

# CONNECTICUT CLIMATE COALITION

c/o Clean Water Action, 645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford CT 06105, Phone: 860/232-6232

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Winter 2005/2006

Dear Friends of Clean Energy and Climate Stability,

The vast majority of scientists now agree that global warming is a reality. The regional impacts of global warming continue to harm public health and the environment. The Connecticut Climate Coalition (CCC), as part of the New England Climate Coalition (NECC), has created a platform of 10 Action Principles for effective and lasting changes to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide, that each of our regions and states produce. **We invite your organization to endorse these action principles to encourage our state governments to take decisive action now to reverse the trend of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Please fill out and return the enclosed endorsement form.**

It is evident that our climate is changing in New England. As the temperatures in the region continue to rise, so will the number of deaths and illnesses related to hotter summer temperatures. Damage and loss to vital ecosystems and habitats is also starting to occur. Global warming negatively impacts wildlife through habitat displacement and wilderness destruction. Connecticut is also vulnerable to crop failure, coastline flooding and erosion, and extreme weather events, which are likely to increase in their frequency and severity if global warming is allowed to continue unchecked. We all must play a vital role in curbing global warming by holding our elected officials accountable. Together, we can seize this opportunity and take actions now that will ensure a healthy and viable future.

The New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers took a ground-breaking step when they adopted the Climate Change Action Plan in August of 2001. The plan combats global warming by committing to near-term reductions of human-made greenhouse gas emissions over the course of the next two decades, as well as long-term reductions to 75-85% below current levels at some point. In 2003 Governor Rowland convened an advisory process to create greenhouse gas reduction recommendations. In 2005, Connecticut finally released a comprehensive Climate Change Action Plan based on those recommendations, but much more work needs to be done to enact all of the policies needed to meet the governors' reduction targets.

To ensure that the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Climate Change Action Plan is implemented, and that our government actively works toward the plan's long-term goal of deep greenhouse gas reductions, environmental, health and other groups around the region are joining together to press for steady progress. The Connecticut Climate Coalition (CCC) will work to ensure full implementation of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Climate Change Action Plan in our own state. In addition, CCC will collaborate closely with coalition partners pressing for action on global warming around the region.

To show your support for this effort and join the coalition, please endorse the campaign and the enclosed action principles by filling out the attached endorsement form and sending it back to Roger Smith at Clean Water Action. We look forward to working with you on these important climate issues.

Sincerely,

Roger Smith

Campaign Director, Clean Water Action  
Coordinator, Connecticut Climate Coalition

# Connecticut Climate Coalition/ New England Climate Coalition Endorsement Form

**The Climate Change Action Plan** was adopted by the Conference of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers in August 2001. The Conference committed to short-term reductions of human-made greenhouse gas emissions over the next two decades, and a long-range goal of 75 to 85 percent reductions at some point.

**To reinforce the Conference's commitment to the plan**, and to ensure the plan's success, broad public support will be required from communities throughout Connecticut and the region. The concept of "thinking globally and acting locally" could not be more apt than it is for the global warming issue. We are joining together to demonstrate our political resolve to make progress on climate change prevention.

**Climate Change and New England:** In the coming decades, global warming's destructive effects on public health and our environment are anticipated to expand dramatically in scope and severity.

**We all must play a vital role in implementing the NEG/ECP's Climate Change Action Plan.** As coalition partners, we can act in our communities to hold our leaders to their commitments to reduce greenhouse gases. Our success would continue New England's tradition of national leadership on this issue, and provide a framework for others to follow. We therefore resolve to work as coalition partners to seize the opportunity created by the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers, while seeking local and statewide progress to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**To join the coalition and endorse the attached platform, please fill out the information below and send to:**

**Connecticut Climate Coalition  
c/o: Roger Smith  
Clean Water Action  
645 Farmington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Hartford CT 06105-2907  
Phone: (860) 232-6232  
Fax: (860) 232-6334  
E-mail: rsmith@cleanwater.org**

Organization/Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization's Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Members \_\_\_\_\_

We would like to:

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Write Letters to the Governor                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Include Climate Articles in Newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in a "Phone Tree" or E-mail Alert | <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage Members to Attend Events      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Involve Local Government Officials            | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend Coalition Meetings               |

## **The New England Climate Coalition's 10 Action Principles for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

In August 2001, the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers signed a groundbreaking agreement to begin reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our region. They committed to the following broad goals: (1) By 2010 to reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels, (2) By 2020 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 10% below 1990 levels, and (3) ultimately, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels that the scientific community believes are necessary to avoid any harmful impact on the climate, assessed to be 75-85% below current levels. State and provincial governments now need to create and implement climate action plans to meet these goals within their jurisdictions. A broad coalition of organizations across the region has unified to promote development and implementation of climate plans that will meet or exceed the goals of this governmental climate agreement.

