

Stop Global Warming Connecticut

Clean Water Action

Roger Smith
860-232-6232

Environment Connecticut

Christopher Phelps
860-231-8842

Environmental Defense

Derek Walker
916-492-7169

Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Charles Rothenberger
203-787-0646, ext. 110

Environment Northeast

Alice Liddell
203-495-8224

The Nature Conservancy

David Sutherland
860-344-0716, ext. 317

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11/1/07

EVENT CONTACT: Chris Zurcher
(203) 787-0646 EXT. 107

***PROMINENT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS ANNOUNCE CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT
EFFECTS OF GLOBAL WARMING; ANNOUNCE PLAN TO PUSH FOR A
STATEWIDE, MANDATORY GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION CAP IN '08
LEGISLATIVE SESSION***

HARTFORD, CT – Citing the need to address “the most important environmental issue facing Connecticut and the nation” several prominent environmental groups today announced that they have formed the Stop Global Warming Connecticut Campaign and will push for legislation mandating a statewide global warming pollution cap in the 2008 legislative session.

While support for the Stop Global Warming Campaign is still growing, the effort is being spearheaded by Clean Water Action, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Environment Connecticut, Environment Northeast, Environmental Defense and The Nature Conservancy.

In order to combat the effects of global warming, the Campaign is advocating for legislation that will impose a mandatory cap on carbon dioxide and other emissions caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels – the main source of the greenhouse gases that are causing global warming.

In addition to the cap, the Campaign will also be proposing a series of policies and programs – many being developed in California and New Jersey, states that have already instituted mandatory global warming pollution caps – that will help achieve the emissions reductions mandated by the cap. **[PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILS ON THE CAP AND OTHER RELATED POLICY INITIATIVES]**

“The global warming debate is over and we know what we have to do. The science tells us that we must begin reducing our greenhouse gas emissions now and work steadily to achieve reductions of 80 percent by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. We have a moral obligation to act and adopting enforceable emissions limits on global warming pollution is an essential step towards a sustainable future,” said Charles Rothenberger, staff attorney with Connecticut Fund for the Environment.

“Connecticut was one of the first states to set pollution reduction goals and release a global warming plan, but action to date has not been sufficient to reach our climate goals.

Connecticut's global warming emissions are still rising and it's clear that we need to require reductions to get on track," said Roger Smith, Campaign Director for Clean Water Action.

"It's time to tackle global warming head-on," said Christopher Phelps, Program Director for Environment Connecticut. "The next big step in the fight against global warming is to cap global warming pollution and require mandatory pollution reductions to 10% less than 1990 levels by 2020, putting us on the path to an 80% cut by 2050. States like California and New Jersey have already taken this step, and Connecticut needs to join them in doing our part to stop global warming."

"To meet the challenge of mandatory limits on global warming pollution, there are many concrete and viable policies Connecticut can and should adopt, such as a low carbon fuel standard to curb motor vehicle pollution, carbon cap and trade programs to limit industrial sources of emissions, and automatic updating of aggressive energy standards for buildings, with improved code enforcement," said Alice Liddell, policy analyst at Environment Northeast.

"Whether you're concerned about clean air, forests, trout streams, or beaches, you've got to address climate change. It's going to affect all our communities and wildlife habitats, and devastate some of them" remarked David Sutherland, Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut. "The groups in this campaign each work on different issues, but we've all come together to tackle one of the defining issues of our age."

END