



House of Representatives

File No. 661

General Assembly

February Session, 2024

(Reprint of File Nos. 321 and 613)

Substitute House Bill No. 5004
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 3, 2024

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN
CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The state hereby declares a
2 climate crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful
3 climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal
4 funds to respond to such crisis. Such crisis threatens the resilience of
5 communities in the state, regardless of zip code, multiple aspects of the
6 state's natural resources and infrastructure assets, the state's economy
7 and the quality of life for younger and future generations of state
8 residents. Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly
9 and rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase
10 community coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change.
11 The state recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts
12 and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change. Such
13 declaration shall not authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of
14 this section to operate the government of the state through executive

15 order.

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) In the aggregate, state
17 agencies shall have the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction
18 goals: (1) A forty-five per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a
19 seventy per cent reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a
20 level determined to be net-zero by 2050.

21 (b) Such state agencies shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-
22 carbon generating electricity by 2030.

23 Sec. 3. Section 22a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the
24 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

25 As used in sections 22a-200 to 22a-200b, inclusive, as amended by this
26 act, 22a-200d and 4a-67h:

27 (1) "Direct emissions" means emissions from sources that are owned
28 or operated, in whole or in part, by an entity or facility, including, but
29 not limited to, emissions from factory stacks, manufacturing processes
30 and vents, and company owned or leased motor vehicles;

31 (2) "Entity" means a person, as defined in section 22a-2, that owns or
32 operates, in whole or in part, a source of greenhouse gas emissions from
33 a generator of electricity or a commercial or industrial site, which source
34 may include, but not be limited to, a transportation fleet;

35 (3) "Facility" means a building, structure or installation located on any
36 one or more contiguous or adjacent properties of an entity;

37 (4) "Greenhouse gas" means any chemical or physical substance that
38 is emitted into the air and that the Commissioner of Energy and
39 Environmental Protection may reasonably anticipate will cause or
40 contribute to climate change, including, but not limited to, carbon
41 dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons
42 and sulfur hexafluoride;

43 (5) "Indirect emissions" means emissions associated with the

44 consumption of purchased electricity; [, steam and heating or cooling by
45 an entity or facility]

46 (6) "Carbon sequestration" means the removal of carbon dioxide from
47 the atmosphere through nature-based solutions, including, but not
48 limited to, soils, forests, wetlands or working or natural lands, and
49 technological solutions, including, but not limited to, carbon recovery
50 technologies, that have the primary purpose of removing carbon
51 dioxide from the atmosphere.

52 Sec. 4. Section 22a-200a of the general statutes is repealed and the
53 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

54 (a) The state shall reduce the level of emissions of greenhouse gas:

55 (1) Not later than January 1, 2020, to a level at least ten per cent below
56 the level emitted in 1990;

57 (2) Not later than January 1, 2030, to a level at least forty-five per cent
58 below the level emitted in 2001;

59 (3) Not later than January 1, 2040, to a level at least sixty-five per cent
60 below the level emitted in 2001, including to a level of zero per cent from
61 electricity supplied to electric customers in the state;

62 (4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to [a] an economy-wide net-zero
63 level, provided direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gases are at
64 least eighty per cent below the level emitted in 2001; and

65 (5) All of the levels referenced in this subsection shall be determined
66 by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection.

67 (b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state
68 agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on
69 Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of
70 Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and
71 Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and
72 proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies

73 that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established
74 by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations
75 that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce
76 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this
77 section.

78 (c) (1) Not later than January 1, 2012, and every three years thereafter,
79 the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall, in
80 consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
81 and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, report, in
82 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing
83 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
84 relating to the environment, energy and transportation on the
85 quantifiable emissions reductions achieved pursuant to subsection (a)
86 of this section. The report shall include a schedule of proposed
87 regulations, policies and strategies, including, but not limited to, carbon
88 sequestration, designed to achieve the limits of greenhouse gas
89 emissions imposed by said subsection, an assessment of the latest
90 scientific information and relevant data regarding global climate change
91 and the status of greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts in other
92 states and countries.

93 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
94 enter into an agreement with a consultant for the preparation of a report
95 to be submitted not later than January 1, 2026, to the joint standing
96 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
97 relating to the environment and energy. Such report shall: (A)
98 Determine viable strategies for carbon sequestration, (B) contain
99 strategies for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions
100 required in subsection (a) of this section, (C) indicate whether a strategy
101 to achieve such limits should include sector specific emission reduction
102 targets and, if so, in what manner and order of priority such sector
103 specific targets should be implemented, and (D) evaluate the adequacy
104 of the standards contained in section 16-245a.

105 (d) At least one year prior to the effective date of any federally

106 mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas
107 emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted
108 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and
109 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
110 Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
111 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
112 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and
113 technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences
114 between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any
115 further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency
116 with such federal program.

117 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 22a-200b of the general statutes is
118 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
119 *passage*):

120 (a) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall,
121 with the advice and assistance of a nonprofit association organized to
122 provide scientific, technical, analytical and policy support to the air
123 quality and climate programs of northeastern states: (1) Not later than
124 December 1, 2009, publish an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions to
125 establish a baseline for such emissions for the state and publish a
126 summary of greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies on the
127 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Internet web
128 site, (2) not later than July 1, 2010, publish results of various modeling
129 scenarios concerning greenhouse gas emissions, including, but not
130 limited to, an evaluation of the potential economic and environmental
131 benefits and opportunities for economic growth based on such
132 scenarios, (3) not later than July 1, 2011, analyze greenhouse gas
133 emission reduction strategies and, after an opportunity for public
134 comment, make recommendations on which such strategies will achieve
135 the greenhouse gas emission levels specified in section 22a-200a, as
136 amended by this act, and (4) not later than July 1, 2012, and every three
137 years thereafter, develop, with an opportunity for public comment, a
138 schedule of recommended regulatory actions by relevant agencies,
139 policies and other actions necessary to [show] make reasonable further

140 progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission levels
141 specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, to attain the levels
142 specified in said section by the relevant date provided. Such regulatory
143 actions may include carbon sequestration.

144 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,
145 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate an uncontested
146 proceeding regarding the future of natural gas use in the state in relation
147 to the provisions of section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended
148 by this act. Such proceeding shall include, but need not be limited to,
149 the consideration and implementation of beneficial electrification
150 measures such as geothermal systems and heat pumps, the integration
151 of natural gas and electric company joint planning processes. Upon
152 completion of such uncontested proceeding, said authority shall submit
153 a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
154 statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly
155 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy on
156 any recommendations for legislative changes necessary to implement
157 the findings of such docket.

158 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before July 1, 2026, the
159 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall, within available
160 appropriations, establish a centralized data dashboard that shall be
161 offered through a publicly accessible Internet web site through which
162 residents of the state have access to high-quality data that is relevant to
163 ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs. Such
164 centralized data dashboard shall contain, at a minimum, the following:
165 (1) Data related to ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy
166 programs overseen by the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority; (2) a
167 complete list of Class I renewable energy sources, as defined in section
168 16-1 of the general statutes, including those located in the state, that are
169 connected to the electric distribution system; (3) a complete list of
170 energy storage projects in the state that are connected to the electric
171 distribution system; and (4) key metrics and other information related
172 to the affordability of the services provided by the electric distribution
173 companies, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, at the

174 discretion of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority.

175 (b) The authority shall develop and maintain such centralized data
176 dashboard Internet web site and may enter into an agreement with a
177 consultant for the development of such centralized data dashboard
178 Internet web site, provided any costs related to such consultant's
179 development of such centralized data dashboard Internet web site shall
180 not be recoverable through a fully reconciling component of electric
181 rates for all customers of electric distribution companies.

182 (c) Each such electric distribution company shall be responsible for
183 collecting and providing the information required pursuant to this
184 section to the authority. An electric distribution company shall be
185 deemed compliant with the requirements of this section when any such
186 requisite information is provided to the authority through a docket or
187 directive of said authority.

