



Fact Sheet

Connecticut Public Act 04-252 (Senate Bill No. 595) An Act Concerning Climate Change

Important Points about the Bill

- This legislation passed the House on May 4, 2004 by a vote of 133 to 14 and passed the Senate on May 5, 2004 unanimously, highlighting bi-partisan support
- The Governor signed the bill, making it law, on June 14, 2004
- This legislation has over 100 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle; and leadership, rank and file in both chambers
- This legislation is supported and was negotiated with many state agencies and authorities, including the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Utility Control, Department of Administrative Services, and the Clean Energy Fund
- There is no fiscal note
- The greenhouse gas emission reduction goals mirror the goals agreed to by all the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in 2001
- This legislation builds upon the 2003 Connecticut Climate Stakeholder Dialogue which brought together businesses, nonprofits, academics, and government – the stakeholders issued 55 recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas pollution, and 52 of the recommendations had the unanimous support of all stakeholders
- The Connecticut Climate Coalition, which supports a framework for action to responsibly protect our economy, health, and environment from the impacts of global warming, mobilized tremendous citizen support for this bill; The Connecticut Climate Coalition is coordinated by Clean Water Action and consists of over 75 organizations representing over 500,000 Connecticut citizens

Bill Summary

A copy of the bill can be found at: <http://www.cga.state.ct.us>

Section 1: Goals and Progress Reports

- Commitment that Connecticut will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state to do its part to achieve the New England Governors' and Eastern Canadian Premiers' greenhouse gas (ghg) reduction targets (1990 ghg emission levels by 2010, 10% below 1990 by 2020, and a long term goal of 75-85% reductions); and work to establish a target date for achieving the long term reduction goal (preferably 2050)

- By January 2005, the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change must develop a plan to achieve the 2010 and 2020 reduction goals; by January 2008 a plan must be submitted for the long term goal. Both plans shall be submitted to the Env. Committee
- Beginning in December 2005 and annually thereafter, the DEP and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change must submit a progress report to the Env Committee

Section 2: Registry and Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Pollution

- By April 2006, Connecticut Title V facilities (Clean Air Act) that already report air emissions to DEP and EPA will be required to report direct ghg emissions to the regional greenhouse gas registry (which should be established by then)
- Annually, the DEP Commissioner will consider expanding the reporting requirements
- By July 2006 the DEP Commissioner shall provide for voluntary reporting
- By April 15, 2007, the DEP Commissioner must consider establishing a CT registry if the regional registry has not yet been established
- An inventory of state-wide greenhouse gas emissions will be published by DEP triennially beginning July 1, 2006

Section 3: Best Practices for State Government

- By July 1, 2005 and every other January after, the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Coordinator at the Department of Administrative Services shall develop a 'Climate Friendly' list of products, services, and systems for state government and public universities that have the lowest global warming impact

Recent Connecticut Climate Change Activities

- August 2001, the New England Governor's and Eastern Canadian Premiers (Co-Chaired by Governor Rowland) approved *Resolution 26-4: Energy and the Environment* and accepted the Climate Change Action Plan (<http://www.negc.org/documents/NEG-ECP%20CCAP.PDF>)
- October 2002, the Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan Summit brought together 25 staff members from 13 state agencies to establish a process for Connecticut to identify greenhouse gas emission reduction actions to support the regional commitments of the NEG/ECP
- June 2003, Environment Northeast released the report *Climate Change Roadmap for Connecticut* – an analysis that shows the State of Connecticut can cut global warming emissions by 75% if we start now (http://www.env-ne.org/Report_Download.htm)
- September 2003, Clean Water Action and the Connecticut Climate Coalition released a report analyzing the actions of the first two years of the Governors and Premiers climate actions concluding that current policies would only get 1/3 of the 2010 reduction goal
- September of 2003, the New England Governor's and Eastern Canadian Premiers (Co-Chaired by Governor Rowland) approved *Resolution 28-7: Environmental Projects and Issues*, which reaffirmed regional climate change commitments
- December 31, 2003, the Connecticut Climate Change Stakeholder Dialogue released their recommendations to the governor, culminating nine months of meetings by representatives of businesses, non-profit organizations, state and local government agencies, and academic institutions to develop policy recommendations to achieve the NEG/ECP targets (http://www.ctclimatechange.com/ct_action_plan.html)

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**Clean Water Action
Environment Northeast**

- March 2004, Governor Roland accepts a first phase of recommendations (38 of 55 policy options) from the Connecticut Climate Change Stakeholder Dialogue
 - Press Release: <http://www.ct.gov/governor/cwp/view.asp?A=1551&Q=272222>
 - Fact Sheet: <http://www.ct.gov/governor/cwp/view.asp?A=1551&Q=272224>
- April 2004, Governor Roland signs executive order 32 committing the state to purchasing renewable energy for state facilities and universities with targets of 20% by 2010, 50% by 2020, and 100% by 2050 (<http://www.ct.gov/governor/cwp/view.asp?A=1551&Q=273016>)
- April and May 2004 legislative actions that implement Connecticut Climate Change Stakeholder Dialogue recommendations:
 - Senate Bill 119, AAC Clean Cars
 - Senate Bill 145, AAC Energy Efficiency Standards
 - Senate Bill 595, AAC Climate Change

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Clean Water Action is a non-profit environmental health organization with three-quarters of a million members nationwide and 10,000 members in Connecticut. Our Connecticut-based staff works with more than 150 local groups and citizen leaders around the state on issues affecting our health, environment and community quality of life. We currently coordinate the Connecticut Climate Coalition, a coalition of over 75 organizations whose memberships represent over 500,000 Connecticut citizens with the goal of putting policies in place to adequately mitigate global warming, reducing its negative economic, health and environmental impacts.

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Environment Northeast is a non-profit environmental research and advocacy group that focuses on energy and environmental policy. We address environmental problems through policy analysis, collaborative problem solving efforts, and an advocacy program that promotes environmental sustainability. We have staff in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

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