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SIERRA CLUB
CONNECTICUT

2023 Legislative Priorities

All people deserve equal access to clean air, healthy climate, and a sustainable future. Sierra Club Connecticut is focused on just and equitable approaches to reducing emissions and pollution in our state, and investing in our most vulnerable communities so that everyone can thrive.

Climate, Health, and Equity

- **Clean energy in Environmental Justice communities.** In vulnerable communities, where less investment has been made in building improvements, homes are draftier, less efficient and wasting energy, all of which make high energy costs even higher. The legislature has an historic opportunity to invest state and federal dollars in energy efficiency, weatherization, solar and electrification in multi-family housing in Environmental Justice communities - reaching residents who need it most. The result will be lower energy costs and decreased consumption which is good for people and the climate.
- **Fossil free new construction.** The legislature must also ensure against future air pollution that impacts health and climate by requiring new equipment (stoves, water heaters, and furnaces) to have zero health-harming nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions and by prohibiting fossil fuel combustion in new construction (residential, commercial, schools and public buildings). Energy transparency protects renters and buyers from energy burden by telling them the energy costs of a dwelling before they rent or buy.
- **100% zero-carbon electricity generation.** In 2022, the General Assembly passed Public Act 22-5, requiring 100% zero-carbon electricity supply for Connecticut. Now the legislature must act to include electricity generation in this goal. Why? Connecticut is a net exporter of electricity; we generate more electricity than we use. This excess electricity generation pollutes our air and will not be covered under PA 22-5.
- **Require state agencies to comply with climate law.** The Global Warming Solutions Act mandates a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050. But, state agencies are not required to comply with this law. The legislature must require state agency decision making to align with the Global Warming Solutions Act.
- **Housing and tenant rights.** Housing is a human right. The current eviction and homelessness crisis in the state is disproportionately impacting our most vulnerable residents. There are not enough resources to address the immediate crisis and the current safety nets in place are often not getting to folks that need them. We must extend the eviction moratorium, institute fair rent practices, expand affordable housing and re-examine housing affordability.

Reduce Waste and Incineration

- **Pass a strong Extended Producer Responsibility law.** Connecticut continues to face a waste management crisis both on the state and municipal levels. Producers of packaging, tires, smoke detectors, and batteries must be held responsible for the entire life cycle of their products, from production to end of life management, through an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law.
- **Reduce single-use plastic and organic waste.** Single-use plastics like straws, plastic bags, polystyrene and balloons increase our waste stream and pollute our land, air, and waterways. We can reduce our solid waste by more than half by banning single use plastics, improved recycling and separating organic wastes for composting.
- **Reject so-called “Advanced Recycling” and prohibit new waste incineration facilities.** Continuing to burn plastics and other waste releases toxic air pollution and is not true recycling, nor an acceptable form of energy production. Instead they are greenwashing that requires a continuous supply of waste to feed the beast, giving no incentive to reduce our waste stream. These facilities are all too often in Environmental Justice Communities, adding more pollution in areas that are already overburdened.

Strengthen Protection from Dangerous Toxic Chemicals

- **Further reduce PFAS exposure.** PFAS are known as forever chemicals, because they do not break down in the environment, and are linked to health problems in adults, children and infants. The legislature must enhance monitoring of PFAS including more groundwater testing and water standards. Legislators must also turn off the tap of PFAS at the source by prohibiting its use in cookware, textiles, cosmetics, and all packaging.
- **Ban Neonicotinoids.** Neonicotinoids kill bees and birds. They contaminate waterways and ecosystems, harming wildlife and human health. We must ban Neonicotinoids to protect the health of humans and ecosystems.
- **Rodenticides.** Sierra Club supports a ban on rodenticides. Rodenticide ingestion or exposure results in secondary poisoning in raptors and other non-target wildlife. Birds, predators, scavengers, insects, insectivores, reptiles and occasionally even humans can become victims of rodenticide poisoning.

Protect Wildlife

- **Increase wildlife protections.** Wildlife is under stress from habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, pollution and other stresses. Legislators can protect local wildlife in 2023: banning steel leg traps, prohibiting the use of wild or exotic animals in traveling animal acts, promoting bear education over hunting, and requiring lights out during migratory bird season.