188 (d) Not less than annually, or at a more frequent interval as
189 determined by the authority, the data required pursuant to subsection
190 (a) of this section shall be updated with the most up-to-date information
191 reasonably available to the authority and the electric distribution
192 companies.

193 Sec. 8. Subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 32-7t of the 2024
194 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
195 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

196 (3) The commissioner, upon consideration of an application and any
197 additional information, may approve an application in whole or in part
198 or may approve an application with amendments, provided the
199 commissioner shall give preference to applications that: (A) Make
200 significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices,
201 including, but not limited to, zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency,
202 (B) are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy
203 efficiency and zero-emission vehicles, or (C) are for farming operations
204 that are sustainable from a climate perspective. If the commissioner
205 disapproves an application, the commissioner shall identify the defects

206 in such application and explain the specific reasons for the disapproval.
207 The commissioner shall render a decision on an application not later
208 than ninety days after the date of its receipt by the commissioner.

209 Sec. 9. (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the State shall identify
210 a list of registration or renewal fees or other fees that are appropriate for
211 waiver for any: (1) Benefit corporation, as defined in section 33-1351 of
212 the general statutes, and (2) farm that uses climate-smart agriculture and
213 forestry practices developed or prescribed by the United States
214 Department of Agriculture. Not later than January 1, 2025, the Secretary
215 of the State shall submit a list of such fees to the joint standing committee
216 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
217 environment.

218 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
219 Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on economic
220 development strategies and policies that strengthen the state's climate
221 mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability programs, in
222 particular for vulnerable communities, as defined in section 16-243y of
223 the general statutes.

224 (b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and
225 locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The
226 council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal
227 funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy,
228 climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic
229 development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and
230 sustainability goals of the state, (2) develop workforce development
231 strategies that complement the greenhouse gas emissions goals in
232 subsection (a) of section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by
233 this act, through the: (A) Development of work-based learning
234 programs; (B) development of certificate and degree programs at
235 technical education and career schools and institutions of higher
236 education in the state; (C) identification of available funding, whether
237 from a public or private source, to fund the development of such work-
238 based learning and certificate and degree programs and the provision

239 of grants to apprentices and students; and (D) implementation of a
240 strategy to market and recruit individuals, in particular from
241 underrepresented populations, to existing and newly developed work-
242 based learning programs and certificate and degree programs at job
243 centers, technical education and career schools and institutions of higher
244 education, (3) develop strategies for utilizing the workforce parameters
245 described in section 31-53d of the general statutes, (4) support diverse
246 and equitable participation in the workforce with a goal of creating
247 opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the
248 workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities, as
249 defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, women, minorities
250 and formerly incarcerated persons, and (5) advise the Governor and the
251 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development on any state-
252 wide economic action plan. The council may form working groups to
253 address workforce development in specific sectors within the fields of
254 clean energy and sustainability.

255 (c) Such council shall develop a plan to facilitate the transition of
256 workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs
257 consistent with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Such plan
258 shall be submitted not later than February 1, 2026, to the joint standing
259 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
260 relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with
261 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

262 (d) Such council shall be composed of the following members: (1) The
263 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
264 commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the
265 council, (2) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
266 or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson
267 of the council, (3) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
268 or the secretary's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
269 the commissioner's designee, (5) the Chief Workforce Officer, or said
270 officer's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the council,
271 (6) a representative from the office of the Governor, (7) the chief
272 executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive

273 officer's designee, (8) the chief executive officer of Connecticut
274 Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee, (9)
275 the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, (10) the
276 Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee,
277 (11) one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,
278 who shall be a representative of a regional workforce development
279 board, (12) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of
280 Representatives, who shall be a member of the Connecticut Technical
281 Education Career System, (13) one member appointed by the majority
282 leader of the Senate, who shall be a representative of a nonprofit
283 organization that focuses on helping people overcome barriers to
284 workforce participation, (14) one member appointed by the majority
285 leader of the House of Representatives, who shall have expertise in
286 hiring and training employees in the trades related to green
287 technologies, (15) one member appointed by the minority leader of the
288 Senate, who shall be a representative of a higher education institution
289 and have expertise in technical education, (16) one member appointed
290 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, who shall be a
291 member of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council, and (17) any
292 other member so designated by the cochairpersons. Any member
293 appointed pursuant to subdivision (17) of this subsection shall serve at
294 the pleasure of the cochairpersons of the council.

295 (e) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a
296 quorum.

297 (f) Not later than February 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, the
298 council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the
299 Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing
300 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
301 relating to the environment, energy, higher education and commerce, in
302 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

303 Sec. 11. Section 31-3rr of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
304 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
305 *passage*):

306 (a) As used in this section and section 10a-55g:

307 (1) "Green jobs" has the same meaning as provided in section 10a-55d;

308 (2) "Green technology" has the same meaning as provided in section
309 10a-55d; and

310 (3) "Career ladder" means a description of the progression from an
311 entry level position to higher levels of pay, skill, responsibility or
312 authority.

313 (b) Not later than January 1, 2020, the Connecticut Clean Economy
314 Council, in consultation with the Office of Higher Education,
315 Department of Education, Labor Department, Department of Energy
316 and Environmental Protection, regional workforce development boards
317 and employers, shall, within available appropriations, identify a career
318 ladder for jobs in the green technology industry, including, but not
319 limited to, a listing of (1) careers at each level of the green technology
320 industry and the requisite level of education and the salary offered for
321 such career, (2) all course, certificate and degree programs in green jobs
322 offered by technical education and career schools within the Technical
323 Education and Career System and institutions of higher education in the
324 state, and (3) jobs available in the green technology industry in the state.
325 The Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall update the green jobs
326 career ladder established pursuant to this section on an as needed basis.

327 [(c) Not later than January 1, 2024, the Connecticut Clean Economy
328 Council shall develop a plan for green jobs workforce training to
329 accomplish the greenhouse gas emissions goals set forth in subsection
330 (a) of section 22a-200a. Such plan shall include, but need not be limited
331 to, (1) development of work-based learning programs for green jobs
332 with workforce shortages; (2) development of certificate and degree
333 programs related to the green technology industry at technical
334 education and career schools and institutions of higher education in the
335 state; (3) identification of available funding, whether from a public or
336 private source, to fund the development of such work-based learning
337 and certificate and degree programs and provide grants to apprentices

338 and students; and (4) a strategy to market and recruit individuals,
339 especially from underrepresented populations, to existing and newly
340 developed green jobs work-based learning programs and certificate and
341 degree programs related to the green technology industry at job centers,
342 technical education and career schools and institutions of higher
343 education. Not later than January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, said
344 council shall update such plan as necessary.

345 (d) Not later than February 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the
346 Connecticut Clean Economy Council shall submit, in accordance with
347 the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the
348 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to higher
349 education and employment advancement the plan developed or
350 updated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.]

351 Sec. 12. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
352 study underutilized sites, including brownfields, throughout the state
353 for utilization by entrepreneurs in the climate and green economy
354 sector, including, but not limited to, entrepreneurs engaged in
355 developing alternatives to plastic. Such task force shall identify
356 additional resources and strategies needed to create successful green
357 economy incubators in various geographic locations throughout the
358 state and examine how municipalities can help foster such incubator
359 growth.

360 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

361 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
362 one of whom has expertise in the promotion of environmentally
363 sustainable businesses in the state and one of whom has expertise in
364 promoting energy efficiency throughout the state;

365 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
366 whom shall be from an organization that promotes young
367 entrepreneurs in the state and one of whom shall be from an
368 organization that promotes climate-smart agriculture in the state;

369 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
370 Representatives, who shall be from an organization that is for young
371 persons interested in climate change action;

372 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall be
373 from an organization that specializes in architectural heritage;

374 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
375 Representatives, who shall be from an incubator program at a college or
376 university in the state;

377 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be
378 a representative of an organization that advocates on behalf of
379 municipalities in the state;

380 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
381 the commissioner's designee;

382 (8) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
383 or the commissioner's designee;

384 (9) The Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or
385 such officer's designee; and

386 (10) The Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Innovations, Inc., or
387 such officer's designee.

