

Stop Global Warming Connecticut

Stop Global Warming Connecticut Campaign Steering Committee:

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Global Warming is one of the most pressing issues facing Connecticut and the nation. Scientists overwhelmingly agree that the planet is warming primarily due to human activity from the coal, oil and gas we burn to generate electricity and fuel our cars and homes. Burning such fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide and other heat trapping gases. If we act now to reduce this global warming pollution, we can avoid the most severe threats to our economy, environment, health, and quality of life.

We can do our part and put our state on the road to a cleaner, more productive economic future by adopting a mandatory, enforceable statewide cap on global warming pollution and identifying near-term implementation steps to achieve the cap.

Mandatory Pollution Cap:

Connecticut can do its part by enacting a binding cap on global warming pollution that will cut our emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and put the state on a trajectory to achieve the necessary 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. The 2001 agreement of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers and Public Act No. 04-252, *An Act Concerning Climate Change*, have already made these targets the goals of the state, but if we are serious about averting the worst consequences of global warming, we must make these emissions reductions mandatory.

Development of New Policies and Regulations:

In order to reduce emissions to the levels specified in the law, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be the state agency primarily tasked, and expressly authorized, to monitor and regulate sources of emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) that cause global warming. OPM will collaborate with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), as designated Chair of the existing Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, and other agencies on the committee as appropriate.

To achieve the cap, the agencies noted below shall develop regulations including, but not limited to, the following policies and programs:

- 1) ***A low carbon fuels standard to reduce the carbon intensity of vehicle and home heating fuel:*** The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in cooperation with Department of Transportation (DOT) &, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall develop regulations in coordination with California (CA) and other states that promote the commercialization and deployment of low carbon fuels such as sustainable biofuels by requiring a reduction in the average life-cycle carbon intensity of vehicle and heating fuels over time.
- 2) ***Incorporating carbon emissions into planning and review of transportation investments:*** DOT, in cooperation with DEP, shall review all transportation investments over \$5 million in terms of GHG and other criteria air pollutant emissions and develop a comparison to other options such as public transit expansion. GHG and air emissions impacts, along with state economic and safety needs shall be determining factors in the state's transportation choices.

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- 3) ***A Regional investigation of passenger and freight rail expansion:*** OPM, in cooperation with DOT, and DEP shall be directed to initiate an investigation of large-scale freight and passenger rail expansion in the Northeast. The study shall examine the opportunities for expanded high speed and light passenger rail, and significantly expanded freight service. It shall also evaluate the acquisition of new rail corridors; opportunities for reduced truck and car vehicle miles traveled (VMT); and costs and benefits from an economic, GHG, and other environmental perspective.
- 4) ***Multi-sector market-based programs will be considered:*** DEP shall engage with northeastern states, other states such as the Western states and interested Canadian Provinces to consider market based mechanisms such as cap and trade programs designed to spur innovation and limit greenhouse gas emissions from multiple sectors of the economy.
- 5) ***An emissions performance standard for new power plants:*** DEP shall only permit new baseload fossil fuel power plants in CT that meet or exceed the carbon dioxide emissions rate of a new and efficient combined-cycle natural gas plant while allowing for sequestration of carbon to achieve the standard.
- 6) ***Expanding appliance and equipment efficiency standards:*** OPM shall work with CA to continue to identify new appliance and equipment efficiency standards and shall adopt all CA standards within 6 months unless data supports a specific finding that a particular standard is not appropriate in CT.
- 7) ***Advanced building energy codes and improved enforcement:*** The Department of Public Safety (DPS) shall: (A) update the building code to ensure adoption of the international energy code within 6 months of completion; (B) require that new construction or major renovation of state funded buildings exceed the energy code by 30% and increase the percentage over time; within 2 years of the requirement for state buildings, adopt the same requirements for large developments, with smaller developments added over time; (C) establish a new class of certified building energy inspectors that shall provide state directed training and certification; plan approval and inspections by certified building energy inspectors shall be required for issuance of all final permits for use or habitation of new construction or major renovation for all classes of buildings.
- 8) ***Requiring carbon offsets for loss of forest land to development:*** OPM in conjunction with its Plan of Conservation & Development responsibilities, and in cooperation with DEP, shall require that all state funded facilities offset their GHG impacts due to the removal of forests and associated biomass and soil carbon through investments in land use related offsets (afforestation, forest management, and conservation), and shall develop a model global warming zoning ordinance municipalities may adopt.
- 9) ***Address the Impacts of Climate Change in Connecticut:*** Establish a subcommittee of the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change to develop and coordinate the implementation of plans for assessing the impacts of climate change on the state's infrastructure, ecological habitat and agriculture as well as those affecting specific communities and ecosystems, and make recommendations to enable the state and those communities to adapt to such impacts.

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Supporting Organizations

CT State Medical Society

American Lung Association

Avalence, LLC

SmartPower

League of Women Voters of Connecticut

Manchester Honda

People's Action for Clean Energy

Humane Alternatives for Resolving Problems

Waldo Renewable Electric, LLC

Rivers Alliance

Enviro Energy Connections

Barrett Outdoor Communications, Inc.

CT Citizens Action Group

Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians

Hartford County Medical Association

New Haven County Medical Association

Beardsley Zoo

Stratford Conservation Commission

CT American Academy of Pediatrics

Bats of Bedlam Maple Farm

First Selectman, Town of Chaplin

Windham County Medical Society

St. Jerome Reach & Total Program

Enviro Energy Connections

Efficient Lighting & Maintenance

Traver IDC

Energy Solutions, LLC

Conservation Services Group

CT Chapter - Northeast Energy Efficiency Council

CT Society of Eye Physicians

CT ENT Society

CT Dermatology Society

New London Sustainability Community Initiative

Committee

Wayne's Organic Garden

CT Society for Respiratory Care

Institute for Sustainable Energy

Town of Windham, First Selectman

American Jewish Committee, CT Chapter