Equitable Climate Solutions

**Equity &
Environmental
Justice**

**Ending Fossil Fuel
Dependence**

**Increasing Energy
Efficiency &
Accelerating Clean
Energy**

**Zero Waste
Solutions**


Review:

- Topical issues with focus on Energy and Environmental Justice issues
- Current status and bills to focus on
- What you can do

What's Emerging in the 2023 CT Legislative Session

- Environmental Justice
 - Advocates are seeking to strengthen CT's EJ Law to Require DEEP to reject permits that will add to cumulative impact of pollution. NY & NJ have done this
 - Eviction crisis and lack of affordable housing is inspiring important legislation on housing and tenant rights
- Energy Burden
 - Advocates are pursuing \$1 billion over 4-5 years for energy efficiency, weatherization, barrier remediation, building electrification, solar and battery for low-income residents and Environmental Justice communities
 - DEEP proposed a bill to cap reconnection fees at \$100 when a customer has power shut off
- Climate
 - Updating the Global Warming Solutions Act. Advocates seek to strengthen CT's climate law proposed in a number of ways including set a 2040 target, and set sector targets (transportation, buildings, and electricity).
 - Stop adding emissions from buildings by requiring Carbon Free Schools and prohibiting Fossil fuels in new construction
 - Charging insurance companies for fossil fuel underwriting to pay for climate damage and rising rates

Connecticut General Assembly 2023 Legislative Session -- Deadlines in Joint Rules

 Committee	1	2	3	4	5	6	6a	7	8	9	
	Proposed Bill Deadline	Committee Bill Deadline (if no Subject matter PH)	Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB (if no Subject Matter PH)	Raised Bill Deadline	Subject Matter Public Hearing on PB	* Committee Bill Deadline (Subject Matter PH held on PB) (But see Col. 6a)	* Column 6 Adjusted for "A" & "B" Committee Dates	Petition Committee to Draft PB into CB (Subj. Matter PH held on PB)	JF Deadline	Petition Committee to Report Out Bill	
A or B	JR 8(a) (Absolute)	JR 9(a)(2)(A) (Absolute)	JR 11 (Col. 2 + 7 days)	JR 9(b)(2)(A) (Absolute)	JR 6(a)(1) (Col. 8 - 21 days)	JR 9(a)(2)(B) (Col. 8 - 17 days)		JR 11 (Col. 8 - 7 days)	JR 15(a) (Absolute)	JR 19, par.1 (Col. 8 + 7 days)	
B	Aging	01/13/23	01/31/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/18/23	02/16/23	02/28/23	03/07/23	03/14/23
A	Appropriations	01/13/23	02/15/23	02/22/23	02/15/23	03/31/23	04/04/23	04/04/23	04/14/23	04/21/23	04/28/23
B	Banking	01/13/23	01/31/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/16/23	02/20/23	02/16/23	03/02/23	03/09/23	03/16/23
B	Children	01/13/23	01/31/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/18/23	02/16/23	02/28/23	03/07/23	03/14/23
B	Commerce	01/13/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/23/23	02/27/23	02/23/23	03/09/23	03/16/23	03/23/23
A	Education	01/13/23	02/08/23	02/15/23	02/15/23	03/06/23	03/10/23	03/10/23	03/20/23	03/27/23	04/03/23
B	Energy & Tech	01/13/23	02/02/23	02/09/23	02/14/23	02/23/23	02/27/23	02/23/23	03/09/23	03/16/23	03/23/23
A	Environment	01/13/23	02/08/23	02/15/23	02/15/23	03/06/23	03/10/23	03/10/23	03/20/23	03/27/23	04/03/23
A	Finance R & B	01/13/23	02/15/23	02/22/23	02/15/23	03/30/23	04/03/23	04/03/23	04/13/23	04/20/23	04/27/23
A	GAE	01/13/23	02/15/23	02/22/23	02/15/23	03/08/23	03/12/23	03/10/23	03/22/23	03/29/23	04/05/23
B	General Law	01/13/23	02/02/23	02/09/23	02/14/23	02/28/23	03/04/23	03/02/23	03/14/23	03/21/23	03/28/23
B	Higher Ed & E.A.	01/13/23	02/02/23	02/09/23	02/14/23	02/21/23	02/25/23	02/23/23	03/07/23	03/14/23	03/21/23
B	Housing	01/13/23	01/31/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/18/23	02/16/23	02/28/23	03/07/23	03/14/23
B	Human Services	01/13/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	03/02/23	03/06/23	03/02/23	03/16/23	03/23/23	03/30/23
B	Insurance & R.E.	01/13/23	02/02/23	02/09/23	02/14/23	02/23/23	02/27/23	02/23/23	03/09/23	03/16/23	03/23/23
A	Judiciary	01/13/23	02/15/23	02/22/23	02/15/23	03/10/23	03/14/23	03/13/23	03/24/23	03/31/23	** 04/06/23
B	Labor & P.E.	01/13/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/28/23	03/04/23	03/02/23	03/14/23	03/21/23	03/28/23
	Legis. Management	01/13/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/14/23	02/22/23	02/26/23	02/24/23	03/08/23	03/15/23	03/22/23
A	Planning & Dev.	01/13/23	02/08/23	02/15/23	02/15/23	03/06/23	03/10/23	03/10/23	03/20/23	03/27/23	04/03/23
A	Public Health	01/13/23	02/08/23	02/15/23	02/15/23	03/08/23	03/12/23	03/10/23	03/22/23	03/29/23	04/05/23
B	Public Safety & Sec.	01/13/23	02/02/23	02/09/23	02/14/23	02/23/23	02/27/23	02/23/23	03/09/23	03/16/23	03/23/23
A	Transportation	01/13/23	02/08/23	02/15/23	02/15/23	02/27/23	03/03/23	03/03/23	03/13/23	03/20/23	03/27/23
B	Vet. & Military Affairs	01/13/23	01/31/23	02/07/23	02/14/23	02/16/23	02/20/23	02/16/23	03/02/23	03/09/23	03/16/23