388 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
389 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
390 of the General Assembly.

391 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
392 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
393 be filled by the appointing authority.

394 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
395 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairperson of the task force from
396 among the members of the task force. Such chairperson shall schedule

397 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
398 days after the effective date of this section.

399 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committees of the
400 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
401 environment and commerce shall serve as administrative staff of the
402 task force.

403 (g) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
404 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees
405 of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the
406 environment and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of
407 section 11-4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on
408 the date that it submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

409 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) On or before February 15, 2025,
410 and every three years thereafter, the Public Utilities Regulatory
411 Authority shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
412 4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General
413 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy, regarding
414 the quantifiable progress of behind-the-meter energy storage
415 deployment across residential and nonresidential sectors. In the
416 intervening years between such reports, the authority shall take actions,
417 through its annual uncontested program review proceeding designed to
418 increase energy storage capacity in the state, that are consistent with the
419 program objectives of providing positive net present value to all
420 ratepayers, providing multiple types of benefits to the electric grid and
421 fostering the sustained, orderly development of a state-based electric
422 energy storage industry.

423 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 10-283 of the general statutes is
424 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
425 *2024*):

426 (b) Notwithstanding the application date requirements of this
427 section, at any time within the limit of available grant authorization and
428 within the limit of appropriated funds, the Commissioner of

429 Administrative Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of
430 Education, may approve applications for grants and make payments for
431 such grants, for any of the following reasons: (A) To assist school
432 building projects to remedy damage from fire and catastrophe, (B) to
433 correct safety, health and other code violations, (C) to replace roofs,
434 including the replacement or installation of skylights as part of the roof
435 replacement project, (D) to remedy a certified school indoor air quality
436 emergency, (E) to install insulation for exterior walls and attics, or (F) to
437 purchase and install a limited use and limited access elevator, windows,
438 photovoltaic panels, air source or ground source heat pumps, wind
439 generation systems, building management systems or portable
440 classroom buildings, provided portable classroom building projects
441 shall not create a new facility or cause an existing facility to be modified
442 so that the portable buildings comprise a substantial percentage of the
443 total facility area, as determined by the commissioner.

444 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1,
445 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
446 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
447 shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General
448 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment on
449 recommendations for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general
450 statutes to provide for the sale and installation in the state of heating,
451 ventilation and air conditioning systems, hot water heating systems and
452 geothermal systems that do not emit greenhouse gases. Such
453 recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, suggested
454 implementation dates for any such requirement and proposed
455 consumer education efforts to inform the public about such systems.

456 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) (a) The Commissioner of
457 Energy and Environmental Protection shall develop a plan for the
458 installation of heat pumps for heating systems in the state, including,
459 but not limited to, through any program established pursuant to section
460 8-240a, 16-245n, 16a-40b, 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Such
461 plan shall include a target number of heat pump installations that is
462 consistent with the goals of the United States Climate Alliance, and

463 prioritize installation for residences in environmental justice
464 communities and long-term care facilities where not less than eighty per
465 cent of such residents are Medicaid recipients in good financial standing
466 with the state. Not later than January 1, 2026, the commissioner shall
467 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
468 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
469 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and
470 energy on the status of such plan in reaching such goal and any
471 attendant recommendations for expanding or revising such plan.

472 (b) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may
473 establish a program, within available appropriations, to provide rebates,
474 at the point of sale, for the purchase of heat pumps intended for heating
475 systems in the state. Such program may utilize funding available from
476 federal programs or state bond authorizations.

477 Sec. 17. Subsection (g) of section 8-23 of the general statutes is
478 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
479 *passage*):

480 (g) (1) Any municipal plan of conservation and development
481 scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2015, shall identify the general
482 location and extent of any [(1)] (A) areas served by existing sewerage
483 systems, [(2)] (B) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and [(3)]
484 (C) areas where sewers are to be avoided. In identifying such areas, the
485 commission shall consider the provisions of this section and the priority
486 funding area provisions of chapter 297a.

487 (2) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled
488 for adoption on or after October 1, 2026, shall evaluate environmental
489 sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

490 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Secretary of the Office of
491 Policy and Management, in consultation with the Department of
492 Administrative Services, shall develop a model policy or guidelines for
493 environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may
494 voluntarily utilize and implement. Such policy or guidelines shall

495 include, but need not be limited to, a list of any state contracts for
496 sustainable purchasing that allow for municipal participation. The
497 Commissioner of Administrative Services shall post such policy or
498 guidelines to the Internet web site of the Department of Administrative
499 Services not later than January 1, 2025.

500 Sec. 19. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the
501 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
502 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

503 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project
504 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement
505 projects.

506 (2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each
507 municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,
508 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of
509 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the
510 secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

511 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of
512 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion,
513 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in
514 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)
515 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital
516 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may
517 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is
518 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such
519 project.

520 (B) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
521 for the period commencing July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2025, the
522 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
523 project listed in subparagraph (Y) of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
524 this section from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and
525 Management for such projects.

526 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
527 for the period commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2027, the
528 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
529 municipality that is a certified Sustainable CT town and that was
530 awarded points under said program for implementing a sustainable
531 purchasing policy.

532 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than January 1,
533 2026, the Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with
534 the Office of Policy and Management, the Departments of Energy and
535 Environmental Protection and Transportation, and any other state
536 agency deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Administrative
537 Services, shall establish a process for said commissioner to consider
538 when making any decision to remodel, alter, repair, construct or enlarge
539 any state real asset, pursuant to section 4b-51 of the general statutes, the
540 capability of such state real asset to: (1) Increase energy efficiency, (2)
541 utilize zero-carbon heating and cooling and water heating alternatives,
542 (3) utilize Class I renewable energy, as defined in section 16-1 of the
543 general statutes, (4) facilitate electric vehicle charging, and (5) reduce
544 energy use.

545 (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department of Administrative
546 Services, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management and
547 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, shall develop
548 a plan and a budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and
549 cooling systems at state buildings to systems capable of being operated
550 without carbon-emitting fuels. Such plan and budget shall be submitted,
551 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
552 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
553 cognizance of matters relating to the environment and energy.

554 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
555 Energy and Environmental Protection shall prioritize the use of nature-
556 based solutions to support climate change mitigation and adaptation
557 and increase biodiversity. The commissioner shall prepare a report that
558 includes an assessment and review of program guidelines and planning

559 documentation and the identification of existing agency programs
560 through which the department advanced or continues to advance
561 nature-based solutions in the state that support climate change
562 mitigation and adaptation. Such draft report shall examine the potential
563 for expanding the use of nature-based solutions in the following
564 programs: (1) The microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program
565 authorized pursuant to section 16-243y of the general statutes, (2) the
566 open space and watershed land acquisition program authorized
567 pursuant to sections 7-131d to 7-131k, inclusive, of the general statutes,
568 and (3) other applicable state and federal programs administered by the
569 department that advance nature-based solutions, including, but not
570 limited to, (A) federal Clean Water Act programs, (B) the Long Island
571 Sound Study program, and (C) the Urban Forestry program. The
572 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's efforts to
573 advance such nature-based solutions shall be known as the nature-
574 based solutions initiative.

