

---

# 2022 Sierra Club Connecticut Legislative Priorities

Climate change is evident all around us and the impacts will be felt first and most by vulnerable populations. Sierra Club Connecticut's legislative priorities are focused on protecting people and the planet from the worst impacts of climate change and pollution, and creating an environment where we all can thrive. In 2022, Sierra Club Connecticut urges policymakers to:

## Lead on Climate

- **Pass legislation for a clean future:** Establish 100% zero-emission electricity goal and help Connecticut ratepayers avoid costs associated with unneeded infrastructure by giving DEEP and the Siting Council the tools they need to reject fossil fuel power plants, end the ratepayer funded gas expansion plan as envisioned when it began, and repeal the unused and unneeded pipeline tax.
- **Continue to improve Connecticut's Environmental Justice Law:** In Connecticut, there is evidence that EJ communities suffer disproportionately from exposure to a multitude of air pollution sources and the cumulative impacts from air pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM) that includes diesel particulates; criteria air pollutants that include ozone, lead and fine particulate matter; and hazardous air pollutants. Improvements to Connecticut's Environmental Justice Law must be made to protect communities from the cumulative impacts of air pollution by restricting DEEP from permitting and locating new polluting sources in these already overburdened communities.
- **Clean Up Transportation Pollution:** Transportation pollution in Connecticut is a serious problem for public health, environmental justice, and our climate. The transportation sector accounts for 38% of greenhouse gas emissions. Legislators must pass legislation to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicles and clean up transportation pollution by allowing adoption of the CA Advanced Clean Truck Rule, already adopted or in the process of adoption in other states. This rule will make a meaningful difference in reducing greenhouse gases as well as NOx, CO2, and PM2.5, which disproportionately impact low-income and communities of color.
- **Deploy solar power:** Connecticut is lagging behind in the deployment of distributed and utility scale solar power. Solar can be deployed quickly, and paired with battery storage, for immediate benefits to residents, communities and the state that include lowering energy costs, resilience and health. We urge passage of legislation that will facilitate the adoption of solar energy, community solar, and storage by residents, businesses, nonprofits and governmental entities and will prioritize Environmental Justice, black and brown and low-income communities.

## 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 gas cylinders 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 waste:** Single-use plastics like straws, plastic bags, polystyrene and balloons increase our waste stream and pollute our land, air, and waterways. We must reduce their environmental impact by requiring restaurants to only provide plastic straws upon request, strengthening the plastic bag law by including thicker bags, banning polystyrene from restaurant take out and school cafeterias, and banning balloon releases.

## Strengthen Protection from Dangerous Toxic Chemicals

- **Further reduce PFAS exposure:** PFAS are what is known as a forever chemicals, 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, and all packaging.
- **Ban toxic chemicals:** Chlorpyrifos is a harmful pesticide, and the herbicide Glyphosate is a known carcinogen. Both have been linked to cancer. Connecticut must expand protection against the dangers of chlorpyrifos by banning its use on golf courses. Glyphosate must be banned statewide from all public and private use.

## Protect Wildlife

- **Wildlife protections:** Wildlife is under stress from habitat loss and fragmentation, climate change, pollution and other stresses. Legislators can protect wildlife in 2022 by banning steel leg traps, prohibiting the use of wild animals in traveling acts, and promoting bear education, not hunting.

Sierra Club Connecticut anticipates advocating for many other issues during the legislative session including climate change education, energy efficiency, fossil free buildings, voting rights, protecting democracy, promoting equity, desegregation zoning reform, food justice, fair budgeting, insurance regulation and more.

Contact: Samantha Dynowski, [samantha.dynowski@sierraclub.org](mailto:samantha.dynowski@sierraclub.org)  
Ann Gadwah, [ann.gadwah@sierraclub.org](mailto:ann.gadwah@sierraclub.org)

Sierra Club Connecticut  
P.O. Box 270595  
West Hartford, CT 06127  
860.578.4750

[connecticut.sierraclub.org](http://connecticut.sierraclub.org)  
[facebook.com/CTSierraClub](https://facebook.com/CTSierraClub)  
[twitter.com/SierraClubCT](https://twitter.com/SierraClubCT)

