



2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

Nick Menapace, Democrat
House District 37

1) Open Question:

In the past two years, as a citizen and member of the East Lyme Planning Commission, I have actively advocated for purchasing open space in East Lyme. This effort is aimed at preserving natural habitats and providing green spaces for our community. Looking ahead to the 2025 legislative session, my top environmental priority will be to push for more green energy initiatives in Connecticut. Additionally, I aim to address food waste by promoting composting programs, especially in schools, to create a more sustainable and eco-friendly environment.

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

I will support increased investments in clean energy and our electric grid infrastructure to ensure a healthy environment and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and nuclear power. This approach is essential for addressing the climate crisis and will ultimately lead to lower costs for ratepayers by spreading the investment over time. By supporting the transition to clean energy sources like solar and wind, promoting the use of heat pumps, and implementing nature-based solutions, we can create a sustainable future for Connecticut. Furthermore, investing in workforce training and sustainable business incentives will help drive economic growth and job creation in the green energy sector.

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

4) Clean Cars and Trucks Emissions Standards:

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

- Yes

My opponent wrote a ridiculous op-ed in the New London day about the dangers of EVs. I wrote a response to it.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lnHkB6G19rr-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lnHkB6G19rr-Efb8dwUx9LckCm6DgW5olAadqOj8rIk/edit?usp=sharing)

[Efb8dwUx9LckCm6DgW5olAadqOj8rIk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lnHkB6G19rr-Efb8dwUx9LckCm6DgW5olAadqOj8rIk/edit?usp=sharing)

5) Environmental Rights Amendment:

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

- Yes

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 something that as teacher I am very interested in. We had a program at my school to do more with composting food scraps.

7) Neonicotinoids:

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

- Yes

we have had a lot of issues with this and other pesticides getting into the niantic bay this last year.

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

Yes, I will support banning the use of certain rodenticides, with a few well-defined exceptions, to help prevent the deaths of unintended victims. These toxic chemicals pose significant risks to non-target wildlife, including birds of prey, pets, and even children.

Implementing a ban with apparent exceptions for critical situations can protect our ecosystems and promote safer, more sustainable pest control methods.

9) Environmental Justice:

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

- Yes
I will support a legislative fix to Connecticut's Environmental Justice statutes to include all polluting facilities. As a social studies teacher, I teach my students about environmental justice because it's a critical piece of understanding today's world. Ensuring comprehensive coverage is crucial for protecting vulnerable communities from the disproportionate impacts of environmental pollution. By expanding the scope of these statutes, we can better address environmental health disparities and ensure that all communities have a safe and healthy environment.

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

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

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?

- Unsure
I would have to know the date and time.

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

- Yes