575 (b) In preparing the report described in subsection (a) of this section,
576 the commissioner shall identify best practices to encourage the use of
577 the state's ecosystems to naturally sequester and store carbon, reduce
578 greenhouse gas emissions, increase biodiversity, and protect against
579 climate change impacts, including: (1) Increasing carbon sequestration
580 through increased forest acreage, including reforestation, (2) controlling
581 invasive species, (3) encouraging soil health across all landscapes, (4)
582 protecting carbon stocks through avoiding the conversion of forests and
583 wetlands to other purposes, (5) restoring habitats, (6) increasing climate-
584 smart agriculture and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas
585 emissions while improving habitat and protecting biodiversity, (7)
586 increasing community resilience by improving water quality and
587 addressing flooding and drought through nature-based stormwater
588 management and shoreline protection that uses nature-based
589 approaches such as living shorelines, and (8) improving air quality and
590 reducing urban heat island effects through urban forestry and
591 increasing green spaces.

592 (c) Not later than November 30, 2024, the commissioner shall post

593 such report on the department's Internet web site for review and written
594 comment. The commissioner shall provide the report to the following
595 state agencies for review and input: The Departments of Agriculture,
596 Public Health, Housing and Transportation, the Connecticut Green
597 Bank and the Office of Policy and Management. In addition, the
598 commissioner shall host one listening session after the report is so
599 posted in order to seek public comment. Not later than December 31,
600 2024, the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
601 4a of the general statutes, shall submit such report to the joint standing
602 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
603 relating to the environment.

604 Sec. 22. (*Effective from passage*) On or before July 1, 2025, the
605 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation
606 with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, shall develop and
607 approve a solar canopy strategic plan. The plan shall identify
608 opportunities and potential sites for solar canopies in the state and shall
609 prioritize the development of solar canopies in environmental justice
610 communities, as defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes. Such
611 potential sites may include, but need not be limited to, parking lots in
612 the state. The plan shall include an examination of different ways to
613 promote solar canopies, including at schools, government buildings and
614 parking lots, and shall include recommendations for policies, programs
615 or regulations to promote the construction of solar canopies in the state,
616 consistent with the greenhouse gas reduction goals established in
617 section 22a-200a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the
618 Integrated Resources Plan approved pursuant to section 16a-3a of the
619 general statutes and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy prepared
620 pursuant to section 16a-3d of the general statutes.

621 Sec. 23. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force to
622 study the current electric transmission system in the state and region
623 and any upgrades and enhancements required to support the state's
624 reliability, affordability and clean energy needs. The task force shall
625 consider in-state and regional transmission upgrades, regional needs,
626 cost-benefit analyses and the potential use of grid enhancing

627 technologies, advanced conductors and energy storage as a
628 transmission asset.

629 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

630 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
631 who shall have expertise concerning currently existing electric
632 transmission infrastructure in the state;

633 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
634 shall be a representative of an environmental advocacy organization
635 with expertise in renewable energy;

636 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
637 Representatives, who shall have expertise in grid enhancing
638 technologies;

639 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who shall
640 have expertise in the regional transmission system;

641 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
642 Representatives, who shall have expertise concerning technologies that
643 are currently used in the state's transmission system;

644 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall
645 have expertise concerning the environmental impact of updating or
646 replacing electric transmission infrastructure;

647 (7) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or
648 the commissioner's designee;

649 (8) The chairperson of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, or
650 the chairperson's designee;

651 (9) A representative from an electric distribution company that has a
652 service area of eighteen or more cities and towns, who shall be
653 appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
654 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and

655 technology;

656 (10) A representative from an electric distribution company that has
657 a service area of not more than seventeen cities and towns, who shall be
658 appointed by the ranking members of the joint standing committee of
659 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
660 and technology; and

661 (11) A representative from the Office of Consumer Counsel.

662 (c) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
663 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
664 be filled by the appointing authority.

665 (d) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
666 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force
667 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall
668 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later
669 than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

670 (e) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
671 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy and
672 technology shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

673 (f) Not later than January 1, 2025, the task force shall submit a report
674 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
675 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to energy
676 and technology, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
677 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
678 submits such report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200a

Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	22a-200b(a)
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 9	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	31-3rr
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-283(b)
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>from passage</i>	8-23(g)
Sec. 18	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	7-536(e)
Sec. 20	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 23	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Potential Cost	500,000	None
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)	GF - Potential Cost	50,000	None
Secretary of the State	GF - Revenue Loss	Minimal	Minimal
Office of Workforce Strategy	GF - Cost	Up to 200,000	None
Treasurer, Debt Serv.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF - Cost	Up to 100,000	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 25 \$	FY 26 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Loss	See Below	See Below
Various Municipalities	Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill establishes various requirements related to its climate crisis declaration, and results in the costs to the state as described below

Section 4 establishes broad state targets for reducing emissions resulting in the ratepayer impact outlined below and a potential cost for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). This section does not require but allows does not require DEEP to hire a consultant to submit a report on Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHG). If DEEP were to hire a consultant to complete the study, it would cost approximately \$500,000.

Section 7 requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to create an internet data dashboard with certain data related to ratepayer funded clean and renewable energy programs and results in a potential cost. The bill empowers but does not require PURA to hire a consultant to facilitate the creation of the data dashboard. If PURA were hire a consultant, it would create a cost of approximately \$50,000 in FY 25.

Section 8, which establishes a preference for certain "green" jobs under the JobsCT tax rebate program, does not result in any fiscal impact as it does not alter the aggregate annual \$40 million cap on the program.

Section 9 requires the Secretary of the State (SOTS) to identify fees that may be waived for certain benefit corporations and farms using climate smart practices developed by the United States Department of Agriculture resulting in revenue loss. The exact extent of the revenue lost will depend on the number of entities that qualify for fee waiver, and the number of fees identified to waive, but is likely to be minimal.

Section 10 results in a one-time cost of up to \$200,000 to the Office of Workforce Strategy (OWS) by requiring the Connecticut Clean Energy Council, on which OWS is a participating member, to develop a plan to transition workers from fossil-fuel-based jobs to clean energy jobs.

While OWS does have expertise on workforce development strategies, it is anticipated that the agency will need to hire a consultant to (1) assist in researching the costs of training for both new workers and upskilling existing workers to meet industry demands and standards

and (2) complete the report by February 1, 2026.

Section 12 has no fiscal impact from establishing a task force to study underutilized sites, including brownfields, throughout the state for utilization by entrepreneurs in the climate and green economy sector. It is anticipated that the task force can complete its responsibilities within existing resources.

Section 14 makes purchase and installation of air source or ground source heat pumps eligible for non-priority list school building project reimbursements, which results in a cost to the state and potential revenue gain to municipalities.

The school construction program is funded using General Obligation (GO) bonds, in two large tracts: priority list projects (i.e., larger projects approved in legislation) and non-priority list projects. Non-priority list projects currently include emergency items, such as fire or catastrophe damage, leaking roofs, or code violations. The bill expands the non-priority list projects to include heat pump installation.

Non-priority list projects are allowed at the discretion of the Commissioner of Administrative Services within available resources of the program. As of March 1, 2024, the unallocated bond balance available under the school construction authorization is \$421 million, with another \$250 million effective under current law to start FY 25. The bill is expected to result in an increase in the use of GO bond funds for non-priority list reimbursable expenses, which would expedite anticipated debt service from existing bond authorizations.

To the extent municipalities choose to pursue additional heat pump projects allowed under the bill, there would be additional revenues to the same municipalities.

Specific costs from eligible projects, including the marginal increase from expanded eligibility, can only be determined as project expenses are incurred by municipalities and state reimbursements are sought and offered.

Installation of heat pumps is already allowed as part of broader priority list projects within the school construction program. Additionally, competitive grants are available under the school air quality grant program, which would include installation of heat pumps. It is unclear how many additional projects would seek funding specifically under the non-priority list provision of the school construction program than would otherwise seek funding under the other available funding sources.

Section 16 results in a potential cost to DEEP to the extent that the department establishes a program to provide point-of-sale rebates for heat pump purchases. The bill appears to allow program funding to come from the General Fund, bond funding, or federal funding; currently there is no such funding available or authorized by the bill. The magnitude and timing of the potential cost is dependent on the amount of funding made available, if any.

