

Connecticut Climate Coalition

The Citizen Campaign to Reduce Global Warming Pollution in CT

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Timeline of Progress

- **August 2001**– New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers pledge to combat global warming
- **Fall 2002**– CT Climate Coalition launch prompts citizens to send over 3500 letters to Governor Rowland asking him to take action
- **May 2004**– With broad public support the CT legislature passes global warming goals legislation that commits the state to create a global warming plan by early 2005
- **February 15, 2005**– Connecticut releases near-term global warming plan and begins to put the policies into action
- **December 2005**– Governor Rell officially joins CT to landmark regional initiative to cut carbon dioxide pollution from power plants
- **June 2007**– CT energy law requires power plants to pay for global warming pollution; requires new state energy plan to prioritizing energy efficiency programs over power plants and transmission lines; mandates utilities procure 20% renewable energy by the year 2020
- **June 2007**- New state budget includes \$10 million to reduce diesel soot from school buses by 2010.
- **July 2007** DOT begins transit bus diesel pollution retrofits.
- **April 2008** Municipal 20% by 2010 clean energy campaign reaches 75 town mark
- **May 2008** Legislature adopts mandatory global warming limits

New England States Lead the Way!

In 2001 President Bush announced that America, responsible for a quarter of the world's global warming pollution, would not participate in the Kyoto Protocol, a binding international agreement to reduce this pollution.

Later that same year, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers committed the region to reduce greenhouse gas pollution to:

- **1990 levels by 2010,**
- **10% below 1990 levels by 2020**
- **75-85% below current levels in the long-term to avoid dangerous global warming**

To ensure action citizens formed the New England Climate Coalition in 2002. In Connecticut, Clean Water Action coordinates the Connecticut Climate Coalition, a coalition of over 90 organizations whose memberships represent more than 500,000 Connecticut residents.



CT Climate Coalition Rally at Yale Governors Meeting 2008

Groundbreaking Progress In Connecticut

The debate over the science on global warming has shifted to a debate about how best to address the problem. Since 2002 Clean Water Action and Connecticut Climate Coalition supporters have been working to demonstrate public support to make a state global warming plan a reality.

In 2004 we worked to **pass global warming goals legislation** in the spring of 2004. The legislation adopted the New England Governors' pollution reduction goals and mandated that the state release a climate plan by February 2005.

The Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan includes policies to **strengthen consumer energy efficiency programs, reduce "black carbon" diesel soot, protect open space, double the recycling rate and invest in clean energy.** The state climate plan is available at www.ctclimatechange.com

In 2008 we worked with environmental groups across the state to pass a law strengthening our voluntary state climate goals into **mandatory emissions limits** and the law requires that the agencies update the state climate plan every three years and show steady progress towards achieving the reductions.

We are now working to transform Connecticut into a national model for action on global warming. **We are working to dramatically expand investments in energy efficiency programs for electricity, heating oil and natural gas, ramp-up investments in solar power,** prevent new coal plants from being built in Connecticut, reduce diesel pollution, and support more towns as they become 20% by 2010 "clean energy communities."

GET INVOLVED:

For email updates about what you can do, email coordinator Roger Smith rsmith@cleanwater.org, call us at (860)232-6232, and visit www.cleanwateraction.org/ct

Current Connecticut Climate Coalition Priorities

To continue setting an example for the nation by showing that the solutions to global warming are here, we need to put the state climate plan into action! In 2008 the Connecticut Climate Coalition is focusing on **supporting a mandatory global warming cap, keeping new coal plants out of Connecticut, reducing diesel pollution, improving home energy efficiency, and supporting clean energy:**

Mandatory limit on global warming pollution

Connecticut can regain its national lead on global warming by adopting a mandatory, enforceable statewide cap on global warming pollution. Making the 2001 New England Governors' pollution reduction goals mandatory would send a strong message to Washington, and pave the way for similarly tough standards in other states.

Energy Efficiency- the solution to high oil, gas, and electricity costs

Increasing demand for oil and gas are raising energy prices here in Connecticut. While there is little we can do to control the supply of energy, we can control how much energy we use.

In 2007 citizens helped pass legislation to prioritize all cost-saving electricity efficiency over more fossil fuel power plants and power lines. The electric utilities have recommend tripling investments in CT Energy Efficiency Fund programs (www.ctsavesenergy.org) and we work to ensure this happens.

Moving forward we need citizens support to overcome opposition from oil and gas dealers to **strengthen programs for heating oil and natural gas to provide incentives and in-home help for consumers to upgrade their appliances and weatherize their homes.**

Diesel Pollution

Diesel pollution is implicated in childhood asthma, and associated with asthma attacks, heart attacks, and cancer and Connecticut is among the worst affected states. See how diesel pollution affects your community here: <http://catf.us/projects/diesel/dieselhealth/> Diesel pollution is also a major global warming pollutant as "black carbon" soot traps heat and warms the atmosphere.

Victory: In 2007 we helped pass legislation requiring and funding pollution controls for school buses. Now we are asking the governor and DOT to **prioritize the clean-up of all construction equipment working on state projects**, as these vehicles pollute heavily near where people live and work. Visit cleanwateraction.org/ct for updates.

No new dirty coal plants

The construction of a single new coal-fired power plant could make it impossible to meet the state's climate goals, locking us into high emissions for decades to come. Connecticut should protect its progress by joining Washington state and California and adopt a stringent emissions rate for any new baseload power plants built to serve Connecticut.

Clean Energy 20% by 2010 campaign

Citizens are working to make their towns "clean energy communities" which commit to 20% clean electricity by the year 2010 and cut town building energy use. So far over 80 towns have joined the 20% by 2010 campaign! Learn more and see how your town compares at <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/communities/> Households can also support power generated from clean energy sources by signing up for **CT Clean Energy Options** on your electricity bill or at www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com. If you live in a 20% by 2010 towns, you can help your town earn free solar panels worth \$10,000 just by signing up. The town gets rewarded for every 100 Clean Energy Options signups.

Connecticut Global Warming Pollution by Source in 2005

