



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Committee Bill No. 6397

LCO No. 3748



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING ZERO-CARBON EMISSIONS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The state of Connecticut
2 hereby declares a climate emergency to increase access to federal funds
3 and demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful climate
4 legislation. Such emergency threatens the resilience and, in some cases,
5 the existence of communities in this state, including multiple aspects of
6 the state's environment, economy and the quality of life for younger
7 generations of state residents. Accordingly, the state declares climate
8 change as a public health and environmental justice emergency and
9 recognizes the urgency to significantly and rapidly increase community
10 coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate extremes and climate
11 refugees. The state recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate
12 impacts and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate
13 extremes.

14 (b) The state, acting through the Governor and other state-wide
15 elected officials, shall increase federal funding requests for climate-
16 related actions related to such climate emergency. The state shall seek
17 federal funds to achieve state-wide affordable zero-carbon electricity

18 generation, including solar, wind, geothermal and battery storage
19 installation, community climate resilience and environmental justice
20 opportunities and training for clean energy sector jobs and fossil fuel-
21 to-clean-energy business transitions.

22 (c) The declaration of a climate emergency by the state pursuant to
23 subsection (a) of this section shall serve to invoke the National
24 Emergencies Act for the declaration of a national climate emergency by
25 the President of the United States.

26 (d) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall
27 dedicate funds in each state budget adopted on or after the effective date
28 of this section to match federal funding received by the state for the
29 purpose of achieving a zero-carbon future and to facilitate the state's
30 transition to clean energy and achieve the state's greenhouse gas
31 emissions goals established in section 22a-220a of the general statutes.

32 (e) The Department of Economic and Community Development shall
33 collaborate with economic development agencies in municipalities in
34 the state to secure funding for local businesses to access renewable
35 energy supplies and consume decreased levels of fossil fuels.

36 (f) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
37 engage in efforts to gain federal funds to develop programs for local
38 communities throughout the state, including, but not limited to,
39 underserved communities, that mitigate the impacts from climate
40 change, fossil fuel use, waste disposal incineration, landfills and other
41 municipal functions that historically impact underserved communities
42 in a disproportionate manner.

43 (g) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the
44 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall develop strategies for energy
45 infrastructure development that are focused on renewable energy
46 systems, including, but not limited to, battery storage and working with
47 northeastern states and regional independent system operators to
48 implement such strategies.

49 (h) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
50 establish the Citizens Oversight Working Group to: (1) Provide the
51 public with oversight of the state's adherence to the Global Warming
52 Solutions Act, (2) ensure relevant timelines and deadlines of such act are
53 met by the state and assist in developing tangible actions to meet the
54 requirement of a forty-five per cent reduction in greenhouse gas
55 emissions below 2001 levels by 2030, and eighty per cent below 2001
56 levels by 2050, (3) meet the goals of the Connecticut Integrated
57 Resources Plan of 2021 to commit to a fully zero-carbon electric sector
58 by 2040, and (4) ensure the state complies with all executive orders
59 concerning climate change.

60 (i) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall ensure
61 that climate impacts are integrated into all components of decision-
62 making in state priorities, legislation, policies, plans and budgets. The
63 secretary shall pursue state and federal grants and funding, consistent
64 with all executive orders concerning climate change.

65 (j) The Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and
66 Administrative Services shall assist residents of the state and
67 municipalities to obtain federal funding to install renewable energy,
68 zero-carbon emissions clean all-electric energy systems in all newly
69 constructed commercial and residential buildings. Such efforts shall
70 include, but not be limited to, behind-the-meter grid-adapted solar and
71 wind systems and battery storage systems. Such departments shall
72 work with energy supply companies to develop equitable cost-favorable
73 clean energy solutions for retail end users.

74 (k) The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
75 adopt policies that recognize that environmental injustice is a racial
76 justice issue and that an equitable transition to a fossil-fuel-free
77 economy requires full participation of the state's communities. The
78 department shall commit to keeping the concerns of vulnerable
79 communities central to a just transition to zero-carbon emissions in all
80 policy matters and shall affirm racial equity in the department's climate

81 change mitigation efforts by working with racial equity organizations
82 across the state.

83 (l) The Departments of Energy and Environmental Protection and
84 Economic and Community Development shall work with high schools,
85 colleges, universities and trade schools throughout the state to provide
86 job-ready training in the renewable energy industry.

87 (m) The State Treasurer shall assist, in an advisory capacity and
88 through appropriate state and local agencies, to enable communities
89 and institutions to divest employee pension funds and other
90 investments from fossil fuels. Not later than October 1, 2023, the State
91 Treasurer shall divest all public funds from the stocks and securities of
92 any company that derives more than ten per cent of such company's
93 revenues from the sale of fossil fuels.

94 (n) The Department of Economic and Community Development and
95 the Office of Workforce Strategy shall work with all industries in the
96 state impacted by the transition away from the use of fossil fuels and
97 develop job retraining plans for such industries not later than October
98 1, 2023.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To create policies and accountability for reaching the state's carbon-reduction goals.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. PALM, 36th Dist.; REP. MICHEL, 146th Dist.

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