

THE PROBLEM

Connecticut's major urban centers are overrun with traffic congestion, causing some of the worst air quality in the nation. In the rural areas, people are deprived of economic growth due to lack of connectivity with the rest of the state and region.

At the same time, transportation contributes 38% to our greenhouse gas emissions, making it a major factor in our climate crisis.

A REGIONAL, BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

The Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) is a regional, multi-state effort to reduce emissions in the transportation sector. Thirteen jurisdictions from Maine to North Carolina, and Washington, DC, have joined this movement.

In December 2020, Governor Lamont announced that Connecticut would be joining Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and DC in signing the TCI memorandum of understanding. Eight other states have committed to remaining engaged and continue with negotiations towards joining the program in the coming months. This announcement signifies Connecticut's commitment to climate change and public health.

Now, lawmakers need to pass enabling legislation to give DEEP the authority to implement the TCI program. By capping carbon emissions from the transportation sector, Connecticut will be able to make needed investments in our transportation system that create jobs, help our economy, improve public health, and tackle climate change.

Any transportation reform in the state must first focus on our under-served and overburdened communities. As such, it is critical that TCI focuses on improving air quality and transportation options and that community perspectives are heard and considered.

TCI calls for increased funding for public transportation and transit-oriented development to address the challenges faced by everyday commuters. To ensure TCI addresses the needs of all Connecticut residents, Connecticut TCI coalition members conducted a statewide survey of roughly 1,000 residents.

These survey responses demonstrate strong support for TCI and will be used to inform stakeholders of critical needs and upgrades.

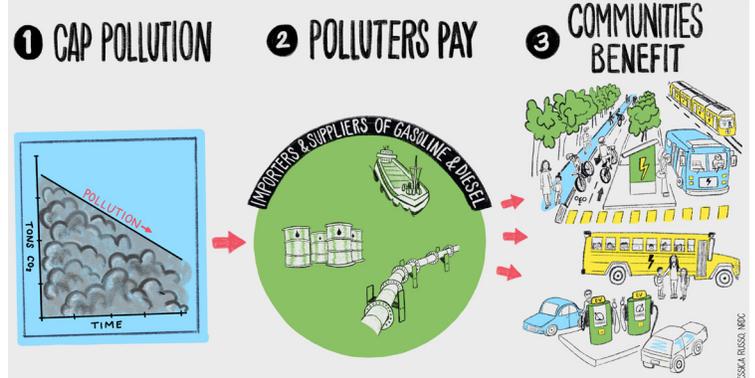


Photo by NRDC

FAST FACTS

- ◆ Connecticut must reduce greenhouse emissions by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050 to comply with the Connecticut Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) standards.
- ◆ TCI will generate over \$1 billion to be re-invested in clean transportation projects in the first 10 years of the program.
- ◆ Implementing TCI will result in a stronger economy, increased jobs, and substantial savings from avoided public health costs.
- ◆ TCI jurisdictions include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, & Washington, DC.

BENEFITS OF TCI

- ◆ Reduction in climate change-causing fossil fuels;
- ◆ Reduction in asthma and lung diseases;
- ◆ Cleaner air and water for people and wildlife;
- ◆ Better transportation options in every community;
- ◆ Reduction in rush hour traffic congestion.

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