* Columns 6 and 6a: Joint Rule 9(a)(2)(B) provides that the Committee Bill Deadline is the JF deadline minus 17 days. As a result, Column 6 needs to be adjusted to reflect that "A" Committees may typically meet only on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, and "B" Committees on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Column 6a makes this adjustment and has the correct dates.

** Adjusted due to Good Friday.

Climate, Energy & Environmental Justice Bills to Watch in the 2023*

HB 5629 An Act Concerning Energy Efficiency and Electrification in Environmental Justice Communities. This bill will make an additional investment in energy efficiency, weatherization, solar and electrification in our most vulnerable Environmental Justice communities for lower energy costs, lower pollution, increased resilience to rising energy prices and improved indoor health.

HB 5570 An Act Concerning Environmental Justice. Connecticut's Environmental Justice (EJ) communities are disproportionately exposed to and harmed by pollution, and state law does not provide adequate protections. Legislators must update Connecticut's EJ law to deny polluting facilities that would add to the cumulative pollution in EJ communities. (A DEEP bill has been proposed).

House Bill 5795 An Act Concerning Housing Justice. Will establish a winter eviction moratorium, increase funding for the rental assistance fund, increase tenants' rights and promote the construction of new affordable housing.

HB 5589 An Act Concerning the Protection of Public Health from Incineration Pollution. This bill will protect residents from pollution from new or expanded waste incinerators, pyrolysis or gasification facilities in the state.

SB 305 An Act Concerning Heating Efficiency in New Construction and Major Alternations of Residential Buildings. New construction is the first and easiest place to start to transition from costly and dirty fossil fuels to clean, all-electric buildings.

HB 6491 An Act Concerning Emission Standards for Gas-Powered Home Appliances and Establishing a Loan Fund for Replacement of Such Appliances. This bill will help reduce indoor air pollution emitted by gas appliances.

SB 961 An Act Concerning Carbon-Free School Requirements for New School Construction and Establishing Other School Construction and Public Health Requirements for School Districts.

This bill will ensure newly constructed schools are carbon free, and have labor standards for construction.

HB 6057 An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation. In 2022, the General Assembly passed Public Act 22-5, requiring 100% zero-carbon electricity supply. This bill adds electricity generation in this goal because we generate more electricity than we use. This excess electricity generation pollutes our air and will not be covered under PA 22-5.

HB 6397 An Act Concerning Zero Carbon Emissions. This bill aims to update and strengthen Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act to ensure Connecticut's greenhouse gas reduction mandates are met. Strengthening the state's climate law should include: a 2040 target, a 2050 net zero target in addition to the 80% target. Sector targets including transportation, buildings and electricity. Requirement that all agencies include the greenhouse gas emission impact in their decision-making including permits, contracts, grants, etc. Citizens' right to enforce. Creating, tracking and public-facing reporting of a decarbonization roadmap. Providing regulatory authority to agencies to ensure we meet climate targets, and environmental justice protections.

