



## ***Special Campaign, October 2024 Our Climate is on the Ballot!***

*As election day approaches, climate and environmental justice continue to intensify. We need to elect decision makers who will represent the needs of the people, not the wants of corporations and the greedy. View a few highlights below and make your voting plans for the most important election of our lives. The Connecticut legislative session starts 1/8/25 & ends 6/4/25. Those who will be representing us, is up to you at the ballot box. Thank you for your support and participation that makes positive change possible.*

### **ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 2024. Make your Plan Now!**

**Early voting period is:** October 21<sup>st</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6 am to 8 pm. Are you registered to vote, know where and when to vote, need a ride? [Visit MyVote.CT.gov](https://www.MyVote.CT.gov) for all information you may need or contact [Duste@ccag.net](mailto:Duste@ccag.net)

**Universal absentee voting.** Too many eligible voters are left out of elections because of Connecticut's outdated requirement that voters provide an excuse to vote by mail. It's time we amend our constitution to allow the mail-in vote. You can make that happen when you vote for the constitutional resolution on your ballot this year.

Why is this important?

- 36 states and the District of Columbia already allow no excuse mail-in voting. Connecticut and New Hampshire are the only states in New England that do not allow this
- Our elections will be more accessible, especially for disabled, elderly, voters with caretaking responsibilities, and those without reliable transportation.
- More people will participate in our elections. In 2022, states with no-excuse mail-in voting saw an 8% higher turnout than states that require an excuse to vote by mail.
- Voting by mail has no impact on partisan turnout; no political party will benefit over another.

While we did have some wins in 2024, the legislature took no significant action on climate, again. We need to let candidates know that we expect our legislators to push hard to make climate change a priority in 2025 and will be voting accordingly.

Looking ahead, CCAG has joined allies in leading efforts to ensure the 2025 session moves Connecticut closer to being a climate and clean energy leader once again. The stakes in this election couldn't be higher, we need to support candidates who will stand up to corporate polluters and put people before profits.

**Holding Insurance Companies Accountable:** As the Connecticut partner of the global [Insure Our Future coalition](#), CCAG leverages our member power and Hartford's standing as the "Insurance Capitol" in battling climate disaster, holding the insurance industry accountable for its role providing insurance for and profiting from fossil fuel and polluting natural gas operations.

Our strategy includes direct action against Connecticut-based insurance companies as well as policy work. A bill last session which would have imposed a surcharge on insurance companies' polluting fossil fuel operations was not voted on. The bill would have used the proceeds from the surcharge to provide weatherization and clean energy to environmental justice communities. The legislature failed us again. The insurance companies themselves have refused to back down on insuring or underwriting fossil fuel projects. We will continue to double down on these efforts until we win.

"It's really this vicious hypocritical cycle of insurers propping up climate change and then taking away home insurance or hiking up the prices," Helen Humphreys, communications coordinator for Connecticut Citizen Action Group, which is campaigning around fossil fuel insurers. Seidman, Derek. "As Florida Floods, Insurance Industry Reaps What It Sowed Backing Fossil Fuels." Truthout, 27 Sept. 2024, <https://bit.ly/TruthoutArticle>

**Natural Gas Rate Hikes.** CT Natural Gas (CNG), Southern CT Gas (SCG) and Yankee 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.

On October 4th a draft decision was made to not only deny the gas rate hikes for CNG and SCG but also reduce the rates. This decision is a win for ratepayers, but a disappointment for our climate. The companies' proposed clean energy projects were found ineligible for recovery because they would not meaningfully reduce emissions. Gas companies must align long term planning for the gas distribution system with the state's decarbonization goals and avoid investment in the system beyond necessary safety repairs. The utilities had proposed to recover money for wholesale replacement of leak prone pipes. A better alternative is to evaluate all projects for targeted electrification, non-pipe alternatives, or networked geothermal/district heat pump systems.

Responses to PURA's proposed decision can be filed by Oct. 25, 2024. PURA will likely vote on a final decision Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, at 10 a.m. [Responses to PURA's proposed decision can be filed by Oct. 25th](#). PURA will likely vote on a final decision Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.

Contact [duste@ccag.net](mailto:duste@ccag.net) if you have any questions or need help sending comments.

**Environmental groups across the state are urging Governor Ned Lamont and DEEP's Katie Dykes to keep CT's climate promise, stand up for a clean energy future, and reject Project Maple (a fracked gas pipeline expansion), and the Brookfield compressor station.**

There are many concerns around Enbridge's Project Maple, a proposed fracked gas pipeline extension from New Jersey to Rhode Island, running across Connecticut. Enbridge says new capacity is needed to keep up with demand. One major concern is leaking gas, which can lead to a range of health issues, from respiratory diseases to cancer.

This pipeline threatens the health of our environment, communities, and the financial wellbeing of all Connecticut residents. Fracked gas infrastructure increases energy costs, strains household budgets, and further exacerbates our slow progress toward meeting Connecticut's climate and carbon goals. Visit [ccag.net](http://ccag.net) to take action. Clean energy must be a priority!

**It is also urgent that we stop the fracked gas compressor station expansion proposed for Brookfield, CT.** The corporations that own the facility, TC Energy & Berkshire Hathaway, want to more than double the size of the facility. One of the most concerning things about this proposal is that the compressor station is located just 1900 feet away from the town's middle school. The final permit for the expansion in Brookfield is being reviewed right now by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). You can take action on both projects on [CT Sierra's action page here](#).

**This summer, CCAG interns collected survey results from around the New Britain area about utilities and climate change.** Communities have expressed great concern for both the rising cost of energy and the escalating threat of climate change. We are facing huge increases in our utility bills, while our leaders and energy companies continue our reliance on fossil fuels, which are destroying our planet.

On August 26th this campaign culminated in activists gathering at the New Britain Public Library for a community meeting about climate change and utility justice. We shared more about the results of the survey, and had a solutions-oriented discussion about how, together, we can hold utilities accountable and make sure our leaders live up to their climate promises. We will be using all of the information gathered by our enthusiastic youth in moving forward.

We are very impressed with all of the excellent work this year's interns accomplished.

**We are beyond excited to announce the honorees for this year's CCAG Annual Anniversary & Awards Celebration.** Join us on November 14, 2024, at Thomas Hooker Live! in Hartford as we honor two outstanding individuals. Lynne Ide and Reggy Saint Fortcolin have dedicated their lives to building a more just and equitable world, and we can't wait to honor them. Visit our [ticket page](#) for more information.

**Don't forget to vote on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Climate is counting on you! Spread the word and thank you.**

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

**Duste Dunn (203) 241-8403 • Email: [duste@ccag.net](mailto:duste@ccag.net) • Website: [www.ccag.net](http://www.ccag.net)**

**• Twitter [@CCAG](#) • [facebook.com/CCAG.1971](https://www.facebook.com/CCAG.1971)**

**• Instagram: <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**