Section 17 results in a potential cost to municipalities as it requires evaluations of environmental sustainability and climate resiliency to be included in municipalities' Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs). This requirement applies to any POCDs adopted on or after October 1, 2026. Any costs will be dependent on what is needed to meet this requirement.

This section results in a potential revenue loss to municipalities to the extent they are unable to adopt the POCDs with the new requirements. Failure to do so, consistent with current law, results in a municipality becoming ineligible for discretionary state funding.

Section 18 which requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to develop a model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may voluntarily utilize and implement, does not result in a fiscal impact as OPM has the resources necessary to develop the model policy.

Section 19 is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact, as it requires the Office of Policy and Management to authorize additional

reimbursement of eligible expenses under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP) for FY 25 and FY 26 using any resources appropriated for said purpose. Administration of LoCIP was changed from a reimbursement program to a prospective grant beginning in FY 24 (PA 23-124).

Additionally, the LoCIP program is bond funded. The bill makes no additional resources available for the program, either through the authorization of bond funds or appropriations. The fiscal impact of any legislation appropriating funds for an expanded purpose would be noted in the fiscal note relevant to the other legislation.

Section 20 requires the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to establish a process to consider ways to increase energy efficiency, utilization of zero-carbon and renewable options, facilitate EV charging, and reduce energy use when modifying any real asset of the state. These provisions do not result in a fiscal impact as DAS has the resources necessary to develop the process.

Section 21 results in a cost to DEEP of up to \$100,000 in FY 25 to complete a report by December 31, 2024 which assesses the department's current use of nature-based solutions in various programs and the potential for expanding such solutions in those programs. The department is likely to use a consultant to complete the report as it lacks sufficient resources to meet the reporting requirements by the deadline.

Ratepayer Impact Statement¹:

The bill creates and adopts additional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets and results in a cost to ratepayers. The cost is associated with the development and upgrade of the grid that will be

¹ The state and municipalities are ratepayers and therefore may be impacted by policy changes that affect electric rates

required by electric distribution companies to achieve the targets in the bill². The exact cost to ratepayers will depend on the pace of upgrades completed.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and results in the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

² Electric generation is one of several factors contributing to carbon emissions

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5004 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CERTAIN CLIMATE CHANGE MEASURES.***

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Establishes new state GHG emissions reduction levels under the GWSA; allows DEEP to engage a consultant to prepare a report on strategies to meet the new state reduction goals; for state agencies, sets new GHG emissions reduction goals and a goal to use only zero-carbon generating electricity; includes carbon sequestration as a strategy for reducing emissions that may be included in certain DEEP reports on the reductions; requires PURA to initiate an uncontested proceeding on the future of natural gas in the state

[§ 7 — PURA CENTRALIZED DATA DASHBOARD](#)

Within available appropriations, requires PURA to establish, and at least annually update, a centralized data dashboard that makes high-quality data relevant to ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs publicly accessible online to state residents

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Requires the DECD commissioner to give a preference to applications under the JobsCT tax rebate program that (1) make significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices; (2) are in economic sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, and zero-emission vehicles; or (3) are for sustainable farming

[§ 9 — LIST OF FEE WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES](#)

Requires the secretary of the state to (1) identify registration, renewal, or other fees appropriate to be waived for benefit corporations and certain farms and (2) submit a list of the fees to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025

§§ 10 & 11 — CONNECTICUT CLEAN ECONOMY COUNCIL

Establishes a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise on strategies and policies to further climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability efforts; requires the council to (1) develop a plan to transition workers away from fossil-fuel-based jobs to those in clean energy and (2) submit an annual report of its work to the governor, OPM, and four legislative committees

§ 12 — TASK FORCE ON UNDERUTILIZED SITES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Establishes a task force to study underutilized sites in the state for use by entrepreneurs in the climate and clean energy sector and requires it to submit its findings and recommendations to the Commerce and Environment committees by January 1, 2025

§ 13 — PURA ENERGY STORAGE REPORT

Requires PURA to (1) report, by February 15, 2025, and then every three years, to the Energy and Technology Committee on progress of behind-the-meter energy storage deployment and (2) take certain actions to increase energy storage

§ 14 — SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

Adds air source and ground source heat pump projects to the list of school construction project grant applications that the DAS commissioner can approve at any time

§ 15 — ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRODUCT STANDARDS REPORT

Requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025, on recommendations for changing the product energy efficiency standards law to provide for the sale and installation of certain heating and cooling systems that do not emit GHGs

§ 16 — RESIDENTIAL HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS PLAN & REBATE PROGRAM

Requires the DEEP commissioner to (1) develop a plan for installing heat pumps and (2) report on the plan to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by January 1, 2026; allows DEEP to create a rebate program for heat pumps used for heating systems

§ 17 — LOCAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Requires municipal conservation and development plans scheduled for adoption beginning October 1, 2026, to evaluate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency

§§ 18 & 19 — ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

Requires OPM to develop and post online a model policy or guidelines for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities can use; for FYs 26 & 27, requires the OPM secretary to authorize LoCIP funding to municipalities that received points under Sustainable CT's program for implementing a sustainable purchasing policy

§ 20 — STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

Requires DAS to (1) develop a process for considering certain energy-related aspects when deciding to repair or build state real assets under its authority and (2) develop a plan and budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems to those that operate without carbon-emitting fuels

§ 21 — NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PRIORITIZATION AND RELATED REPORT

Requires DEEP to prioritize using nature-based solutions to (1) support climate change mitigation and adaptation and (2) increase biodiversity; requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee that assesses and reviews program guidelines and planning documents and identifies programs that DEEP uses to support nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation

§ 22 — SOLAR CANOPY STRATEGIC PLAN

Requires DEEP to develop and approve a solar canopy strategic plan

§ 23 — TRANSMISSION SYSTEM TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study the current transmission system in Connecticut and the region and requires it to submit its findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2025

BACKGROUND

SUMMARY

This bill establishes various requirements related to its climate crisis declaration (see § 1), as described in the section-by-section analysis below.

*House Amendment “A” principally (1) adds the provisions on the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction levels, data dashboard, Connecticut Clean Economy Council, brownfields and transmission system task forces, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) energy storage reports, school construction projects for air or ground source heat pumps, local plans of conservation and development, state building project processes, nature-based solutions, and solar canopy strategic plan (§§ 2-5, 7, 10-14 & 20-23); (2) tasks the secretary of the state, rather than the revenue services commissioner, with identifying certain business fees for waiver (§ 9); (3) eliminates a report requirement for Connecticut Innovations, Inc. (CI) on investments and help for businesses involved in climate change mitigation; (4) eliminates the 310,000 heat pump installation target in a Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) plan, instead tying the target to the goals of the United States Climate Alliance, and allows for an associated heat pump rebate program (§ 16); and (5) delays the local capital improvement project funding provision by one year and ties it to certification as a Sustainable CT municipality (§ 19).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except as noted below.

§ 1 — CLIMATE CRISIS DECLARATION

Declares that there is a climate crisis to (1) show urgency to enact meaningful climate legislation and (2) support efforts for federal funds to respond to the crisis

The bill makes a declaration that there is a climate crisis to (1) show the urgency to enact meaningful climate legislation and (2) support increased efforts to secure federal funds to respond to the crisis. It also states that the state recognizes the (1) urgency and need to mitigate climate impacts and prepare for and manage disaster risk from climate change and (2) urgency to significantly and rapidly decrease GHG emissions, and increase community coping capacities to handle climate change impacts.

As part of the declaration, the bill states that the crisis threatens the following:

1. the state's communities' resilience, regardless of zip code;
2. multiple aspects of the state's natural resource and infrastructure assets; and
3. the state's economy and quality of life for younger and future generations of state residents.

It specifies that the declaration does not permit the governor to use its statements to operate the government by executive order.

