



2022 Candidate Survey on the Environment

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Senate , 28

OPEN QUESTION

I have not yet worked on environmental issues, as I am not in the legislature yet, however, if elected, my top environmental priorities would be creating jobs in alternative energy, reducing energy bills for families, and lowering the cost of green transportation. By creating opportunities and lowering costs, the transition to green energy will happen faster and more economically. As legislators, we need to make the choice of renewable energy easy for consumers.

If elected, I will craft policies that will create jobs in alternative energy and reduce energy bills for families, including incentivizing the use of renewable energy in homes in this district and the whole state. I support bills such as SB-295: Tax Credits for Energy Efficient Homes, and I support the new residential renewable energy program established by PURA.

It is also crucial to lower the cost of green transportation. Transportation emissions are the main reason that Connecticut is not on track to meet our emissions goals (CT Mirror). I believe we should continue supporting the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) Program, which provides rebates for individuals who've purchased battery electric vehicles (BEV), fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV) and provides an extra rebate to individuals in a lower income bracket. Additionally, we need to expand the number of electric vehicle charging stations and use "managed charging", remotely controlling vehicle charging stations by changing the amount of energy demand that goes into the charging stations, which is shown to reduce charging costs by 40%. One major roadblock investors run into is the high cost of maintaining charging stations when utilization is low, and managed charging can help alleviate these concerns.

The environment matters to me because the health of Connecticutians and all people rests upon the health of the environment. So does the health of all animals and plants. In order to survive, we must take care of our environment and do everything in our power to reduce the harm that pollution has enacted on our world.

1) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:

- Yes

Yes. Across the U.S., low-income communities and communities of color have routinely been subjected to disproportionate amounts of pollution and polluting facilities, as well as the negative health effects that come with exposure to such toxins. I would support the crucial step of denying permits to build new polluting facilities in Environmental Justice communities.

2) WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Yes

We should build on our successes from Public Act No. 22-27 (sHB 5142), which called for an industry-led recycling program for certain residential gas cylinders. Industry management of the reclamation process can deliver significant state savings, in addition to environmental benefits from the removal of these recyclable tires and packaging waste from the municipal solid waste system.

3) POLYSTYRENE:

- Yes

Yes. SB-118, an act to discontinue the use of certain polystyrene trays in schools and certain polystyrene containers for food from restaurants, was passed in the Senate this past year, but did not make it to a vote in the House. If elected, I would support bills such as this one. It is crucial that we take every step we can to reduce pollution from the physical styrofoam and the toxins that can be released.

4) PFAS:

- Yes

PFAS are a serious public health issue, and if elected, I will support such a ban and help Connecticut follow in the footsteps of other states that have taken steps to protect the health of their people and their environments.

5) NEONICOTINOIDS:

- Yes

I would support such legislation. CT was a leader when it passed the Pollinator Protection Act in 2016, but further action is now required on Neonicotinoids as we learn more about the dangerous impact of neonics on the environment, our pollinators and our health. Connecticut should follow in the footsteps of states like New Jersey, which recently banned the most harmful neonicotinoids from use on commercial and residential landscapes.

6) RODENTICIDES:

- yes

Yes. Connecticut's wildlife rehabilitators see the harmful, often deadly effects of rodenticides nearly daily. I would support such legislation, including the various bills that appeared during the 2022 legislative session, related to banning rodenticides.

7) DIESEL BACKUP GENERATORS/DATA CENTERS:

- Yes

Yes, we need to establish standards up front and as these new centers are built, it is crucial to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, in order to meet CT's emissions goals.

8) BEARS:

- yes

We must respect our wildlife here in Connecticut and the only way to establish a successful and sustainable policy long-term is to consult experts for humane recommendations.

9) TREE CUTTING PROTOCOLS:

- Yes

I believe that it is crucial to understand and follow the science in all conservation and climate decisions we make. Thus, I would support such a bill.

10) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY:

- Yes

I believe that this is an effective way to encourage community sustainability projects, which improve the health of our state's ecosystems and the health of Connecticut residents.

11) RIPARIAN BUFFERS:

- Yes

Riparian buffers help stabilize eroding banks and filter sediment from agricultural land runoff as well as nutrients, pesticides, and animal waste. I believe this is important for our ecosystems and will support state legislation to create riparian buffer areas.

12) RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- yes

- I believe that Connecticut should research the ranked choice voting systems newly in place in states like Alaska, consult the public opinion of such a switch, and consider pursuing ranked choice voting. This system allows for more choice, and as stated, can help strengthen our democracy by increasing participation and reducing polarization. In an era with so much polarization, it is crucial for us to work in any way we can to improve the representativeness of our legislatures and encourage trust in government.