

Steering Committee:



*American College of
Physicians-CT Chapter*

ConnPirg

*Conservation Law
Foundation*

*CT Health Professionals
for Climate Action*

*CT League of
Conservation Voters*

*Environment
Connecticut*

*Interreligious Eco-
Justice Network*

*Mitchell Environmental
Health Associates*

*People's Action for
Clean Energy*

Save the Sound

Sierra Club Connecticut

*The Nature
Conservancy in
Connecticut*

**Comments of the CT Coalition for Climate Action
to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
on the Priority Climate Action Plan.**

The Connecticut Coalition for Climate Action is a broad-based group comprising 40+ health care, science, environmental, religious, renewable energy, business, justice, and other entities representing over 300,000 members that believes in healthy homes and resilient communities.

The Coalition supports investing in greener, more efficient houses and offices that reduce energy use and cut climate pollution *and* families' bills, including converting most of our systems from fossil fuels to renewable energy. We also advocate for clean, renewable sources of electricity and cleaner transportation options that get Connecticut residents where they live, work, learn, and play with fewer emissions.

As a coalition, we recognize that the historically unprecedented levels of federal funding now available for climate action can dramatically increase the state's ability to rapidly and equitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with our climate goals under the Global Warming Solutions Act. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input in this important process and have prepared the following comments on the proposed Priority Climate Action Plan.

DEEP has identified 14 proposed climate actions that the state is considering to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and provide important community benefits like reduced energy bills, improved public health, and more jobs.

While we appreciate the breadth of options presented, we believe it is critical for Connecticut to prioritize actions with the greatest emissions reduction potential, as the state is currently not on track to meet our climate goals under the Global Warming Solutions Act. To maximize equity benefits, DEEP should apply an equity lens to all proposed actions as these actions are developed and implemented.

Transportation and buildings are the two largest sources of emissions in Connecticut. Proposed measures that would have the greatest impact in reducing emissions from these sectors, including EV charging infrastructure, school and transit bus electrification, heat pump deployment, and energy efficiency and weatherization barrier programs should take precedence.

We are concerned that the proposed hydrogen pilot project would not result in emissions reductions due to the limited availability of clean hydrogen in the relevant timeframe. We suggest removing this proposal and focusing on other actions with proven emissions reduction potential.

We are also concerned that the proposed plan does not mention wind, solar, or battery storage, which are critical to decarbonizing the electricity sector. We encourage DEEP to address this gap by adding a proposed action to increase renewable electricity generation in line with the state's commitment to achieve 100% zero-carbon electricity supply by 2040. DEEP should identify action items that can be implemented within the 5-year window that advance renewable energy deployment in line with this goal.

We look forward to your feedback on these suggestions and also seek to better understand how DEEP will use the feedback gathered in its survey and public comments. Thank you again for the opportunity to engage in this process.