



## 2023 CLIMATE, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

**[SB 4 AAC Connecticut's Present and Future Housing Needs.](#)** The legislature has an historic opportunity to invest state and federal dollars in energy efficiency, weatherization, solar, and electrification in our most vulnerable Environmental Justice communities. Sections 17 and 20 of the bill will result in lower energy costs, lower pollution, increased resilience to rising energy prices, improved indoor health, and job creation. CCAG is working closely with champions and allies for this bill, to provide funding over four years to invest in clean energy in Connecticut's Environmental Justice Communities; reduce bills through energy efficiency and improved housing; remove common health hazards including mold and asbestos; and install solar, battery and other clean energy fields with a focus on diversity. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[SB 961 AAC Carbon-Free School Requirements for New School Construction and Public Health Requirements for School Districts.](#)** We support this commonsense bill that will protect student and teachers' health, save districts money on energy, create good paying jobs, and help us to meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[HB 6397 AAC Zero Carbon Emissions.](#)** Compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act will require state agencies to consider and mitigate their climate impact, and update our emissions reduction targets. CCAG strongly supports efforts for Connecticut to divest from fossil fuels. While the State Treasurer is sole fiduciary for the state and teacher pension funds, the legislature has been known to set policies to guide the Office of the Treasurer. CCAG believes that the timeline outlined here may be a little more aggressive than is prudent, and that work needs to be done on the definition for companies to be divested from. We think the production and distribution needs to be included in addition to sales. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[HB 5634 AA Increasing Funding for Energy Efficiency Programs.](#)** CCAG strongly supports this bill with the additional funds going to the CLM fund instead of the Greenbank. Energy efficiency provides good, local jobs, helps reduce energy bills, and reduces our carbon emissions. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[SB 100 AAC Establishing an Account in the General Fund to Provide Grants to Towns that Need PFAS Testing and Remediation.](#)** This will be very helpful for dealing with earlier problems, but failing to do more to prevent future poisonings will only necessitate the allocation of more resources in the future while unnecessarily impacting the health of countless people. We strongly urge that this bill be amended with clauses that other states such as California, Maine, and New York are adopting to protect their residents. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[SB 7 AA Strengthening Protections for Connecticut's Consumers of Energy and SB 966 AAC the Procurement of Standard Service Electricity and the Regulation of Public Utilities.](#)** To promote a more equitable and transparent energy market that works in the best interest of Connecticut's consumers of energy.

CCAG has a long history of fighting for lower rates and cleaner energy. The current rate shock demands greater accountability and scrutiny of our utilities. Eversource is projected to have \$1.4 billion dollars in profits in 2022 that is greater than \$4 per share and over an 18% increase from 2021. Avangrid had profits that are estimated to be between \$850-920 million in 2022, which translates to \$2,20-2,38 a share. Again, nearly an 18% increase over 2021. We believe this legislation takes some significant steps protect consumers and update Connecticut's regulatory framework. CCAG testimony is [here](#).

**[HB 6848 AAC Gas Leak Detectors in New and Existing Construction.](#)** To require that all structures that use combustible gas be equipped with a gas leak detector.

We urge that this bill be amended to ban the use of gas in new construction. It is a rapidly growing trend across the country and is essential if we are to achieve our climate goals. CCAG testimony [here](#).

**For updates & more info on these or other issues, visit our website, join our email list or contact: Duste Dunn (203) 241-8403 • Email: [dustedunn@gmail.com](mailto:dustedunn@gmail.com) Website: [www.ccag.net](http://www.ccag.net) • Twitter [@CCAG](https://twitter.com/CCAG) • [facebook.com/CCAG.1971](https://facebook.com/CCAG.1971) • <https://www.instagram.com/ctcag> • Email: [action@ccag.net](mailto:action@ccag.net)**

**Connecticut Citizen Action Group 30 Arbor Street, Ste. 107, Hartford, CT 06106**