



## 2024 Candidate Survey on the Environment

**Jonathan Steinberg, Democrat**  
**House District 136**

### 1) Open Question:

As Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee, I've been the chief proponent of expanding solar, building out transmission infrastructure and promoting colocation of storage. I've been an advocate for a more rigorous waste management strategy, was an instrumental player on the Green Monster, and supported the recycling fee increase.

### 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'm trying to get the utilities to do their jobs, particularly regarding upgrading and building out critical infrastructure.

### 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'm a big fan of riparian buffers and ecosystem management. But I must admit that we'll need a nuanced approach to trees in some situations -- not deforestation but, once and awhile, a tree has to go!

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

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

- Yes

CT needs to remain in the state coalition that has pushed the US to adopt stricter standards. Banning ICE vehicles has been a distraction and we must acknowledge the slower than ideal adoption of EVs. We need to appear reasonable.

**5) Environmental Rights Amendment:**

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

- Unsure  
Constitutional amendments are serious. I'm positively inclined but would need to see the precise language.

**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  
I think that DEEP's organic waste plan is a good initial step. Unfortunately, that's about it for strategy! We need to think through how we'll replace single stream recycling and how to educate the public. And we need to get serious about how we'll dispose of the majority of waste we can no longer ship out of state, considering new technologies like paralysis gasification.

**7) Neonicotinoids:**

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

- Yes  
I was hoping we'd get it done last session. I've been trying to limit pesticides since I first arrived in the Legislature 14 years ago! Now's the time!

**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  
Same answer

**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

Sometimes you get the bear; sometimes the bear gets you!

**11) Tree Cutting Protocols:**

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

- Yes

Absolutely! DOT and the utilities replaced decades of failed tree management with often thoughtless clear cutting in the ROW. They must do better.

**12) Ranked Choice Voting:**

**Should Connecticut pursue Ranked Choice Voting?**

- Yes

Looking forward to the report of the RCV taskforce!

**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

You've been able to count on me in the past and I'll be there next session!

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

- Yes

I've never missed one! I've said that attending my first summit as a Representative-elect was the critical moment that introduced me to energy policy, thanks to then Professor Dan Esty. The rest is history!

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

- Yes

I'm guessing it will be a lot more than once!