



SIERRA CLUB

Connecticut Chapter
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January 25, 2023

Dear Governor Lamont, Commissioner Dykes, and Commissioner Gilman,

I am reaching out regarding the Capitol Area System. First, thank you to Commissioner Gilman and staff and the Department of Administrative Services who have provided information about the status of the system and the power plant to the Sierra Club and our allies who are interested in the future of the facility.

Our goal, in alignment with [Executive Order 21-3](#), is for the Capitol Area System to transition from fossil fuel-based heating and cooling to one capable of being operated without carbon emitting fuels using 100% renewable technologies. The power plant, formerly known as CDECCA, has a history of emitting harmful pollution with impacts felt by the local community and to the climate.

As the administration evaluates decarbonization pathways for the Capitol Area System, we urge you to consider the following:

- Ensure that consultants on this project have experience in 100% renewable alternatives including:
 - Networked geothermal and/or
 - Heat pumps and/or
 - Solar thermal technology and/or
 - Thermal storage technology
- Explore, apply for, and stack (where allowed) available state and federal funding through IIJA and/or the Inflation Reduction Act, including but not limited to:
 - Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment (EIR) Program (section 1706) of the IRA that appropriates \$5 billion through September 30, 2026 to retire dirty energy infrastructure and replace with clean energy
 - Geothermal (IRA incentives for government entities)
 - State incentives for Solar PV and geothermal
- Close coordination between Department of Administrative Services and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection - the two agencies should work closely together to inform the process with expertise of both agencies. We also ask for close coordination and regular updates for the community and statewide environmental, environmental justice, labor, social justice, and clean energy groups organizing for a 100% clean and renewable energy replacement for the Capitol Area System.
- The process must be accountable to the communities who have been directly impacted by toxic emissions and wastewater from this facility. Ample opportunities for community input and dialogue at every point along the process should be provided.

Thank you again for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Samantha Dynowski, State Director
Sierra Club Connecticut

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