
2022 Energy Legislation Priorities

The climate crisis is unfolding before our eyes. Hotter temperatures, more severe storms, flooding and other climate impacts are disproportionately felt by vulnerable populations, and climate change is stealing the future from our youth.

Unfortunately, Connecticut policy is preventing clean energy deployment and has turned our state into a hub for dirty polluting energy. Clean energy solutions are readily available and more affordable than ever, providing energy savings opportunities for residents, communities, business, and nonprofits.

Legislative Action Needed

The following actions are needed in 2022 to set Connecticut on a path away from polluting dirty energy and towards clean and renewable solutions that are not only good for the climate but also good for public health and consumer costs:

- *A Clean Energy Future for Connecticut.* 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, by ending the ratepayer funded gas expansion plan as envisioned when it began, and repeal the unused and unneeded pipeline tax.
- *Accelerate Solar Deployment.* Pass legislation that will facilitate the adoption of solar energy and storage by residents, businesses, nonprofits and governmental entities and will prioritize deployment in Environmental Justice and majority black and brown and low-income communities. Putting solar power and storage in the hands of residents is a tested strategy to make energy more affordable and reliable.
- *100% Zero-Carbon Electricity Statute.* Under Governor Lamont's Executive Order 3, Connecticut is on a pathway to 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2040. To stay on track, the General Assembly must codify the goal of 100% zero-carbon electricity. Sierra Club urges that the legislature also address electricity generated in Connecticut but used elsewhere to reduce air and climate pollution.
- *Efficient and fossil free buildings* Help residents to avoid wasting energy by passing legislation to begin energy labeling, create building emission benchmarks, and establish a net zero stretch code.

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