HJ13 Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the State Constitution to Provide for an Environmental Rights Amendment. Would amend the state constitution to provide each citizen an individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil and environment; a stable climate; and self-sustaining ecosystems; for the benefit of public health, safety and the general welfare.



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. PALM, 36th Dist.

REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

REP. REYES, 75th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That section 22a-20a of the general statutes be amended to: (1)
- 2 Enhance public participation in the environmental justice process; and
- 3 (2) require the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and
- 4 the Siting Council to consider both current and future cumulative
- 5 polluting effects on the air, water, land and quality of life of vulnerable
- 6 populations when issuing permits for polluting facilities.

Statement of Purpose:

To right the legacy of injustice inherent in the permitting process and to enable state decisions to enhance environmental and public health protections under the state's environmental justice law.



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

REP. TERCYAK, 26th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Establish a program for
- 2 energy efficiency projects and building electrification in environmental
- 3 justice communities, and (2) allocate one billion dollars over five years
- 4 to such program. The program shall include, but need not be limited to,
- 5 installing insulation, retrofitting buildings to replace gas heating and
- 6 stoves with electric heating and stoves, installing rooftop solar
- 7 photovoltaic panels and installing electric vehicle charging stations.

Statement of Purpose:

To make energy more affordable in Environmental Justice Communities through efficiency improvements and building electrification.



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

AN ACT AUGMENTING THE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STATUTE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That section 22a-20a of the general statutes be amended to strengthen
2 the public participation process and provide that: If the department
3 council, as applicable, determines that there are less harmful
4 alternatives to the applicant's proposed facility or new, renewed,
5 modified or expanded permit, then the department or council,
6 applicable, shall deny the subject application or permit, as received, a
7 allow the applicant to resubmit such application, as appropriate, with
8 modifications. As well, to provide that if the department or council,
9 applicable, determines that, in consideration with other environmental
10 or public health stressors affecting the environmental justice
11 community, the proposed facility or new, renewed, modified or
12 expanded permit is reasonably likely to cause or contribute to adverse
13 cumulative environmental impacts upon such community that are
14 unreasonably higher than those of other communities in the state, on
15 average, the department or council, as applicable, shall deny the subject

16 application or permit or place conditions on the application or permit as
17 necessary in order to avoid or reduce such adverse stressors.
18 Additionally, to provide that if the department or council, as applicable,
19 determines that a new or renewed permit, or expansion or modification
20 of an existing facility will serve a compelling public interest in the
21 affected environmental justice community, the department or council,
22 as applicable, may approve such application or permit and impose
23 conditions on the construction and operation of the facility to protect the
24 public health and the environment.

Statement of Purpose:

To strengthen the state's environmental justice law with enhanced public participation and the authority to deny applications for new, renewed, expanded or modified permits affecting facilities in order to protect the public health and environment.



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5795

LCO No. 2690



Referred to Committee on HOUSING

Introduced by:

REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

REP. PORTER, 94th Dist.

REP. HUGHES, 135th Dist.

REP. SIMMS T., 140th Dist.

REP. BUMGARDNER, 41st Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING JUSTICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to (1) establish a winter eviction
- 2 moratorium, (2) provide additional funding for the rental assistance
- 3 program, (3) increase the rights of tenants, and (4) promote the
- 4 development of new affordable housing.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a winter eviction moratorium, increase funding for the rental assistance fund, increase tenants' rights and promote the construction of new affordable housing.



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

SEN. LOPES, 6th Dist.

REP. BUMGARDNER, 41st Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING HEATING EFFICIENCY IN NEW
CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR ALTERATIONS OF RESIDENTIAL
BUILDINGS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) Prohibit the use of
- 2 electric resistance or fossil fuel combustion systems in new residential
- 3 construction or major alterations of residential buildings; and (2)
- 4 establish a program for training and education of construction
- 5 professionals in certain alternative residential heating sources.

Statement of Purpose:

To require new construction of residential homes to use HVAC sources that do not use fossil fuels or electric resistance.



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:

REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING EMISSION STANDARDS FOR GAS-POWERED HOME APPLIANCES AND ESTABLISHING A LOAN FUND FOR REPLACEMENT OF SUCH APPLIANCES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to establish emission standards
- 2 for gas-powered home appliances and to establish a zero-interest loan
- 3 fund for the replacement of older or defective gas-powered home
- 4 appliances.

