

## **Open letter: Support a 100% clean and renewable replacement of CDECCA power plant and the heating and cooling system it serves**

Dear Governor Lamont, Commissioner Dykes, and Commissioner Gilman,

We, the undersigned environmental, environmental justice, labor, social justice, clean energy groups, are writing to you today to urge you to commit to a 100% clean and renewable energy replacement for the aging CDECCA power plant and Capitol Area System. The challenges of climate change and disproportionate exposure to pollution alongside the opportunity provided by technology advances and unprecedented investments in clean energy from the federal government, make now the ideal time to decarbonize this polluting power plant and heating and cooling system.

CDECCA was built in 1988, and it is one of the oldest polluting fossil fuel power plants in our state. It is located at 490 Capitol Avenue in Hartford, a city overburdened with polluting energy infrastructure and with high rates of [asthma](#).

CDECCA supplies hot and chilled water for heating and cooling to 18 buildings in Hartford, including state-owned buildings. Both the plant and the Capitol Area System that delivers the heating and cooling are in need of replacement. On September 30, 2022, the state of Connecticut purchased the CDECCA power plant, and now controls what happens next. We urge your administration to continue to lead the way on climate action by ensuring that CDECCA is replaced with 100% clean and renewable energy.

A 100% clean and renewable replacement for CDECCA aligns with [Executive Order 21-3](#) (section 3D) which calls for the state to plan to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems at state buildings to systems capable of being operated without carbon emitting fuels.

A 100% clean and renewable replacement for CDECCA will also help the state in achieving the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of the Global Warming Solutions Act, both by reducing emissions produced by the state and by setting an example that can be replicated throughout the state.

We recognize that replacing a power plant and district heating and cooling system with a new and innovative system is not a task that our state government is accustomed to tackling. Therefore, we urge the administration to arrange for expert technical support to identify and analyze options that could include networked geothermal, heat pumps, or other 100% clean energy technologies. We also urge the administration to explore new federal funding for transitioning public buildings to 100% clean and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski, Director  
Sierra Club Connecticut

Sharon Lewis, Executive Director  
Connecticut Coalition for Economic & Environmental Justice

Tenaya Taylor, Executive Director  
Nonprofit Accountability Group

Mariana Pelaez, Organizing Director  
Renew New England

Tom Swan, Executive Director  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Kat Morris, Scholar-Activist for Environmental Justice

Melinda Tuhus, Steering Committee  
Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization (C3M)

Leticia Colon de Mejias  
Green Eco Warriors

Lori Brown, Executive Director  
Connecticut League of Conservation Voters

Bernie Pelletier, Vice President  
People's Action for Clean Energy

Arthur Helmus, President  
Sustained Advantage, Inc.

Susan Eastwood, Chair  
Ashford Clean Energy Task Force

Peter Millman, Secretary  
Eastern CT Green Energy

Alicia Dolce, Executive Director  
Melissa Kops, Board Advisor  
CT Green Building Council

Lindsay Griffin, Northeast Regulatory Director  
Vote Solar

Nancy Bowden  
350 CT

Amy Boyd, Vice President, Climate and Clean Energy Policy  
Acadia Center

Charles J. Rothenberger, Climate & Energy Attorney  
Save The Sound

Barry Kresch, President  
Electric Vehicle Club of Connecticut

David Michel, State Representative  
Stamford's 146th House District

Andy Bauer, Chair  
Portland Clean Energy Task Force

Kimberly Reindl, Co-Director  
Sunrise Movement Connecticut

Diane Lentakis  
The Climate Reality Project, Southern CT Chapter

Shirley McCarthy, MD, PhD

Ivelisse Correa  
BLM860

Shannon Laun, Vice President, Director - CLF Connecticut  
Conservation Law Foundation

Tyler Smith, FAIA and SoDO Hartford resident

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director  
CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs

Windham-Willimantic NAACP Environmental Justice Committee  
Roman Jamieson, Chairman, Claudia Allen; Kate Donnelly; Larry Gag; Ian McDonald