



Connecticut Fund  
for the Environment

Save the Sound®

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 18, 2018

**Contacts:**

Melissa Schlag, [mschlag@ctenvironment.org](mailto:mschlag@ctenvironment.org), 860-398-0569

**Governor Malloy green-lights climate council's greenhouse gas mitigation report**

*Report details recommendations to curb global warming, clean air, and spur green economy*

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – The Governor's Council on Climate Change released their [report, "Building A Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030," on Tuesday](#), detailing how Connecticut can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and boost Connecticut's green economy. The council's main objectives are zero-carbon renewable electricity generation, clean transportation, and clean, efficient, and resilient buildings.

The council was created by Governor Malloy in 2015 to identify strategies to meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction mandates under the Global Warming Solutions Act. Earlier this year the council recommended, and the legislature made law, an interim target to reduce emissions 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030; this will keep Connecticut on track to meet its long-term goal of 80 percent below 2001 levels by 2050.

**Claire Coleman, Connecticut Fund for the Environment climate and energy attorney and member of the GC3, explains how the recommendations will help Connecticut reduce emissions:**

"After several years of emissions increases, Connecticut has finally reversed course and is getting closer to our 2020 emissions-reduction goal. But this progress is fragile—one very cold winter or very hot summer or very low gas prices could throw us off track again. To keep Connecticut economically competitive, protect our citizens' health, and meet our climate 2020 and 2030 obligations, we urgently need to end our addiction to fossil fuels in power generation, heating, and transportation.

"The Governor's Council on Climate Change has recommended concrete policies needed to cut greenhouse gas pollution, including strengthening investments in energy efficient buildings, cutting pollution from cars by encouraging electric vehicles and buses, and putting a price on carbon that reflects its true impact on our health and climate.

"We know that visionary action on clean energy and energy efficiency is the best way to clean our air and build the green economy of the future, and the Governor's Council on Climate Change plan is a big step forward in achieving Connecticut's pollution reduction goals. The next critical step is for the Lamont

administration and state legislators to implement these critical recommendations through executive orders and legislation during the upcoming session. We look forward to working with the incoming administration and legislators to keep moving Connecticut towards a vibrant and healthy future through even more ambitious climate and renewable energy policies.”

**Selected recommendations from the report include:**

- Invest in offshore wind and energy storage.
- Electrify the transportation sector by expanding our EV charging network and accelerating adoption of clean cars.
- Implement a multi-state cap-and-invest program that sets a limit on transportation-sector emissions and reinvests program proceeds in measures that drive down emissions; provides benefits to citizens; generates sufficient additional funding to support transportation infrastructure and operation; and mitigates costs to consumers.
- Increase adoption of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) by developing a state fleet transportation Lead by Example program and increase light-duty ZEV penetration rate to at least 20% by 2030.
- Support congestion pricing to produce revenue for clean transportation programs, and reduce emissions and traffic congestion.
- Incentivize replacement of fossil fuel space and water heating with efficient renewable thermal technologies, incentivize installation of renewable thermal technologies in new construction, and expand access to thermal energy-efficiency measures.
- Implement an economy-wide carbon fee that can be reinvested in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, while providing rebates to protect low- and moderate-income households and transition benefits for those affected by the economy shifting away from fossil fuels, including job training, education, and opportunities in clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate resilient infrastructure jobs.
- Ensure social media and outreach by agencies and municipalities to increase the visibility and utilization of EnergizeCT resources, particularly to increase awareness around energy efficiency programs and technologies that can be utilized by low-income households that suffer a disproportionate energy burden.
- Encourage increased energy efficiency investments in state buildings to save the state tens of millions of dollars every year.
- Increase adoption of smart-management technologies to optimize flexibility of distributed energy resources.

###