§§ 2-6 — GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION AND ZERO-CARBON GOALS

Establishes new state GHG emissions reduction levels under the GWSA; allows DEEP to engage a consultant to prepare a report on strategies to meet the new state reduction goals; for state agencies, sets new GHG emissions reduction goals and a goal to use only zero-carbon generating electricity; includes carbon sequestration as a strategy for reducing emissions that may be included in certain DEEP reports on the reductions; requires PURA to initiate an uncontested proceeding on the future of natural gas in the state

Connecticut Goals (§§ 3 & 4)

The bill generally requires the state to reach an economy-wide net zero GHG emission reduction level by January 1, 2050. It establishes this requirement as part of the state's Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).

Under current law, the GWSA requires the state to reduce GHG emissions from all sources to a level at least (1) 10% below 1990 emission levels by January 1, 2020; (2) 45% below 2001 emission levels by January 1, 2030; and (3) 80% below 2001 emission levels by January 1, 2050. It also requires the state to reduce GHG emissions from electricity supplied to electric customers in the state to zero percent by January 1, 2040.

The bill sets a new GHG reduction level requirement of 65% of 2001 emission levels January 1, 2040. It also requires that, by January 1, 2050,

the state be at an economy-wide net-zero level, as long as direct (e.g., factory stacks, manufacturing processes, company-owned or leased vehicles) and indirect (i.e., emissions from purchased electricity consumption) GHG emissions are at least 80% below the 2001 level.

By law, the DEEP commissioner determines emission levels. GHG includes any chemical or physical substance emitted into the air that the DEEP commissioner reasonably anticipates will cause or contribute to climate change (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride).

Consultant Report (§ 4)

The bill allows the DEEP commissioner to contract with a consultant to prepare a report that does the following:

1. determines viable strategies for carbon sequestration (i.e., removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere by nature-based solutions like soils, forests, wetlands, working or natural lands, and technological solutions like carbon recovery technologies);
2. has strategies for achieving the state's GHG emissions reductions described above;
3. indicates whether a strategy to achieve the reductions should include sector specific emission reduction targets, and if so, in the manner and priority order for implementing the targets; and
4. evaluates the adequacy of the state's renewable portfolio standards.

The consultant's report must be submitted to the Energy and Technology and Environment committees by January 1, 2026.

State Agency Goals (§ 2)

The bill establishes the following GHG emissions reduction goals for all state agencies, as a whole:

1. 45% from 2001 levels by 2030,

2. 70% from 2016 levels by 2040, and
3. reaching a level determined to be net-zero by 2050.

It sets a separate goal for the agencies to use only zero-carbon generating electricity by 2030.

Periodic Reporting (§§ 4 & 5)

Existing law requires the DEEP commissioner, every three years and with help from a nonprofit association with northeastern state air quality and climate program expertise, to develop, with opportunity for public comment, a schedule of recommended regulatory actions by relevant agencies, policies, and other actions needed to further progress towards achieving the GHG reduction levels. The bill (1) specifies that schedule must be developed to attain the reduction levels by the listed dates and (2) allows the regulatory actions to include carbon sequestration.

The bill similarly includes carbon sequestration as a proposed regulation, policy, and strategy option to achieve the emissions reduction limits that the DEEP commissioner may include in her triennial report on achieved emissions reductions to the Environment, Energy and Technology, and Transportation committees.

PURA Proceeding: Future of Natural Gas (§ 6)

The bill requires PURA to initiate an uncontested proceeding, by January 1, 2025, on the future of natural gas use in the state in relation to the state's GHG emission reduction levels described above. The proceeding must include, at least, the consideration and implementation of beneficial electrification measures (e.g., geothermal systems and heat pumps), integration of natural gas, and electric company joint planning processes.

After completing the proceeding, PURA must submit a report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees on any recommendations for legislative changes needed to implement its findings.

§ 7 — PURA CENTRALIZED DATA DASHBOARD

Within available appropriations, requires PURA to establish, and at least annually update, a centralized data dashboard that makes high-quality data relevant to ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs publicly accessible online to state residents

The bill requires PURA, within available appropriations and by July 1, 2026, to establish a centralized data dashboard that makes high-quality data relevant to ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs publicly accessible online to state residents. The dashboard must at least have the following information:

1. data on ratepayer-funded clean and renewable energy programs PURA oversees;
2. complete lists of energy storage projects in the state and Class I renewable energy sources (e.g., wind and solar) connected to the electric distribution system; and
3. key metrics and other information related to the affordability of electric distribution companies' (EDCs; i.e., Eversource and United Illuminating) services, as PURA requires.

Under the bill, PURA must (1) develop and maintain the dashboard website and (2) at least annually, update the dashboard's information to be the most current reasonably available information. The bill allows PURA to contract with a consultant to develop the site, but it prohibits the costs from being recovered through a fully reconciling component of electric rates for all EDC customers.

The bill requires each EDC to collect and give PURA the information required under the bill, but compliance may be met by giving the same information through a docket or PURA directive.

§ 8 — JOBSCT TAX REBATE PROGRAM

Requires the DECD commissioner to give a preference to applications under the JobsCT tax rebate program that (1) make significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices; (2) are in economic sectors like renewable energy, energy efficiency, and zero-emission vehicles; or (3) are for sustainable farming

By law, the Department of Economic and Community Development's

(DECD) JobsCT tax rebate program gives companies in specified industries rebates against the insurance premiums, corporation business, and pass-through entity taxes for reaching certain job creation targets.

The bill requires the DECD commissioner to give a preference to applications for the program that:

1. make significant investments in environmentally sustainable practices (e.g., zero-carbon energy and energy efficiency);
2. are in sectors of the economy such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and zero-emission vehicles; or
3. are for farming operations that are sustainable from a climate perspective.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 9 — LIST OF FEE WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES

Requires the secretary of the state to (1) identify registration, renewal, or other fees appropriate to be waived for benefit corporations and certain farms and (2) submit a list of the fees to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025

The bill requires the secretary of the state to identify registration, renewal, or other fees that are appropriate for waiver for (1) benefit corporations (i.e., corporation with a corporate purpose for a public benefit) and (2) farms that use climate-smart agriculture and forestry practices developed or prescribed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She must submit a list of these fees to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025.

§§ 10 & 11 — CONNECTICUT CLEAN ECONOMY COUNCIL

Establishes a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise on strategies and policies to further climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability efforts; requires the council to (1) develop a plan to transition workers away from fossil-fuel-based jobs to those in clean energy and (2) submit an annual report of its work to the governor, OPM, and four legislative committees

The bill establishes a statutory Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise on strategies and policies to strengthen the state's climate

mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs, particularly for vulnerable communities (i.e., populations that may be disproportionately affected by climate change). (Executive Order (EO) 21-3 created an advisory council of the same name to give input on strategies and policies to strengthen climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs.)

Duties and Reporting Requirements

Under the bill, the council has the following duties:

1. identify opportunities to (a) leverage state and federal funding to scale economic opportunities related to clean energy, climate, and sustainability investments and (b) maximize local economic benefits from investments needed to meet the state’s climate and sustainability goals;
2. develop (a) workforce development strategies that complement the GHG emissions reduction goals and (b) strategies for using existing workforce requirements that apply to certain renewable energy and hydrogen projects;
3. support equitable and diverse participation in the workforce to create opportunities for underrepresented populations (e.g., environmental justice community residents, women, minorities, and formerly incarcerated people); and
4. advise the governor and DECD commissioner on any statewide economic action plan.

Under the bill, the workforce development strategies that complement the GHG emission reduction goals must include:

1. developing (a) work-based learning programs and (b) certificate and degree programs at technical education and career schools and higher education institutions in the state;
2. identifying available public or private funding to support the

- above programs and give grants to apprentices and students; and
3. implementing a strategy to market and recruit people, particularly those from underrepresented populations, to existing and new work-based learning programs and certificate and degree programs at job centers, technical education and career schools, and higher education institutions.

