

**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 generations of state residents.
8 Accordingly, the state recognizes the urgency to significantly and
9 rapidly decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase community
10 coping capacities to handle the impacts of climate change. The state
11 recognizes the need and urgency to mitigate climate impacts and
12 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) Each state agency shall have
17 the following greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals: (1) A forty-five
18 per cent reduction from 2001 levels by 2030; (2) a seventy per cent
19 reduction from 2016 levels by 2040; and (3) achieving a level determined
20 to be net-zero by 2050. For purposes of this subsection, "net-zero" has
21 the same meaning as provided in section 22a-200 of the general statutes,
22 as amended by this act.

23 (b) Each state agency shall have the goal of only utilizing zero-carbon
24 generating electricity by 2030.

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 Section 22a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

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

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

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

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

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

45 (5) "Indirect emissions" means emissions associated with the
46 consumption of purchased electricity, steam and heating or cooling by
47 an entity or facility;

48 (6) "Carbon sequestration" means the removal of greenhouse gases
49 from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions such as soils,
50 forests, wetlands or working or natural lands and through technological
51 solutions that have the primary purpose of removing greenhouse gases

52 from the atmosphere;

53 (7) "Net-zero" means a level of greenhouse gas reduction marked by
54 the complete offset of any greenhouse gases emitted by any greenhouse
55 gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration.

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

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

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

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

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

66 (4) Not later than January 1, 2050, to [a] an economy-wide net-zero
67 level, taking into account carbon sequestration, provided direct and
68 indirect emissions of greenhouse gases are at least eighty per cent below
69 the level emitted in 2001; and

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

72 (b) On or before January 1, 2010, and biannually thereafter, the state
73 agencies that are members of the Governor's Steering Committee on
74 Climate Change shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of
75 Policy and Management and the Commissioner of Energy and
76 Environmental Protection. The report shall identify existing and
77 proposed activities and improvements to the facilities of such agencies
78 that are designed to meet state agency energy savings goals established
79 by the Governor. The report shall also identify policies and regulations

80 that could be adopted in the near future by such agencies to reduce
81 greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with subsection (a) of this
82 section.

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

98 (2) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall
99 enter into an agreement with a consultant for the preparation of a report
100 to be submitted not later than January 1, 2026, to the joint standing
101 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
102 relating to the environment and energy. Such report shall: (A) Contain
103 strategies for achieving the greenhouse gas emissions reductions
104 required in subsection (a) of this section, (B) indicate whether a strategy
105 to achieve such limits should include sector specific emission reduction
106 targets and, if so, in what manner and order of priority such sector
107 specific targets should be implemented, and (C) evaluate the adequacy
108 of the standards contained in section 16-245a. No recommendation
109 contained in such report shall be implemented without the approval of
110 each chamber of the General Assembly.

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

112 mandated greenhouse cap and trade program including greenhouse gas
113 emissions subject to any state cap and trade requirements adopted
114 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Energy and
115 Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
116 Management shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
117 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
118 cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and
119 technology and transportation. Such report shall explain the differences
120 between such federal and state requirements and shall identify any
121 further regulatory or legislative actions needed to achieve consistency
122 with such federal program.

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

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

145 policies and other actions necessary to [show] make reasonable further
146 progress towards achieving the greenhouse gas emission levels
147 specified in section 22a-200a, as amended by this act, to attain the levels
148 specified in said section by the relevant date provided. Such regulatory
149 actions may include carbon sequestration.

150 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,
151 the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall initiate a docket
152 regarding the future of natural gas use in the state in relation to the
153 provisions of section 22a-200a of the general statutes. Upon completion
154 of such docket, said authority shall submit a report, in accordance with
155 the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
156 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
157 matters relating to the environment and energy on any
158 recommendations for legislative changes necessary to implement the
159 findings of such docket.

160 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding any provision
161 of title 22a of the general statutes, whenever the Commissioner of
162 Energy and Environmental Protection considers an application to grant
163 or modify a permit for fossil-fueled electricity-generating units, the
164 commissioner shall require an evaluation of the replacement of some or
165 all of the fossil-fueled electricity-generating capacity with energy or
166 energy storage that does not have emissions associated with it. Such
167 evaluation shall be prepared by an independent contractor at such
168 applicant's expense and shall include: (1) The technical feasibility of
169 replacing or supplementing some or all of the fossil-fueled electricity-
170 generating capacity with renewable energy or energy storage of a type
171 that is in commercial use; and (2) the total project cost of replacing or
172 supplementing some or all of the fossil-fueled electricity-generating
173 capacity with renewable energy and energy storage that is technically
174 feasible. Whenever the commissioner determines that replacement of
175 some or all of such fossil-fueled generators is technically and
176 economically feasible, the commissioner may require the applicant to
177 include such energy or energy storage that does not have emissions

178 associated with it, as a condition of granting or modifying any permit
179 pursuant to section 22a-174 or 22a-183 of the general statutes.

