

August 27, 2021

Commissioner Katie Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

We write to ask that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) require the Conservation and Load Management (C & LM) Plan currently under development at the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) to end subsidies for gas-fueled appliances and equipment, while increasing support for zero-emission all-electric appliances and equipment, especially for low-income homeowners and property owners serving low-income communities.

Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act mandates greenhouse gas emissions reductions of 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030, and 80 percent by 2050. The Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) 2018 Building a Low Carbon Future report states, "To achieve deep decarbonization across all sectors, electrification of energy end uses is essential." The GC3's Phase 1 recommendations on near-term actions to achieve the state's climate goals include "Transition[ing] building fossil fuel thermal loads to efficient renewable thermal technologies," as a key recommendation for the buildings sector.

The C & LM Plan guides the spending of about \$250 million a year in energy efficiency incentives, and it is one of the best tools Connecticut has to reach our climate goals in the building sector. The current draft plan proposes continuing incentives for gas equipment and appliances, which depend upon the extraction, transmission, and combustion of fossil fuels. Ongoing subsidization of gas is incompatible with the urgent need to end our reliance on fossil fuels to mitigate the climate crisis.

The EEB is currently reviewing the draft C & LM Plan. The first draft plan from the utilities falls far short of what is needed to align with the state's climate goals. Dollars saved by ending incentives for gas appliances can instead be invested in highly-efficient heat pump hot water heating, heat pump space heating and electric appliances. Other jurisdictions are already doing this. For example, the [District of Columbia](#) recently ended fossil fuel subsidies and increased heat pump subsidies, [Maine](#) has set a target of installing 100,000 heat pumps by 2025, and [New York's Clean Heat Initiative](#) provides a rebate of up to \$13,000 for heat pump installation.

Continued subsidies for fossil fuels take us further away from achieving Connecticut's climate commitments. The Commissioner of DEEP has the final authority under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-245m(d)(1) to approve, modify, or reject the draft C & LM Plan. **We ask that you demonstrate your leadership in addressing the climate crisis by taking the critical step of ending all fossil fuel subsidies in the next C & LM Plan.**

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski, State Director
Sierra Club Connecticut

Anne Hulick
Clean Water Action

Bernard Pelletier
People's Action for Clean Energy

Shannon Laun
Conservation Law Foundation

Peter Millman
Eastern CT Green Energy

Lori Brown
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Leticia Colon de Mejias, President
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Nathan Frohling
The Nature Conservancy in CT

Andy Bauer, Chair
Portland Clean Energy Task Force

Charles J. Rothenberger
Save The Sound