

Outline of HB 5004

SECTION 1. Declaration of a Climate Crisis.

Declares a Climate Crisis to demonstrate the urgency for enacting climate legislation and to support increased efforts to secure federal funds.

SECTION 2. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets for State Agencies.

Codifies certain provision of Governor Lamont's Executive Order 1 by establishing the following GHG reduction targets for state agencies:

- 45% by 2030
- 70% by 2040
- Net zero by 2050

Also establishes a 100% zero-carbon electricity goal by 2030.

SECTION 3. Definitions.

Adds Definitions for "Carbon sequestration" and "Net-zero" to the Global Warming Solutions Act.

SECTION 4. Updated Emissions Reduction Targets for the GWSA.

Updates the Global Warming Solutions Act by adding the following additional GHG reduction targets:

- 65% by 2040
- Net-zero by 2050

Requires DEEP to include carbon sequestration in its triennial report on recommended regulations, polices, and strategies to achieve the state's GHG reduction targets.

Defines the failure to achieve our GHG reduction benchmarks as contributing to the unreasonable pollution or impairment of the public trust in the air, water or other natural resources of the state.

SECTION 5. GWSA Updates

Requires DEEP's triennial schedule of recommended regulatory actions and policies to include those that are necessary to make reasonable progress towards achieving the GHG reduction target and allows such recommendations to include carbon sequestration.

SECTION 6. Future of Gas Docket

Directs PURA to open a Future of Gas docket to determine how the state can phase out natural gas in accordance with the goals of the GWSA.

SECTION 7. GHG Analysis for Energy and Transportation Projects

Requires state agencies to consider the greenhouse gas emissions impacts of proposed transportation infrastructure or energy generation facilities and to make necessary recommendation for mitigating the GHG impacts of such projects.

SECTION 8. Data Transparency

Requires DEEP to publish on its website information related to:

- The sources and costs of electricity in the state
- EV power source information, including EV charging data
- Class I renewable energy deployment, and other renewable energy deployment
- Energy storage deployment
- Electricity and natural gas consumption data
- Heating fuel consumption by fuel source
- Energy efficiency program participation
- Energy efficiency barrier remediation program participation.

SECTION 9. JobsCT Tax Rebate Program

Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to give preference to applications under the JobsCT tax rebate program that:

- Make investments in environmentally friendly practices.
- Are in sector of the economy such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean vehicles.
- Are for sustainable climate friendly farms

SECTION 10. Reduced Fees for B Corps.

Directs the Department of Revenue Services to identify and report to the Environment Committee a list of business fees appropriate for waiver for certified B corporations and environmentally sustainable farms.

SECTION 11. CT Clean Energy Council

Establishes a CT Clean Energy Council to advise on strategies and policies to strengthen the state's climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs for the purpose of lowering emissions and advancing the state of economic and environmental justice for residents of the state.

The council shall:

- Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal funding to scale economic opportunities associated with clean energy, climate and sustainability investments and maximize local economic development benefits from investments needed to meet the climate and sustainability goals of the state.

- ensure the state's workforce is trained to deliver climate and sustainability solutions and support equitable and diverse participation in climate and sustainability economic development opportunities from both diverse employers and diverse job seekers.
- work with the Office of Workforce Strategy to increase workforce training in the clean energy sector with a goal of creating opportunities for populations that are underrepresented in the workforce such as residents of environmental justice communities.

SECTION 12. Zero-Carbon Startups

Directs the state to establish a pilot program to serve as a new business incubator for zero-carbon startup companies, utilizing a state-owned surplus facility.

SECTION 13. Commercial Solar Programs

Removes the annual capacity caps from the commercial solar programs commensurate with available federal funding to support commercial solar in the state.

SECTION 14. Energy Storage

Increases the state's energy storage target to 1,000 MW and authorizes PURA to increase energy storage incentives.

SECTION 15. School Buildings

Increases school building project grants by 10 percentage points for projects including renewable energy or energy efficiency improvements.

SECTION 16. Product Efficiency Standards: Heat Pumps and Hot Water Heaters

Directs DEEP to make recommendations for amendments to the state's product efficiency standards to include HVAC systems and hot water heating systems that do not emit greenhouse gases, including a timeline for implementation and proposed consumer education efforts.

SECTION 17. Heat Pump Deployment Targets

Directs DEEP, in consultation with PURA, to develop and implement a plan for the installation of not less than 310,000 residential heat pump systems. Requires DEEP to report on the status of the plan by January 1, 2026.

SECTION 18. Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development

Requires municipal plans of conservation and development scheduled for adoption on or after July 1, 2024, to evaluate environmental sustainability and climate resiliency for such municipality.

SECTION 19. Environmentally Sustainable Purchasing

Directs the Office of Policy and Management to develop a model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing that municipalities may voluntarily utilize and implement.

SECTION 20. Local Capital Improvement Funds

For the period commencing July 1, 2024, and ending June 30, 2025, directs the Office of Policy and Management to authorize expense reimbursement for any municipality that implements the Office of Policy and Management's model policy for environmentally sustainable purchasing from funds appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management for such purpose.

SECTION 21. State Buildings

Requires that new or renovated state buildings install electrical systems that are not reliant on fossil fuels or greenhouse gas emissions for operation, provided that funding is available for such purpose.

SECTION 22. Nature-Based Solutions

Directs DEEP to prepare a report that outlines a proposed plan and program for advancing nature-based solutions in the state that support climate mitigation and adaptation.

The nature-based solutions program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Increasing carbon sequestration through increased forest extent including reforestation,
- controlling invasive species,
- growing forests to greater maturity,
- protecting carbon stocks through the avoided conversion of forests and wetlands to other purposes,
- restoring coastal habitats,
- increasing climate-smart agriculture and soil conservation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while improving habitat and protecting biodiversity.

The nature-based solutions program may include:

- Acquisition of land and conservation easements to provide upslope advancement zones adjacent to tidal marshes,
- a comprehensive modeling assessment of the extent of inland migration of tidal marshes needed to inform adaptation decisions,
- the acquisition of land and conservation easements in riparian areas adjacent to cold water streams,

- the adoption or amendment of regulations that provide stream flow levels necessary to ensure the resilience and ecological integrity of cold water streams,
- increasing active management of upland forests to improve regeneration, diversity and resilience,
- collaborating with other northeast states and federal agencies to develop a coordinated regional adaptation approach for conservation of habitats and species at risk,
- advancing connectivity among habitats.