



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

David Bedell, Green
Senate District 34

1) Open Question:

I have advocated for preservation of open space as a member of the Wallingford Land Trust. My top priority may be the protection of native species.

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
First priority should be energy conservation through insulation, efficient lighting, etc.

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
We need native plantings, removal of invasive plants, bans on pesticides and rodenticides.

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes
We also need to focus on landscaping equipment: lawn mowers and leaf blowers, which are major polluters.

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes
Everyone has a right to clean air and clean water.

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
Compost all organic waste.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes
Neonicotinoids should be banned for agricultural as well as non-agricultural uses. They poison honeybees and native bees. We need to join our neighbors NY, RI, and NJ in banning these deadly chemicals.

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
We need to protect owls, hawks, and other raptors, which serve as natural controls to rodent populations.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
We need to get polluters out of populated neighborhoods.

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
In affected areas, we need to ban bird feeders and open garbage.

11) Tree Cutting Protocols:

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

- Yes
Trees should only be cut where they are a threat to safety on highways or electrical lines.

12) Ranked Choice Voting:

Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?

- Yes
As a third party candidate, this is close to my heart. RCV will encourage more people to run, and it will reduce the polarization we have seen in recent elections.

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