



## 2018 Candidate Survey on the Environment

### Colin Hosten (Working Families)

House District 140

**1) 100% Clean Energy by 2050:**

**Do you support transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2050 or sooner?**

Yes

There are two main questions here. The first involves hastening a paradigm shift in how we think about energy production and consumption. I believe the legislature can incentivize an efficient transition towards 100% renewable energy by meaningfully funding a "green bank" that subsidizes investments in renewable energy and creates a competitive economic landscape for renewable energy companies. We also have the power to enact and enforce stricter controls on air, land, and water pollution standards to make companies comply with an environmentally responsible energy policy. The best part is that a progressive approach to energy can create a win-win situation when it comes to energy sector employment. I like the oft-used analogy of how the American locomotive industry evolved to remain relevant in the 20th century age of the automobile by rebranding itself as a more nebulous transportation industry. Encouraging oil-based energy companies to rebrand themselves as renewable-based energy companies is vital to a 21st century policy guided by environmental responsibility. The legislature should consider tax credits or other incentives for companies to empower their customers to do things like install solar panels. We should also encourage net metering, which would both offer some relief to consumers, and potentially create a sub-industry of energy trading, in which Connecticut could expand its export of energy to neighboring states and beyond. We must dispel the myth that being environmentally conscious in how we approach energy comes at any long-term cost to our economic stability and growth.

**2) State Water Plan:**

**Will you support the plan as submitted to the legislature and affirm that water is a public trust?**

Yes

The issue of sustainable water management is another one where we must resist the talking points propagated by some so-called free-market conservatives. Clean water is not a privilege, and corporations should not be allowed to make unchecked profits from public resources. A more progressive approach to water management creates a win-win situation by addressing water problems for everyone. The fact is, the more we can sustain a comprehensive, clean water plan, the more we enable access to healthy lifestyles across the state.

**3) Municipal Funding Pilot for Open Space:**

**Would you support legislation that would allow, but not require, certain municipalities to establish a dedicated fund to protect local open space, farmland and water resources through a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate?**

Yes

This is another question that motivates me on a very personal level. I live in South Norwalk, in a neighborhood adjacent to an industrial zone, and my (largely minority) community seems to be in a constant battle to preserve safe open space for families to enjoy. In addition to an optional conveyance fee program, the state could consider tying some education funding to the protection and promotion of public open spaces. In one recent specific example here in South Norwalk, I was driven to offer public testimony in favor of a proposal for a new school that would ultimately replace a poorly maintained softball field with a better funded, more spacious, multi-purpose playing area -- a proposal that was opposed by Travis Simms based on dubious claims that it would restrict open space in the neighborhood, which is demonstrably not true.

**4) Plastic Bag Pollution:**

**Would you support a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags (or a ban/fee hybrid) to significantly reduce plastic bag pollution in our state?**

Yes

Absolutely. This has been demonstrated to result in significant reductions in the use of plastic bags in jurisdictions where it has been enacted.

**5) Gas Pipeline:**

**Will you support the repeal of the pipeline tax established in 2015?**

Yes

This is a great example of an opportunity to be smarter and more intentional in our approach to tax policy without adding undue burden to vulnerable groups, or jeopardizing the state budget.

**6) Carbon Pricing:**  
**Would you support carbon pricing for Connecticut?**

Yes

In addition to the above, as State Representative I will be a strong advocate for public education programs that promote the value and importance of environmentally responsible energy production, thereby helping the consumer market for renewable energy to grow and spread more organically.

**7) Additional Comments:**

A big part of what motivates me in this campaign is the desire to confront and upend the conservative myth that being environmentally conscious somehow comes at the cost of being economically responsible. I want my campaign to help more people to understand that, in fact, it is in part because of unsustainable energy practices that we may have stymied economic expansion in renewable fields. I want my campaign to help show voters that being environmentally progressive IS in fact a financially responsible position. There is more than enough data to support that. I'd love to work with the CTLCV to help spread that narrative together.