**The New England Climate Coalition advocates that to make meaningful progress toward the deep long-term reductions needed to limit or avoid harmful climate change, the state and provincial plans must contain at least the following elements:**

1. **By 2010, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to levels 10% below 1990 levels.** The international community is working to ratify an international treaty with binding commitments on most of the industrialized nations to reduce emissions to well below 1990 levels. The U.S. has failed to sign onto the treaty, but as the biggest emitter of heat-trapping gases, we must lead by reducing our emissions by at least the same percentage as the other largest polluters.
2. **The NEG-ECP's long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 75%-85% should be given a target date of 2050.** This timetable is necessary to keep CO2 concentrations under 450ppm and minimize global temperature increases.
3. **Each consuming sector should be responsible for at least its proportionate share of the targeted emission reductions.** Any changes to these responsibilities should be based on an explicit process, which justifies changes by the relative cost-effectiveness in each sector, and ensures that any short-falls in one sector are offset by greater reductions in another (the sectors to be included are transportation, industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential. This recognizes that the electricity sector targets will overlap.)
4. **The region and each of the states should establish a system of mandatory reporting of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions by 2005.**
5. **Reducing emissions from the electricity sector as a whole by 40% from current levels.** Every plan should include provisions for reducing CO2 emissions from grandfathered power plants. Increasing the use or output of nuclear power is an unacceptable strategy for reducing electricity sector greenhouse gas emissions.
6. **The region and each of the states should set a target of 10% of electricity consumption from new, clean renewable sources by 2010, and 20% of electricity consumption from new, clean renewable sources by 2020.**
7. **Every plan should include a target of increasing energy efficiency in each sector by 20% by 2010.** The plans should consider more efficient generation of power, strong efficiency and conservation measures and greater use of combined heat and power and micropower options.
8. **The States should lead by example by:**
  - Purchasing 20% of state facility electricity from clean, renewable sources by 2010.
  - Greening the state fleet by establishing policies that require each vehicle purchased to be the model that emits the least CO2 and other air pollutants per mile traveled, while fulfilling the intended state function; prohibit the use of inefficient vehicles such as SUV's for non-essential purposes; and establish a schedule for replacing all state vehicles with the most efficient models available.
  - Reducing state government's energy use by 25% overall by 2010.
9. **Each plan should include long-term plans for controlling sprawl, which is one of the primary factors raising emissions from transportation and buildings.** At a minimum, this should start by incorporating an assessment of CO2 impacts into the state environmental review processes.
10. **Each plan should recognize the economic development and job creation benefits of strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.** And, each plan should also recognize the importance of assisting displaced workers in making a successful transition to new employment.

*For more information, please contact Roger Smith at Clean Water Action  
645 Farmington Avenue, Hartford CT 06105, Phone: 860/232-6232, E-Mail: [rsmith@cleanwater.org](mailto:rsmith@cleanwater.org)*

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## ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSING CCC'S 10 ACTION PRINCIPLES

Alchemy Juice Bar Cafe  
All Aboard!  
American Lung Association of CT  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
ASPIRA of Connecticut, Inc.  
Bikram Yoga Fairfield, L.L.C.  
Bolton Conservation Commission  
Bridgeport Education Association  
Bridgeport Health Improvement Project  
Canton Advocates for Responsible Expansion  
Citizen's Awareness Network  
Citizens for Responsible Growth  
Clean Air-Cool Planet  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition to Strengthen the Sheldon/Charter Oak  
Neighborhood  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Committee on Community Health, Hartford  
County Medical Association  
Committee on the Environment, Episcopal Diocese  
of Connecticut  
Connecticut Association of Conservation and  
Inland Wetlands Commissions, Inc.  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice  
Connecticut Conservation Association  
CONNECTicut Energy Council for Teachers  
Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Connecticut Green Party  
Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Assoc.  
Connecticut Public Interest Research Group  
Connecticut Recyclers Coalition  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Don't Waste Connecticut  
Earthkeepers Network, Inc.  
Earth Ministries of St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Ecological Health Organization  
Edge of the Woods Market  
Environment and Human Health, Inc.  
Environment Northeast  
Environmental Architecture LLC  
Environmental Concerns Coalition  
Environmental Council of Stamford  
Environmental Defense  
Environmental Organizers Network  
Farmington River Watershed Association  
Fairfield Friends of Open Space  
Friends in Unity with Nature, Hartford Religious  
Society of Friends  
Friends of the River  
GRASSROOTS Coalition  
Great Land Conservation Trust  
Great Meadows Conservation Trust, Inc.  
Greater Bridgeport Property Owners  
Health Systems Consultants  
Healthy Stratford Council  
Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
The Jonah Center for Earth and Art  
League of Women Voters of Connecticut, Inc.  
Mansfield Common Sense  
Mattabeseck Audubon Society  
Middlesex Clean Air Association  
Mill River Watershed Association of South Central CT  
New Haven Ecology Project  
New Morning Country Store  
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association  
Northern Connecticut Land Trust  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
People's Action for Clean Energy, Inc.  
People Opposed to Wasteful Energy Rip-offs  
Portland-River Valley Garden Club  
Quinnipiac River Watershed Association  
Residents Against Creating Environmental Turmoil  
Regional Plan Association  
RETEC Group, Inc.  
Rivers Alliance of Connecticut  
SEIU Connecticut State Council  
Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter  
Smart Power  
SolarWrights, Inc.  
Southwest Community Health Center  
SE Connecticut Community Center of the Blind, Inc.  
Southwest Conservation District  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Storrs Friends Meeting  
Town of Portland  
Toxics Action Center  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Unitarian Universalist Society East, Sustainable Living  
Committee  
US Sky Trust  
Waterbury PTA Council  
Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom (New Haven)  
Yale Climate Campaign  
Yale Student Environmental Coalition