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce emissions from gas-powered home appliances.



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

REP. KAVROS DEGRAW, 17th Dist.

REP. BERGER-GIRVALO, 111th Dist.

REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.

REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN, 2nd Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That section 22a-200a of the general statutes be amended to require
- 2 that, by 2040, all electricity generated in the state shall be derived from
- 3 energy sources that emit zero greenhouse gas.

Statement of Purpose:

To require electricity generated in the state to be one hundred per cent zero emission by 2040.



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Proposed Bill No. 5590

LCO No. 2266



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. ELLIOTT, 88th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to expand the state's zero-
- 2 carbon electricity supply goal to apply to all electricity in the state.

Statement of Purpose:

To expand Connecticut's zero-carbon electricity supply goal to apply to all electricity in the state.



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:
REP. STEINBERG, 136th Dist.
REP. HUGHES, 135th Dist.

AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the sum of twenty million dollars be appropriated to the
- 2 Connecticut Green Bank, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year
- 3 ending June 30, 2024, to provide additional funding for energy-
- 4 efficiency programs identified in the Conservation and Load
- 5 Management Plan pursuant to section 16-245m of the general statutes.

Statement of Purpose:

To supplement funding for energy-efficiency programs identified in the Conservation and Load Management Plan by allocating twenty million dollars from the state budget to support such programs.



Referred to Committee on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

Introduced by:

REP. KAVROS DEGRAW, 17th Dist.

REP. BERGER-GIRVALO, 111th Dist.

REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.

REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN, 2nd Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That section 22a-200a of the general statutes be amended to require
- 2 that, by 2040, all electricity generated in the state shall be derived from
- 3 energy sources that emit zero greenhouse gas.

Statement of Purpose:

To require electricity generated in the state to be one hundred per cent zero emission by 2040.

79 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2024*) (a) As used in this section,
80 "Connecticut home energy label" or "label" means a label developed by
81 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection that
82 provides a score regarding a residence's energy efficiency and is

Governor's Bill No. 979

83 consistent with all nationally recognized ratings, including the United
84 States Department of Energy Home Energy score, the Home Energy
85 Rating System Index score and the Energy Star score.

98 (c) (1) Any landlord, upon (A) listing any dwelling unit for rent
99 through a multiple listing service, real estate brokers' organization or
100 other service, organization or facility related to the business of selling or
101 renting dwelling units, including private listing services, or (B) offering
102 any dwelling unit for rent through a means other than those specified in
103 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, shall provide a Connecticut home
104 energy label, with an electronic link to the Internet web site that contains
105 the report for such Connecticut home energy label for the dwelling unit,
106 to any prospective tenant at the tenant's request or prior to the tenant's
107 signing of a lease for the dwelling unit. For dwelling units listed
108 pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the landlord shall
109 provide the Connecticut home energy label and electronic link through
110 the service, organization or facility through which the landlord lists the
111 dwelling unit.



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.

**RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE
CONSTITUTION TO PROVIDE FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS
AMENDMENT.**

Resolved by this Assembly:

1 Section 1. That the following be proposed as an amendment to the
2 Constitution of the State, which, when approved and adopted in the
3 manner provided by the Constitution, shall, to all intents and purposes,
4 become a part thereof:

5 Article first of the Constitution is amended by adding section 21 as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 21. Each person of the state of Connecticut shall have an
8 individual right to clean and healthy air, water, soil and environment; a
9 stable climate; and self-sustaining ecosystems; for the benefit of public
10 health, safety and the general welfare. The state shall not infringe upon
11 these rights. The state shall protect these rights equitably for all people
12 regardless of race, ethnicity, tribal membership status, gender,

13 socioeconomics or geography. The state, municipalities, and any
14 political subdivision thereof, shall serve as trustee of the natural
15 resources of Connecticut, among them being its waters, air, flora, fauna,
16 soils, and climate; and shall conserve, protect, and maintain these
17 resources for the benefit of all people, including present and future
18 generations. The rights stated in this section are inherent, inalienable,
19 and indefeasible, are among those rights reserved to the people, and are
20 equivalent with all other inalienable rights. The provisions of this
21 amendment are self-executing.

