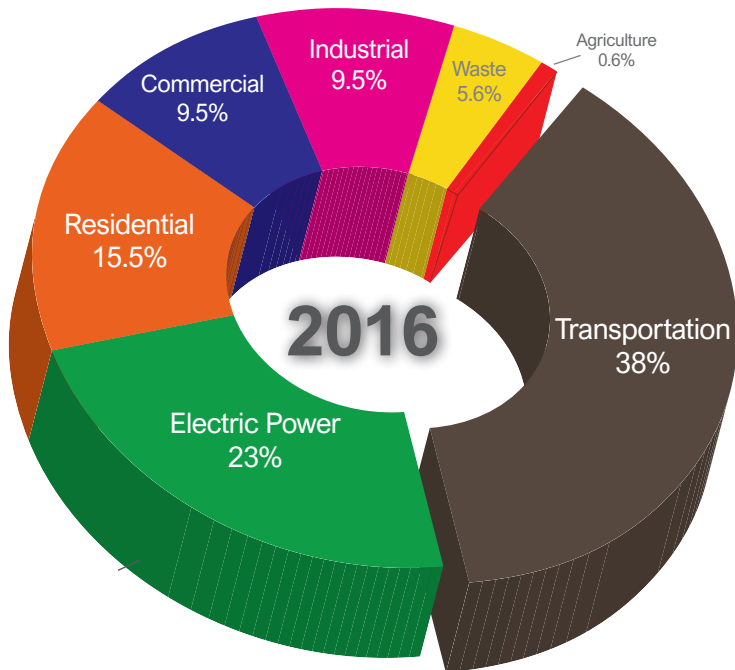
EXPAND OFFSHORE WIND

While planning our energy future, the legislature should increase Connecticut’s authority to solicit environmentally responsible offshore wind proposals and mandate procurements for no less than 30% of the state’s electricity needs by 2030. This will prepare CT to replace Millstone nuclear plant with cleaner zero carbon energy resources when its first license expires in 2035.

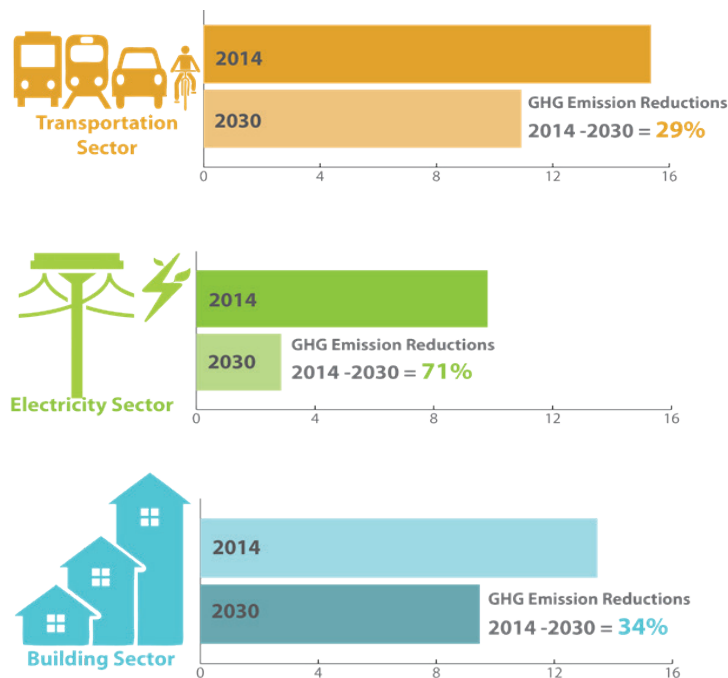
MODERNIZE GRID AND AND ENCOURAGE SMART INTEGRATION OF EVS INTO THE GRID

We must modernize our energy grid and shift our utility model to support increased renewables and the state’s climate goals.

PRIMARY GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



2030 GHG REDUCTIONS NEEDED BY SECTOR



Data: DEEP, GC3 Analysis

