



AN ACT CONCERNING ZERO-CARBON EMISSIONS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The state of Connecticut
2 hereby declares a climate emergency to increase access to federal funds
3 and demonstrate the urgency for enacting meaningful climate
4 legislation. Such emergency threatens the resilience and, in some cases,
5 the existence of communities in this state, including multiple aspects of
6 the state's environment, economy and the quality of life for younger
7 generations of state residents. Accordingly, the state declares climate
8 change as a public health and environmental justice emergency and
9 recognizes the urgency to significantly and rapidly increase
10 community coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate
11 extremes and climate refugees. The state recognizes the need and
12 urgency to mitigate climate impacts and prepare for and manage
13 disaster risk from climate extremes. Such declaration shall not
14 authorize the Governor to utilize the provisions of this subsection to
15 operate the government of the state through executive order.

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

21 installation, community climate resilience and environmental justice
22 opportunities and training for clean energy sector jobs and fossil fuel-
23 to-clean-energy business transitions.

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

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

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

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

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

51 (h) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection

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

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

71 (j) The Department of Economic and Community Development and
72 the Office of Workforce Strategy shall work with all industries in the
73 state impacted by the transition away from the use of fossil fuels and
74 develop job retraining plans for such industries not later than October
75 1, 2023.

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

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*