



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6397

January Session, 2023



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. Such declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize
14 the provisions of this subsection to operate the government of the state
15 through executive order.

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

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

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

28 (d) Not later than July 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and
29 Environmental Protection shall, within available appropriations,
30 produce a comprehensive Connecticut Decarbonization Roadmap to
31 achieve emissions reduction targets specified in section 22a-200a of the
32 general statutes.

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

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

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

50 (h) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall

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

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

70 (j) The Department of Economic and Community Development and
 71 the Office of Workforce Strategy shall work with all industries in the
 72 state impacted by the transition away from the use of fossil fuels and
 73 develop job retraining plans for such industries not later than October
 74 1, 2023.

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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

GAE *Joint Favorable*