

Connecticut Climate Change Mobilization Climate Emergency Resolution

Summary

The Connecticut Climate Change Mobilization (C3M) calls on Governor Lamont and the State Legislature to:

- Declare a climate emergency and mobilize all of the state's resources to fight the climate crisis.
- Call a special session of the State Legislature to enact emergency legislation to address this crisis.
- Minimize statewide energy use through energy efficiency and conservation programs.
- Set a goal of eliminating all climate pollution statewide by 2030.
- Immediately cease all permitting and other approvals for fossil fuel infrastructure – including the proposed power plant in Killingly – and pursue the earliest possible retirement of existing fossil fuel infrastructure, as well as other major sources of air pollution such as the Hartford incinerator.
- Divest all state investment funds – including state employee pensions – from fossil fuel companies.
- Commit to work with local organizations and communities to create a “just transition” from fossil fuels to a clean energy economy. This must include ensuring that job creation, environmental justice, and public health are considered in a way that prioritizes equitable outcomes, particularly for low-income and marginalized communities. Fossil fuel workers making the difficult transition to alternative work, deserve well-paid, secure jobs with benefits and the right to union representation.
- Ensure that all communities and all public schools within the state have climate change as a mandatory part of their science curriculum, and have the information on the impacts of climate change and why urgent action is necessary.

A Resolution Calling on Governor Lamont and the State Legislature to
Declare a Climate Emergency

Whereas, the climate crisis is the gravest threat that humanity has ever faced.

Whereas, humans have warmed the planet enough to end the 12,000-year era of climate stability that allowed agriculture and human civilization to flourish;

Whereas, over 19,000 scientists have signed a Second Warning to Humanity proclaiming that “a great change in our stewardship of the Earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided”;

Whereas, we are on the course for sufficient warming to initiate a mass of various “feedback loops” that would dramatically accelerate warming, raising the possibility of an abrupt change to a world that is inhospitable to and maybe even incompatible with human life;

Whereas, Connecticut's biggest climate change risks are intimately linked to its 217 miles of shoreline, where 40 percent of its population lives in 36 coastal communities that now face the potentially dangerous combination of rising sea levels and more frequent and intense storms;

Whereas, Pope Francis has declared that humanity is on the verge of a “global suicide,” and that we will destroy ourselves if we destroy God’s creation. Furthermore, religious leaders from all faiths around the world have called for action to preserve a sustainable environment and for us to be good stewards of the Earth we have inherited;

Whereas, restoring a safe climate requires an emergency mobilization to a clean energy economy across all sectors, and measures to protect all people and species from the consequences of warming in the near-term;

Whereas, indigenous, low-income communities, and communities of color in the United States and abroad have suffered the gravest consequences of the extractive economy since its inception;

Whereas, just transition strategies were first forged by a ‘blue-green’ alliance of labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health and the planet, while also providing just pathways for workers into new livelihoods;

Whereas, a just transition plan such as the Green New Deal would help to preserve our climate while creating a better world for those communities who have historically suffered the most from climate change even though they have done the least to cause it;

Whereas, justice requires that those countries, classes and sectors that have contributed the most to the climate crisis shoulder a commensurate portion of the burden of reversing it and protecting those most impacted from its lethal impacts;

Whereas, all residents of Connecticut should have access to clean air and water, climate and community resiliency, healthy food, open space, and a sustainable environment for all people of Connecticut for generations to come;

Whereas, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that humanity has 11 years, or until 2030, to alter massive global energy infrastructure to limit climate change to moderate levels, or 1.5 degrees Celsius and should this warming trend be allowed to continue humanity faces collapse of modern society as we know it, and failure of our agricultural, and economic systems abroad.

Resolved: that Connecticut declares that we face a global climate emergency that threatens our way of life.

Further Resolved: that Governor Lamont call a special session of the State Legislature to focus on enacting emergency legislation that addresses Connecticut's contribution to climate change on a timeline that meets the standards laid out by the world's climate scientists, who recently announced that drastic reductions in fossil fuel use must occur in the next decade if we are to have a chance of limiting warming to less dangerous levels.

Further Resolved: that Connecticut commit to minimizing statewide energy use through energy efficiency and conservation programs. The first step towards this goal should be to reallocate funding that was stripped from the state's energy efficiency programs in recent years back to these programs.

Further Resolved: that Connecticut commits to leading an emergency mobilization effort that, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from national and international authorities, ends climate-polluting emissions statewide on or before December 31, 2030.

Further Resolved: that Connecticut should immediately cease permitting and providing any other approvals for the construction of new or expanded fossil fuel infrastructure, including power plants -- such as the proposed plant in Killingly --and pipelines for the transportation of oil and natural gas. Also, the state should pursue the earliest possible retirement of existing fossil fuel infrastructure, and other major sources of air pollution such as the Hartford waste incinerator.

Further Resolved: that all state investments in fossil fuels – including state employee pensions – be divested in a manner that is consistent with the state's fiduciary responsibility.

Further Resolved: that Connecticut commits to work with local organizations and communities to include job creation, environmental justice, and public health in project development in a way that prioritizes equitable outcomes, particularly for low-income and marginalized communities. Fossil fuel workers making the difficult transition to

alternative work deserve well-paid, secure jobs with benefits and the right to union representation.

Further Resolved: that Connecticut ensures that all communities and all public school students have access to Climate and Conservation Education to empower them with information on why and how we must use our resources wisely. Every member of our communities deserves to understand the impacts that climate change is having on the planet and on our state.

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