The bill requires the council to develop a plan to transition workers from fossil-fuel-based jobs to clean energy jobs, which must be submitted to the Commerce, Energy and Technology, and Environment committees by February 1, 2026. (It correspondingly eliminates similar requirements for the advisory council created under EO 21-3 to develop and annually update a worker transition plan to clean energy jobs and annually report on it to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.)

The bill also requires the council to annually submit a report, beginning by February 1, 2026, to the governor, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), and the Commerce, Energy and Technology, Environment, and Higher Education and Employment Advancement committees, on its work, findings, and recommendations.

Membership and Meetings

Under the bill, the council consists of the following members:

1. the DECD, DEEP, Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Labor, and Department of Consumer Protection commissioners or their designees;
2. the Chief Workforce Officer (i.e., head of the Office of Workforce Strategy) or her designee;
3. the OPM secretary or his designee;
4. the Connecticut Green Bank and CI chief executive officers, or their designees;

5. a representative from the governor’s office;
6. any other members the cochairpersons designate who serve at the cochairpersons’ pleasure; and
7. six members appointed by the six legislative leaders, as shown in the below table.

Table: Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Qualification
House speaker	Member of the Connecticut Technical Education Career System
Senate president pro tempore	Represents a regional workforce development board
House majority leader	Expert in hiring and training employees in the green technologies’ trades
Senate majority leader	Represents a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping people overcome workforce participation barriers
House minority leader	Member of the Connecticut State Building Trades Council
Senate minority leader	Represents a higher education institution and has expertise in technical education

Under the bill, the council cochairpersons are the DECD and DEEP commissioners and the Chief Workforce Officer, or their designees. The bill requires the council to meet at least quarterly with the cochairpersons setting the dates, times, and locations for the meetings. A majority of the members of the council constitutes a quorum.

The bill allows the council to form working groups to address workforce development in specific sectors in the clean energy and sustainability fields.

§ 12 — TASK FORCE ON UNDERUTILIZED SITES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Establishes a task force to study underutilized sites in the state for use by entrepreneurs in the climate and clean energy sector and requires it to submit its findings and recommendations to the Commerce and Environment committees by January 1, 2025

The bill establishes a 12-member task force to study underutilized sites, including brownfields, in the state for use by entrepreneurs in the

climate and clean energy sector, such as those engaged in developing plastic alternatives. It also requires the task force to (1) identify additional resources and strategies needed to create successful green economy incubators in various geographic locations throughout the state and (2) examine how municipalities can help support this incubator growth.

Membership

The task force's membership includes (1) the DECD and DEEP commissioners, or their designees; (2) the Connecticut Green Bank and CI chief executive officers, or their designees; and (3) eight appointed members, as shown in the table below.

Table: Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Number	Qualification
House speaker	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One expert in promoting environmentally sustainable businesses in the state • One expert in promoting energy efficiency throughout the state
Senate president pro tempore	Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One from an organization that promotes young entrepreneurs in the state • One from an organization that promotes climate-smart agriculture in the state
House majority leader	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents an organization that is for young people interested in climate change action
Senate majority leader	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From an organization that specializes in architectural heritage
House minority leader	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents an incubator program at a college or university in the state
Senate minority leader	One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents an organization that advocates for municipalities in the state

Under the bill, initial task force appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill's passage. Appointed members may be legislators and the appointing authority fills any vacancy. The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairperson from among the membership.

Meetings & Staff

The bill requires the task force chairperson to schedule and hold the

first meeting within 60 days after the bill's passage. The Commerce and Environment committees' administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

Report & Termination

The bill requires the task force to submit a report to the Commerce and Environment committees by January 1, 2025, with its findings and recommendations. The task force ends on the day it submits the report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

§ 13 — PURA ENERGY STORAGE REPORT

Requires PURA to (1) report, by February 15, 2025, and then every three years, to the Energy and Technology Committee on progress of behind-the-meter energy storage deployment and (2) take certain actions to increase energy storage

The bill requires PURA, by February 15, 2025, and then every three years, to report to the Energy and Technology Committee on quantifiable progress of behind-the-meter energy storage deployment in residential and nonresidential sectors. Energy storage systems are generally technology capable of absorbing energy, storing it, and then dispatching it (e.g., a battery) (CGS § 16-1(48)).

In the years between reports, the bill requires PURA to take actions, through its annual uncontested program review proceeding on increasing energy storage capacity in the state, that are consistent with the following:

1. providing positive net present value to all ratepayers;
2. providing multiple types of benefits to the electric grid; and
3. fostering sustained, orderly development of a state-based electric energy storage industry.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, authorizes PURA to develop and implement programs for electric storage resources connected to the electric distribution system (CGS § 16-243ee) and establishes statewide energy storage deployment goals in statute (CGS § 16-243cc).

§ 14 — SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION GRANTS

Adds air source and ground source heat pump projects to the list of school construction project grant applications that the DAS commissioner can approve at any time

The bill adds air source and ground source heat pump purchase and installation to the list of school construction project grant applications that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) commissioner can approve at any time without putting them on an annual school construction priority list for the legislature's approval. The commissioner may already approve applications for grants to do things like remedy code violations and fire damage; replace roofs; fix a certified school indoor air quality emergency; or purchase or install solar panels, wind generation systems, and windows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024

§ 15 — ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRODUCT STANDARDS REPORT

Requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025, on recommendations for changing the product energy efficiency standards law to provide for the sale and installation of certain heating and cooling systems that do not emit GHGs

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to submit a report to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2025, on recommendations for changing the product energy efficiency standards law to provide for the sale and installation of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, hot water heating systems, and geothermal systems that do not emit GHGs. The recommendations must include suggested implementation dates and proposed consumer education efforts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 16 — RESIDENTIAL HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS PLAN & REBATE PROGRAM

Requires the DEEP commissioner to (1) develop a plan for installing heat pumps and (2) report on the plan to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by January 1, 2026; allows DEEP to create a rebate program for heat pumps used for heating systems

Heat Pump Plan

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to develop a plan for installing heat pumps for heating systems in the state, including

through certain existing state programs.

The plan must (1) include a target number of installations that is consistent with the United States Climate Alliance’s goals (i.e., goals set by a coalition of governors committed to achieving certain emissions reduction goals) and (2) prioritize installations for (a) homes in environmental justice communities and (b) long-term care facilities with at least 80% of residents receiving Medicaid that are in good financial standing with the state. The existing programs that may be involved in the plan include the multifamily retrofit pilot program for homes in environmental justice communities and low interest energy efficiency loan, residential heating equipment financing, affordable housing energy efficiency retrofit grant, and Connecticut Green Bank programs.

The commissioner must submit a report to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees by January 1, 2026, on the plan’s status to reach the goal and any related recommendations to expand or revise the plan.

Rebate Program

The bill authorizes the DEEP commissioner to establish, within available appropriations, a program to give rebates at the point of sale for purchasing heat pumps used for heating systems in the state. Under the bill, the program may use funding available from federal programs or state bonding authorizations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2024

§ 17 — LOCAL PLANS OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Requires municipal conservation and development plans scheduled for adoption beginning October 1, 2026, to evaluate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency

The bill requires municipal plans of conservation and development that are scheduled for adoption beginning October 1, 2026, to evaluate the municipality’s environmental sustainability and climate resiliency.

By law, each municipality must have a plan of conservation and development. The plans are statements of development, resource

management, and investment policies. Municipalities must update their plans at least every 10 years.

§§ 18 & 19 — ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PURCHASING

Requires OPM to develop and post online a model policy or guidelines for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities can use; for FYs 26 & 27, requires the OPM secretary to authorize LoCIP funding to municipalities that received points under Sustainable CT's program for implementing a sustainable purchasing policy

The bill requires OPM, in consultation with DAS, to develop a model policy or guidelines for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may use and implement.

