



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Kim Becker, Democrat**  
**House District 62**

### 1) Open Question:

As the challenger in the race for CT HD 62, I have used the last two years to learn more about the important environmental issues affecting our state and rallied at the Capitol in support of climate change legislation. CT, once an environmental leader, is stuck in a legislative atmosphere of unwillingness to innovate and use the roadmap of other states' successes to transition to cleaner energy, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our resiliency to climate change. CT businesses and residents want green industries here as a smart investment in rising industries, good paying jobs, and cost savings over time. Stagnation on these issues will not grow our business community or protect our residents' health. As a state representative, I want to work on greenhouse gas reduction and building clean energy industries to make CT a leader in environmental know how.

Additionally, my district is in the bear 'hot zone' with far too many bear-human conflicts. At a DEEP presentation, it was made clear that regardless of a bear hunt, communities must come together to make trash inaccessible, take down bird feeders and other attractants, and appropriately haze bears so they stay away from humans. Legislation and some funding to assist our small towns in implementing these effective methods would be money well spent.

### 2) Climate:

**Will you support paying for increased investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment that will reduce reliance on fossil fuel and nuclear energy (and ultimately reduce costs to ratepayers)?**

- Yes  
These investments are crucial to transition our economy toward green industries and achieve our emissions targets for healthier communities.

### 3) Nature-Based Solutions:

**Will you support a stand-alone bill that authorizes and prioritizes the use of nature-based solutions (forests, trees, wetlands, riparian buffers, healthy organic soils, and other natural ecosystems) as the preferred alternative, where appropriate, across all agencies?**

- Yes

I will work to ensure that the nature-based solutions are especially included in our resiliency efforts as storms and flooding, periodic drought, and predicted extreme hurricanes challenge our aging infrastructure and ability to mitigate the risks.

**4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:**

**Do you support Connecticut's adoption of the latest California emissions standards for cars and trucks?**

- Yes

I would like to be on the transportation committee because vehicles are such an important piece of reducing our emissions. I also strongly believe that CT should be working with our neighboring states to have more uniform standards when it comes to climate change policies.

**5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

**Will you support an Environmental Rights Amendment to our State Constitution?**

- Yes

This amendment allows the state government to be particularly thoughtful with new projects. Government should always be accountable to the people and this amendment allows for exactly that.

**6) Food Waste Diversion:**

**Will you support designating food scraps as a "recyclable" item and requiring large-scale food generators to create plans to donate edible food?**

- Yes

This is a common sense solution for two seemingly divergent problems. We also need to ensure that the food distribution channels can handle the increased food and get it to the residents in need. Small nonprofits and church food pantries may need help building their capacity.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

**Will you help push for legislation to ban the sale and use of neonics for non-agricultural use in Connecticut?**

- Yes

**8) Rodenticides:**

**Will you support banning the use of certain rodenticides, with a few well-defined exceptions, to help prevent the deaths of its unintended victims?**

- Yes

**9) Environmental Justice:**

**Will you support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities?**

- Yes

**10) Bears:**

**Will you support legislation that requires humane responses to conflicts with wildlife such as providing better support for the public seeking help, removing attractants, minimizing shooting incidents, and strengthening programs to deal with orphaned wildlife?**

- Yes

I will support these measures and add that a public education campaign must be undertaken and possibly funding bear-proof cans for some residents. Residents in bear country are increasingly alarmed by bear incursions and literal home invasions. DEEP has stated that a hunt will not solve the problem, but reducing attractants and appropriately hazing will drastically reduce bear-human conflict.

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

**Will you support legislation to require stronger science-based tree cutting protocols based on conservation values?**

- Yes

**12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

**Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Yes

Now that we (finally) have early voting, RCV is a logical next step for voters' voices to be heard. I am a voting nerd who works the polls for municipal and budget elections in Granby. In my view having the option to vote for smaller parties in a RCV system could lead to more voter engagement as well as an increased understanding of what those voters want by elected officials.

**CANDIDATE COMMITMENT TO WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION**

If you support any or all of our top priority legislation during the 2025 session, will you add your name as a legislative co-sponsor?

- Yes

Will you plan to attend our annual Environmental Summit in January?

- Yes

If requested, will you meet with CTLCV at least once during the legislative session to review priority legislation?

- Yes

I look forward to working with the CTLCV to move environmental issues forward in our state.