



Climate Campaign Updates 2022

For a short session, CCAG members and allies accomplished a lot, together, we laid the groundwork for even more progress. We adopted many powerful measures to help mitigate climate change. There is far more to do – but, because of you, we've seen real progress so far.

CLIMATE JUSTICE: It is thanks to CCAG members and allies that were able to blanket the sea, air and land with demands for climate justice last summer, which we believe helped set the stage for many legislative victories this year. We have more, bold climate actions planned, and are redoubling our efforts to ensure Connecticut continues to lead the nation in progressive actions.

Victory! [SB 10 AAC Climate Change Mitigation](#). This is the Governor's climate change mitigation bill. It sets a zero-carbon electricity goal by 2040 and codifies steps in his earlier executive order. It's a pathway to a clean energy future, with improved climate emission targets. Much work remains but this is a positive step.

Victory! [SB 176 AAC Shared Clean Energy Facilities](#). This increases caps on shared energy facilities. We support this but would like changes. Two last-minute amendments to the bill corrected an error in the definitions of low- and moderate income levels referenced in the (Shared Clean Energy Facilities) SCEF program, and require the Office of Policy Management to address the problem raised by members of our coalition of inconsistent property tax treatment of commercial solar.

Victory! Climate Change Education. Climate change is an emergency posing current and future threats to every human and the places we live. Education in schools and for the public is critical to build a base of knowledge and to support a just transition to a clean energy future for all, and to provide equal opportunities for careers. We are pleased this was voted out of the Education Committee as part of [HB 5285](#) and was included in the budget and has been implemented.

Victory! On Transportation Pollution, two positive bills [HB 5039](#) and [SB 4](#) were combined and passed as Public Act 22-25. This applies California's emissions standards to heavy and medium trucks and has other positive measures. Transportation pollution in Connecticut is a serious problem for public health, environmental justice, and our climate. The transportation sector accounts for 38% of greenhouse gas emissions, and disproportionately impacts Environmental Justice communities dealing with cumulative impacts of pollution.

Victory! Food Justice: [SB 243 AAC Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices](#), provides for reimbursement or payment of agricultural restoration plans that include climate-smart practices, as defined by the United State Department of Agriculture, and was included in the budget.

Partial Victory. [SB 423 AA Improving Indoor Air Quality in Public School Classrooms](#), requires local and regional boards of education to maintain healthy indoor air quality in their schools. Language from the bill is included in the budget as an ongoing grant program, with funding for the first year, but not in the school construction bond program, which would have been preferable. Still it is progress and we will work to strengthen it. Many thanks to CEA for its work creating and leading a coalition to fight for this.

MORE NEWS:

Last year, with your help Connecticut passed the First Climate-Related Risk Legislation in the nation. This was an important first step to make sure the Connecticut Department of Insurance (CID) supervises the climate risks that insurers are creating with their business decisions. A huge thanks to Senator Matt Lesser for championing this first-of-its-kind bill leading to the nation's first law requiring insurers to address climate risk. **The first report was released on March 29th of this year.** https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CID/1_Reports/2022-Climate-Progress-Report.pdf

While this is a great step forward, we are disappointed that the report doesn't explicitly call on insurers to reduce emissions in line with CT's climate targets.

It is clear that relying on the insurer's own commitments is not enough. We need to encourage insurers to bring commitments in line with Connecticut law and then monitor how they're implementing those commitments. We look forward to working together with our state's largest industry and continue to fight to #InsureOurFuture.

On May 25th CCAG members and allies rallied outside the Travelers Insurance annual shareholder meeting in downtown Hartford where we were able to ask a question to investors about their support of two climate resolutions that were brought to a vote.

- The first resolution asking Travelers to report on its' underwriting and investment emissions passed with 55% of the vote!
- The second resolution proposing to end underwriting of all new fossil fuels unfortunately failed, but received 13% of the vote.

On July 15th CCAG participated in the first Annual Seaside Sounds for Environmental Justice event and joined local organizations, organizers, musicians and creatives, at the beautiful Seaside Park in Bridgeport.

Together we helped raise awareness of the EJ issues harming public and environmental health in Bridgeport while increasing pride in the community by celebrating its history of Black and Brown liberation!

On July 28th, CCAG joined Sierra Club and The Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign in hosting a free film screening of [The Arctic: Our Last Great Wilderness](#) at the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford.

Along with the film we offered opportunities to take action to #ProtectTheArctic from oil and gas drilling that threaten Indigenous cultures, local wildlife and the global climate. Here in Connecticut, we have a role to play to protect this special place.

For updates on our current climate campaigns and a full wrap up of our July activities in pushing insurance companies to disinvest in fossil fuels visit www.ccag.net.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We need an equitable low-income discount rate of electricity as a critical part of a larger strategy to make energy more affordable for low-income, energy burdened households as Connecticut moves toward a cleaner and more efficient grid.

Connecticut has one of the highest electricity rates in the nation, and the impact of high rates is inequitable. The statewide average energy burden (household energy expenditures like electric, gas, heating fuel divided by annual household income) is 3%, while most of our cities experience rates of 6% or higher. Household energy burden that's higher than 6% is considered energy burdened and anything above 10% is considered severe.

To address these issues, CCAG joined with environmental justice, labor, housing, social services and social justice organizations and other allies in response to PURA's Notice of Request for Written Comments in Docket No. 17-12-03RE11 PURA Investigation into Distribution System Planning of the Electric Distribution Companies - New Rate Design and Rates Review. Visit our website to view details of these demands or request a copy by calling or emailing Duste Dunn.

DEMOCRACY: Voting is one of the most important ways we can all engage to ensure a positive climate outcome for our state and the nation.

Coming soon! The CCAG Legislative Scorecard. This Scorecard helps to inform how your elected officials voted on the various bills related to CCAG & Member concerns, helping with your decisions at the polls in November.

These are just a few highlights. For updates on these or other issues, contact:

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