22 **RESOLVED:** That the foregoing proposed amendment to the
23 Constitution be continued to the next session of the General Assembly
24 elected at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, and
25 published with the laws passed at the present session, or be presented
26 to the electors at the general election to be held on November 5, 2024,
27 whichever the case may be, according to article sixth of the amendments
28 to the Constitution. The designation of said proposed amendment to be
29 used on the ballots at such election shall be "Shall the Constitution of the
30 State be amended to provide each citizen an individual right to clean
31 and healthy air, water, soil and environment; a stable climate; and self-
32 sustaining ecosystems; for the benefit of public health, safety and the
33 general welfare?"



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The state of Connecticut
2 hereby declares a climate emergency to increase access to federal funds
3 and demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful climate
4 legislation. Such emergency threatens the resilience and, in some cases,
5 the existence of communities in this state, including multiple aspects of
6 the state's environment, economy and the quality of life for younger
7 generations of state residents. Accordingly, the state declares climate
8 change as a public health and environmental justice emergency and
9 recognizes the urgency to significantly and rapidly increase community
10 coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate extremes and climate
11 refugees. The state recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate
12 impacts and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate
13 extremes.

Housing & Energy Affordability

Resilience For Environmental Justice Communities

In vulnerable communities, where less investment has been made in building improvements, homes are draftier, less efficient and waste energy, making heating, electricity and water unaffordable. The legislature has an historic opportunity to invest state and federal dollars in energy efficiency, weatherization, solar and electrification in our most vulnerable Environmental Justice communities. The result will be lower energy costs, lower pollution, increased resilience to rising energy prices and improved indoor health.

\$1 billion over 5 years to:

- Invest in clean energy in Connecticut's Environmental Justice Communities
- Reduce bills through energy efficiency and improved housing
- Remove common health hazards including mold and asbestos
- Install solar, battery and other clean energy for greater resilience
- Job training and placement in the clean energy field with a focus on diversity

Lower Energy Bills

Skyrocketing energy prices are disproportionately harming Connecticut's most vulnerable communities

Jobs

Thousands of Connecticut residents will be trained and placed in clean energy jobs

Healthier Homes

Pollution from drafty, inefficient housing will be significantly reduced through energy efficiency and clean energy

Communities Most In Need

25 communities (and census blocks throughout CT) are designated as Environmental Justice Communities. They have the highest need and least access to energy efficiency and clean energy



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Sign up for an attend Sierra Club's Testimony Training on Wednesday, 2/15
 - a. <https://www.connecticut.sierraclub.org/outings>

1. Monitor the CGA Bulletin and Committee's pages for public hearing dates on bills of personal interest. Instructions for written and in-person testimony are provided:
 - a. Bills and their status are listed on each committee's page
 - b. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/>

3. Contact your local senators and representatives and leadership of committees to express your interest in bills moving forward and areas that may be improved.

4. Attend lobby days or your elected officials' town meetings and SPEAK UP!!

5. Plan what you want to accomplish. A short personal reason for your interest and fact-based justification for the changes you want is best, and follow up with an email with links to your data sources.

Testimony Before the Environment Committees on 2.15.23

Dear Environment Chairs Lopes and Gresko, Vice-Chairs Hochadel and Palm, Ranking Members Harding and Callahan, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 40,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

The Sierra Club is committed to defending everyone's right to a healthy world by tackling the serious challenges of a warming climate, unprecedented levels of pollution, the waste management crisis, biodiversity loss, and the dangers of toxics.

SENATE BILL 100- AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT IN THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO TOWNS THAT NEED PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION

Sierra Club Connecticut supports/opposes Bill Number

SENATE BILL 961- AN ACT CONCERNING CARBON-FREE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND ESTABLISHING OTHER SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

SENATE BILL 962- AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN RODENTICIDES.

SENATE BILL 963- AN ACT CONCERNING NEONICOTINOIDS FOR NONAGRICULTURAL USE.

HOUSE BILL 5602- AN ACT PROHIBITING HIGH-FREQUENCY COMMERCIAL SEISMIC SURVEYING IN LONG ISLAND SOUND FOR GAS AND OIL EXPLORATION.

HOUSE BILL 6397- AN ACT CONCERNING-ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS.

HOUSE BILL 6606- AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS MADE FROM POLYSTYRENE

HOUSE BILL 6607- AN ACT CONCERNING THE NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

HOUSE BILL 6608- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE USE PLASTIC STRAWS BY CERTAIN RESTAURANTS

HOUSE BILL 6609- AN ACT CONCERNING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR SMOKE DETECTORS