180 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2025,
181 the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall publish
182 on its Internet web site consolidated information on the cost and sources
183 of electricity in the state and electric vehicle power source information
184 as well as electric vehicle service and supply equipment. Such
185 consolidated information shall additionally include, but not be limited
186 to, information concerning Class I renewable energy deployments in the
187 state, other distributed energy resources in the state, energy storage
188 deployment in the state, the state's electricity and natural gas
189 consumption, heating fuel consumption for the state by type of fuel,
190 information on energy efficiency program participation, federal
191 weatherization program participation information and information on
192 efficiency barrier remediation program participation.

193 Sec. 9. 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. 10. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Revenue

210 Services, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Economic and
211 Community Development, shall identify business fees that are
212 appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and farms that are
213 environmentally sustainable. Not later than January 1, 2025, the
214 Commissioner of Revenue Services shall submit a list of such fees to the
215 joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
216 matters relating to the environment.

217 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
218 Connecticut Clean Economy Council that shall advise on strategies and
219 policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy,
220 resilience and sustainability programs for the purpose of lowering
221 emissions and advancing the state of economic and environmental
222 justice for residents of the state.

223 (b) Such council shall meet not less than quarterly, at dates, times and
224 locations to be established by the cochairpersons of such council. The
225 council shall: (1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal
226 funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy,
227 climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic
228 development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and
229 sustainability goals of the state, (2) ensure the state's workforce is
230 trained to deliver climate and sustainability solutions and support
231 equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability
232 economic development opportunities from both diverse employers and
233 diverse job seekers, (3) work with the Office of Workforce Strategy to
234 increase workforce training in the clean energy sector with a goal of
235 creating opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the
236 workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities, as
237 defined in section 22a-20a of the general statutes, women, minorities
238 and formerly incarcerated persons, (4) develop a plan for transitioning
239 workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs.
240 Such plan shall be submitted, not later than February 1, 2026, to the joint
241 standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of
242 matters relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in

243 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
244 and (5) be consulted by the Governor and the Commissioner of
245 Economic and Community Development on any state-wide economic
246 action plan. The council may form working groups to address workforce
247 development in specific sectors within the fields of clean energy and
248 sustainability.

249 (c) Such council shall be comprised of the following members: (1) The
250 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
251 commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the
252 council, (2) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection,
253 or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson
254 of the council, (3) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,
255 or the secretary's designee, (4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or
256 the commissioner's designee, (5) the Commissioner of the Office of
257 Workforce Strategy, or the commissioner's designee, (6) a representative
258 from the office of the Governor, (7) the chief executive officer of the
259 Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer's designee, (8) the
260 chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the
261 chief executive officer's designee; and (9) any other member so
262 designated by the cochairpersons. Any member appointed pursuant to
263 subdivision (9) of this subsection shall serve at the pleasure of the
264 cochairpersons of the council.

265 (d) A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a
266 quorum.

267 (e) Not later than February 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the
268 council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the
269 Governor, the Office of Policy and Management and the joint standing
270 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
271 relating to the environment, energy and commerce, in accordance with
272 section 11-4a of the general statutes.

273 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2025,
274 and annually thereafter, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated shall

275 submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
276 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
277 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment and
278 energy on investments and assistance provided to companies engaged
279 in matters related to the mitigation of climate change.

280 Sec. 13. (*Effective July 1, 2024*) The Public Utilities Regulatory
281 Authority shall expand the energy storage program established by the
282 authority in Docket No. 17-12-03RE03. The authority shall: (1) Increase
283 the cumulative storage deployment target for such program to one
284 thousand megawatts; and (2) increase the size of incentives under the
285 program if it concludes that such increase is reasonable, prudent and
286 provides value to ratepayers.

287 Sec. 14. Section 10-285a of the 2024 supplement to the general statutes
288 is amended by adding subsection (l) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

289 (NEW) (l) The percentage determined pursuant to this section for a
290 school building project grant, including, but not limited to, any
291 renovation, for the installation of a renewable energy or energy
292 efficiency project, shall be increased by ten percentage points.