Under the bill, the policy or guidelines must include a list of any state contracts for sustainable purchasing that allow municipalities to participate. The DAS commissioner must post the policy or guidelines on the department's website by January 1, 2025.

By law, the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), administered by OPM, provides funding to municipalities for the cost of eligible local capital improvement projects. OPM distributes LoCIP funds to municipalities based on a statutory formula. In addition to the distribution, the bill requires OPM, for FYs 26 and 27, to authorize funding for municipalities that are certified "Sustainable CT" towns and were awarded points under the Sustainable CT program for implementing a sustainable purchasing policy. Sustainable CT is a nonprofit organization that maintains a voluntary certification program (with levels based on points) for municipalities that support sustainability practices.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the LoCIP provision is effective July 1, 2024.

§ 20 — STATE BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

Requires DAS to (1) develop a process for considering certain energy-related aspects when deciding to repair or build state real assets under its authority and (2) develop a plan and budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems to those that operate without carbon-emitting fuels

The bill requires DAS, by January 1, 2026, to establish a process for its commissioner to consider certain energy-related aspects when deciding to remodel, alter, repair, construct, or enlarge any state real asset under its existing property authority. Specifically, it must consider the asset's capability to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy use, use Class I renewable energy, use zero-carbon heating and cooling and water heating alternatives, and support electric vehicle charging. DAS must do this in consultation with OPM, DEEP, DOT, and any other state agency its commissioner deems necessary.

The bill also requires DAS, by January 1, 2026, and in consultation with OPM and DEEP, to develop a plan and budget to retrofit existing fossil fuel-based heating and cooling systems at state buildings to systems able to operate without carbon-emitting fuels. The plan and budget must be submitted to the Environment and Energy and Technology committees.

§ 21 — NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS PRIORITIZATION AND RELATED REPORT

Requires DEEP to prioritize using nature-based solutions to (1) support climate change mitigation and adaptation and (2) increase biodiversity; requires DEEP to submit a report to the Environment Committee that assesses and reviews program guidelines and planning documents and identifies programs that DEEP uses to support nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to prioritize using nature-based solutions to (1) support climate change mitigation and adaptation and (2) increase biodiversity. It also requires her to prepare a report (1) with an assessment and review of program guidelines and planning documents and (2) that identifies existing agency programs that DEEP uses to further using nature-based solutions that support climate change mitigation and adaption.

Under the bill, the report must examine the potential for using nature-based solutions in the following programs:

1. microgrid and resilience grant and loan pilot program;
2. open space and watershed land acquisition program; and

3. other state and federal programs DEEP administers that advance nature-based solutions, including federal Clean Water Act programs, the Long Island Sound Study program, and the Urban Forestry program.

The bill designates DEEP's efforts to advance nature-based solutions in the above programs as the "nature-based solutions initiative."

Report Development

The bill requires the commissioner, when preparing the report, to identify best practices to encourage the use of the state's ecosystems to naturally sequester and store carbon, reduce GHG emissions, increase biodiversity, and protect against climate change impacts. These best practices include the following:

1. increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest acreage (e.g., reforestation),
2. controlling invasive species,
3. encouraging soil health across all landscapes,
4. protecting carbon stocks by avoiding conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes,
5. restoring habitats,
6. increasing climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation to reduce GHG emissions while improving habitat and protecting biodiversity,
7. increasing community resilience by improving water quality and addressing flooding and drought through nature-based stormwater management and shoreline protection that uses nature-based approaches (e.g., living shorelines), and
8. improving air quality and reducing urban heat island effects through urban forestry and increasing green spaces.

Under the bill, the commissioner must (1) post the report on DEEP's website by November 30, 2024, for people to review and give written comments and (2) hold a listening session after the report is posted to obtain public comment. She must also give it to the following agencies for review and input: departments of agriculture, housing, public health, and transportation; the Connecticut Green Bank; and OPM.

Report Submission

The bill requires the DEEP commissioner to submit the report to the Environment Committee by December 31, 2024.

§ 22 — SOLAR CANOPY STRATEGIC PLAN

Requires DEEP to develop and approve a solar canopy strategic plan

The bill requires DEEP, in consultation with PURA, to develop and approve a solar canopy strategic plan by July 1, 2025. The plan must:

1. identify opportunities and potential sites for solar canopies in the state (e.g., parking lots);
2. prioritize developing solar canopies in environmental justice communities;
3. examine different ways to promote solar canopies (e.g., at schools, government buildings, and parking lots); and
4. include recommendations for policies, programs, or regulations to promote solar canopy construction in the state, consistent with the state's GHG reduction goals, the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES).

By law, an environmental justice community is a (1) U.S. census block group in which at least 30% of the population is non-institutionalized low-income people with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level or (2) distressed municipality (CGS § 22a-20a). The IRP is a plan DEEP develops every two years in consultation with electric distribution companies to review and plan for the state's energy needs (CGS § 16a-3a). The CES is a strategy DEEP prepares every four years to

guide the state's energy policy (CGS § 16a-3d).

§ 23 — TRANSMISSION SYSTEM TASK FORCE

Establishes a task force to study the current transmission system in Connecticut and the region and requires it to submit its findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2025

The bill establishes an 11-member task force to study the state and region's current transmission system and any upgrades and enhancements needed to support the state's reliability, affordability, and clean energy needs. As part of the study, the task force must consider (1) in-state and regional transmission upgrades; (2) regional needs; (3) cost-benefit analyses; and (4) the potential use of grid enhancing technologies, advanced conductors, and energy storage as a transmission asset.

Membership

The task force's membership includes (1) the DEEP commissioner and the PURA chairperson, or their respective designees; (2) a representative of the Office of Consumer Council; and (3) eight appointed members, as shown in the table below.

Table: Appointed Members

Appointing Authority	Qualification
House speaker	Expert on existing electric transmission infrastructure in the state
Senate president pro tempore	Represents an environmental advocacy organization with expertise in renewable energy
House majority leader	Expert in grid enhancing technologies
Senate majority leader	Expert in the regional transmission system
House minority leader	Expert on technologies that the state's transmission system currently uses
Senate minority leader	Expert on environmental impact of updating or replacing electric transmission infrastructure
Energy and Technology Committee chairpersons	Represents an EDC with a service area of at least 18 municipalities (i.e., Eversource)
Energy and Technology Committee ranking members	Represents an EDC with a service area of up to 17 municipalities (i.e., United Illuminating)

Under the bill, initial task force appointments must be made within

30 days after the bill's passage. The appointing authority fills any vacancy. The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select the task force's chairpersons from among the membership.

Meetings & Staff

The bill requires the task force chairpersons to schedule the first meeting, which must be held within 60 days after the bill's passage. The Energy and Technology Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

Report & Termination

The bill requires the task force to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2025. The task force ends on the day it submits the report or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 321) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute (File 613) that eliminated provisions in the bill on (1) GHG emission reduction goals, (2) permits for fossil-fueled electricity generators, (3) electricity and electric vehicle power source and cost posting requirements for DEEP, (4) a new Connecticut Clean Economy Council, (5) PURA's energy storage program, (6) school building project grant percentages, (7) local plans of conservation and development, (8) state building electrical systems, and (9) a report about nature-based solutions to support climate mitigation and adaptation.

Related Bills

sSB 11 (File 198), favorably reported by the Environment and Finance, Revenue and Bonding committees, among other things, requires local plans of conservation and development to also include a climate change vulnerability assessment and other information related to threats and vulnerabilities from hazards, natural disasters, and climate change (§§

11 & 12).

sHB 5356 (File 363), favorably reported by the Energy and Technology Committee, among other things, requires the DEEP commissioner to study the state’s natural gas capacity, including ways to expand it, and report her findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2025.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 11 (03/20/2024)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 16 (04/22/2024)