



## *Climate & Environmental Highlights Summer 2024*

*Summer continues to be one of critical action that needs to be taken on climate. As our planet heats up so does CCAG, members and allies fight to change it. View a few highlights below. Please visit [www.ccag.net](http://www.ccag.net) for more details.  
Thank you for your support that makes this work possible and your activism that makes sure we win!*

**CCAG WELCOMES RETURNING AND NEW INTERNS**, Diana Baroso, Colin Rosadino, and Ian Trimble. Every year we are honored to be working with the talented, passionate and future leaders that choose the CT Citizen Action Group for their internships. One of the campaigns some will be working on is a climate survey that will help to gauge how climate change and energy companies are impacting the people of CT.

### **VICTORIES SO FAR THIS YEAR**

**Great news, Senate Bill 292 An Act Concerning the Use of PFAS in Certain Products passed.** Over the last few years, with your help, we fought for and won legislation to restrict PFAS or “forever chemicals” in food packaging, firefighting foam & more. We are very happy to report that we were able to expand that ban to more consumer goods. This will help to prevent these toxic “forever chemicals” from entering our bodies and water by banning them from use in more consumer goods such as apparel, homewares, furniture, children’s products, and personal hygiene products.

Even better news is that is that the bill ended up including firefighting "turnout gear" meaning protective clothing worn by firefighters and emergency medical services personnel during firefighting and post-fire operations which will keep our heroes from PFAS contamination while they are saving lives. Stay tuned as we work with this momentum for more needed protections such as contamination testing, clean up and federal expansion.

**House Bill 5232 to Expand Solar Projects passed.** This bill will allow for expansion of caps on non-residential solar projects, which have been severely limiting the ability of farmers, among others, to install solar to produce energy to benefit their farming operations. It will also simplify the process for putting up solar canopies (over parking lots, walkways, driveways, etc.)

**The Inflation Reduction Act Delivered \$62 million in Solar for All Funds for Connecticut.** New funds will help to power thousands of additional homes and lower energy costs.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) was awarded \$62 million in funding through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund’s Solar for All program. The competition, created by President Biden’s landmark Inflation Reduction Act, seeks to enable low-income and disadvantaged households across America to access the benefits of low-cost, clean solar energy benefits that include home energy savings, energy resilience, improved air quality, wealth building, and quality jobs.

### **CURRENT & MORE WORK TO DO**

**National Utility Justice Week of Action:** Coming up, August 12th thru the 24th we will gather together with local groups and affiliates across the country, we are taking to the streets all across the country to hold monopoly utility companies accountable for their role in the climate crisis. We will demand affordable, clean, and safe energy. Join an action near you to take our power back from the utility industry.

**Natural Gas Rate Hikes.** Right now the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) is seeking public comments on proposals from two of Connecticut's gas utility corporations. CT Natural Gas and Southern CT Gas have requested an increase in rates, and want to prolong our dependence on fossil fuels by making huge investments in gas infrastructure; they want to force us to pay for it with our wallets, our health, and our climate.

PURA needs to hear that this is the wrong direction for Connecticut's ratepayers and for our climate. Energy costs and the impacts of climate change are two of the most pressing concerns in Connecticut. The rate increase from these gas companies must be rejected in order to address both of these concerns.

Instead of tying ourselves down to outdated pipelines and gas pilot projects, we need to invest in clean energy to protect the health and future of ourselves and our loved ones.

[Send your comments to PURA today!](#) Contact [dustedunn@gmail.com](mailto:dustedunn@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need help sending comments.

Residents can also submit written public comment by mail in writing to: PURA at 10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051 or sending an email to [executivesecretary@ct.gov](mailto:executivesecretary@ct.gov). Be sure to include the docket #23-11-02, your name, and address.

**CCAG and Insure Our Future continue to work to hold insurance companies accountable for climate destruction.** As many of you know, the Connecticut legislature was not able to accomplish any regulatory policies for insurance companies in our state who invest in and underwrite fossil fuels. Once again we find we must continue to take this issue into our own hands and directly to the insurance companies.

Over the summer we will continue to keep pressure up on these companies. If fossil fuel projects can't be insured or underwritten, they can't exist. For updates, visit the CCAG website. For questions, please contact Helen Humphreys: [helenh@ccag.net](mailto:helenh@ccag.net)

**This year's legislative session saw a failure to pass many climate measures.** This failure highlights the need for other action to make sure that our state meets its resiliency and greenhouse gas emission goals. This past session, a number of feasible bills on climate change were blocked by inaction. Many Connecticut residents are already facing health and financial burdens from the impacts of climate change. Action cannot wait until 2025.

Governor Lamont expressed disappointment in the General Assembly's inaction on climate. We're all disappointed too, but disappointment gets us nowhere. Even more disappointing is that the Governor and leadership had a second chance to address this inaction but failed to include climate in the June Special Session.

The urgency of the climate crisis cannot be overstated. Thousands of people, young and old, throughout the state, are deeply concerned about the increasing signs of global warming, and about the legislature's failure to take needed action. Climate action can't wait until 2025. Contact your legislators to express your disappointment and tell them they must address climate *this* year in a special session following the general election. You can find your legislator here: [www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp)

**These are just a few highlights, for more information and upcoming action on this or our other work, please visit our website, join our email list or contact:**

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