293 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) Not later than January 1,
294 2025, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in
295 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, shall submit a
296 report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
297 cognizance of matters relating to the environment on recommendations
298 for amendments to section 16a-48 of the general statutes to provide for
299 the sale and installation in the state of heating, ventilation and air
300 conditioning systems, hot water heating systems and geothermal
301 systems that do not emit greenhouse gases. Such recommendations shall
302 include, but not be limited to, suggested implementation dates for any
303 such requirement and proposed consumer education efforts to inform
304 the public about such systems.

305 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2024*) The Commissioner of Energy

306 and Environmental Protection, in conjunction with the Connecticut
307 Green Bank, shall develop a plan for the installation, within available
308 resources, of not less than three hundred ten thousand heat pumps for
309 residential heating systems in the state, including, but not limited to,
310 through any program established pursuant to section 8-240a, 16a-40b,
311 16a-40l or 16a-46m of the general statutes. Not later than January 1, 2026,
312 the commissioner shall submit a report, in accordance with the
313 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing
314 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
315 relating to the environment and energy on the status of such plan in
316 reaching such goal and any attendant recommendations for expanding
317 or revising such plan.

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

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

328 (2) Any municipal plan of conservation and development scheduled
329 for adoption on or after January 1, 2025, shall evaluate environmental
330 sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

331 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2024,
332 the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in consultation
333 with the Department of Administrative Services, shall develop a model
334 policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities
335 may voluntarily utilize and implement.

336 Sec. 19. Subsection (e) of section 7-536 of the 2024 supplement to the

337 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
338 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2024*):

339 (e) (1) Each municipality may apply to the secretary for project
340 authorization and expense reimbursement of local capital improvement
341 projects.

342 (2) Notwithstanding the deadlines imposed by this section, each
343 municipality that has expended funds in the fiscal year ending June 30,
344 2013, on projects listed in subparagraphs (T) to (X), inclusive, of
345 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section may apply to the
346 secretary for reimbursement of such expenses.

347 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (2) of
348 subsection (f) of this section, the secretary, at the secretary's discretion,
349 may authorize expense reimbursement for a project listed in
350 subparagraphs (T) to (Y), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)
351 of this section prior to such project's inclusion on the local capital
352 improvement plan adopted by a municipality. The secretary may
353 require certification from the municipality that such municipality is
354 taking steps to amend its local capital improvement plan to include such
355 project.

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

362 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section,
363 for the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, the
364 secretary shall additionally authorize expense reimbursement for any
365 municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's
366 model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds
367 appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

368 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding title 4b of the
369 general statutes, any new or existing state building shall either be
370 constructed utilizing electrical systems that are not reliant upon fossil
371 fuels or greenhouse gas emissions for operation or, upon major
372 renovation, retrofitted to utilize such electrical systems provided
373 funding is available for such purpose.

374 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of
375 Energy and Environmental Protection shall prepare a report that
376 outlines a proposed plan and program for advancing nature-based
377 solutions in the state that support climate mitigation and adaptation.
378 Such report shall include, but not be limited to, an analysis of the
379 associated funding needs for such plan, an identification of potential
380 federal, state, or other funding sources and a proposed timeline for
381 implementation of such plan, provided such plan shall be implemented
382 not later than July 1, 2026. Not later than December 31, 2025, the
383 commissioner, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes,
384 shall submit such report to the joint standing committee of the General
385 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

386 (b) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a)
387 of this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1)
388 Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest extent,
389 including reforestation, (2) controlling invasive species, (3) growing
390 forests to greater maturity, (4) protecting carbon stocks through the
391 avoided conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes, (5)
392 restoring coastal habitats, and (6) increasing climate-smart agriculture
393 and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while
394 improving habitat and protecting biodiversity.

395 (c) The nature-based solutions program described in subsection (a) of
396 this section may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: (1)
397 Acquisition of land and conservation easements to provide upslope
398 advancement zones adjacent to tidal marshes, (2) a comprehensive
399 modeling assessment of the extent of inland migration of tidal marshes

400 needed to inform adaptation decisions, (3) the acquisition of land and
 401 conservation easements in riparian areas adjacent to cold water streams,
 402 (4) the adoption or amendment of regulations, in accordance with
 403 chapter 54 of the general statutes, that provide stream flow levels
 404 necessary to ensure the resilience and ecological integrity of cold water
 405 streams, (5) increasing active management of upland forests to improve
 406 regeneration, diversity and resilience, (6) collaborating with other
 407 northeast states and federal agencies to develop a coordinated regional
 408 adaptation approach for the conservation of habitats and species at risk,
 409 and (7) advancing connectivity among habitats.

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>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	32-7t(c)(3)
Sec. 10	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	10-285a(l)
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