

CT Green Energy News

News and events for advocates of clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate action at the state and local levels, focusing on Connecticut. Brought to you by People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE).

Climate change legislation faces another uphill battle to approval

- *CT Mirror.* "...after last year, in which no climate change-focused legislation passed, there's more than a little anxiety out there about what will emerge to make it to a vote, let alone pass...[Senator Christine] Palm's is one of two bills that have been the purview of the Environment Committee. Its original form took direct aim at the key cause of climate change...Among the initiatives: increasing the energy storage program; installing 310,000 residential heat pumps in the next 18 months; looking at the potential to lower and eventually eliminate the use of natural gas; establishing multiple incentives and programs to develop a green energy economy and the jobs to go with it; opting for nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation; and just simply declaring there's a climate crisis..." "I'm very frustrated," said Rep. Jonathan Steinberg, D-Westport and co-chair of the Energy and Technology committee..."I had higher aspirations. I knew I wouldn't get everything done this year. I feel very much constrained. I'll be lucky if we can get some of these things done over the next two years...All I know is I didn't sign up to do nothing.' "

CT greenhouse gas emissions up as climate change bills languish

- *CT Mirror.* "As bills aimed at dealing with climate change struggle to get through the current legislative session, a new report showing that Connecticut is struggling with its greenhouse gas emissions may be providing an extra push...In Connecticut, transportation emissions have increased sharply since 2020...In terms of percentages, transportation in Connecticut accounts for 42% of total emissions...On the other side of the ledger, there was a continued and sharp decline in emissions from the electric power sector; 2022 levels were 16% below 2021 levels and down 80% from their 1990 level. This drop is due to lower demand, much of it the result of increased amounts of rooftop solar as well as increasing amounts of renewable energy on the electric grid..The report pointed out that reductions in emissions "through improved fuel economy in motor vehicles have been almost entirely offset by increased emissions from driving more..." "With just two weeks left in the 2024 legislative session, there are great opportunities available for our decision-makers to put these plans and resources in place to move Connecticut in the right direction...I hope they'll take the steps necessary to pass legislation."

What good is an EV if you can't charge it? Here's the plan to build more chargers

- *Connecticut Public.* "Finally, we made it to the promised land, a Tesla Supercharger, 16 ports, plenty of them open, working and fast. A year ago, it would have been no help to my non-Tesla, but now at this particular station, I could charge. That's a sign of a huge shakeup in the world of EV chargers. Tesla's network is starting to open to other drivers thanks to deals Tesla struck with the White House and with rival automakers like Ford. So the charger situation is getting better. Gradually, billions are going into building more chargers. And the best chargers on the road are opening up to more drivers. But are we there yet? Classic road trip question. And the answer is no, not yet."

Eversource and UI's Sad Suspension of EV Charging Incentives

- *EV Club of CT.* "Eversource, announced last week that it would suspend its participation in the EV charging incentive program...[The company] will stop taking applications after May 22 for residential and commercial level 2 charging incentives...PURA responds in part that Eversource has not yet received cost recovery because it did not ask for it by filing the required distribution rate amendment application...This occurs against a backdrop of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, PURA, trying to shift the nature of the regulation to incentivize the EDCs [electric distribution companies/utilities] to support transitioning CT to a greener, more resilient, and more affordable grid...We are critical of the EDCs resorting to these scorched-earth tactics to further a political agenda. It will only sow confusion in the marketplace and slow EV adoption...It feels like an act of bad faith. Get with the program, guys!" Plus: **CT lawmaker criticizes Eversource's decision to suspend new EV charging rebates**

Lawmakers Push For Local Say On Solar Projects After Noise Complaints

- *CT News Junkie.* "State lawmakers who say they've heard from constituents about incessant noise from large solar projects are pushing for more local control of where those projects can be built. "(Communities) have no authority when noise becomes a burden," said state Rep. Jaime Foster, D-Ellington. Foster, other lawmakers, and local officials have been dealing with complaints from neighbors of a solar array in East Windsor for years. Among the issues, they say, is that municipalities have no ability to limit when a project can be built. That power rests with the Connecticut Siting Council.

CT DOT urging car owners to drive less for May

- *Hartford Courant.* "Private vehicles remain our state's largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. This Earth Day, I encourage all residents to drive less and use greener alternatives to get to where they need to go," said CT DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto. "Whether someone is walking or riding a bike, taking a bus or train, or calling for a shared ride on new microtransit services, there are many ways to get around the state."

This campaign encourages residents to try these options and help fight climate change.”

[RTM members push for renewable geothermal energy in town. But will it happen?](#)

- *CT Insider.* "A majority of Greenwich's Representative Town Meeting endorsed a call for more renewable energy in town projects on Monday, but the action was nonbinding and does not ensure that future projects feature green solutions. This formal declaration — known as a sense of the meeting resolution, or SOMR — aimed to coax other parts of town government into action... The resolution specifically called on the boards of selectmen, education and estimate and taxation (the town's primary governing bodies) to "consider highly efficient and renewable electrified systems" in town projects, particularly when they are shown to cost less money than gas-burning systems over time."

[New England states seek federal funds for large-scale transmission, storage buildout](#)

- *Utility Dive.* "A coalition of New England states announced Wednesday it has submitted a pair of applications seeking federal funding for projects to support offshore wind, battery storage and expanded interregional transfer capacity. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Innovation Program to support the Power Up New England project... Power Up New England will utilize new and upgraded transmission points of interconnection in Massachusetts and Connecticut to access 4.8 GW of offshore wind and battery energy storage systems in Connecticut and Maine. The Clean Resilience Link features an interregional transmission upgrade "that would enable operation of a New York-New England transmission line at 345 kilovolts, increasing transfer capacity between the two regions by up to 1,000 MW," the states said."

Upcoming Events

Mansfield Celebrate Earth Day

APR 27, Sat, 9AM-noon, Mansfield Community Center

Come celebrate spring, community and our earth! Join the Town of Mansfield and members of our community for a morning filled with earth-friendly, sustainable fun, with tables displaying at the Mansfield Community Center. Many Town & Local Activity Booths. PLUS Mansfield's Annual Tag Sale and Paper-shredding opportunity at the Mansfield Transfer Station. [Learn More](#)

Newtown's Annual Earth Day Festival

APR 27, Sat, 10AM-4PM, Newtown Middle School, 11 Queen St. Newtown

A fun filled day for the whole family - highlighting Newtown's abundant natural resources, helping our community go green and generating a college scholarship for a deserving Newtown High Student. Energy Saving vendors, Electric Vehicles, Kid's events, food and live music all day. [REGISTER](#)

Concert for the Earth, by Kate Callahan and In Trine

APR 27, Sat, 4-6PM, Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford

"A Concert for the Earth" will feature Kate Callahan who served as the 16th CT State Troubadour and her trio, In Trine to 1) Celebrate Earth Week, 2) Celebrate and honor long time Earth Activist Lynn Johnson, and 3) funds will be raised for the Immanuel Church Green Fund so that Heat Pumps can be installed in portions of the historic 125-year-old church, now heated with natural gas. [REGISTER](#)

Sustainable CT Earth Day Celebration featuring Brenda Mallory, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes, and Senator Richard Blumenthal

APR 30, Tues, 12-1PM, online

Sustainable CT is officially extending Earth Day - at least on their little corner of the earth - to include April 30. That's when Brenda Mallory, Waterbury native and Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, will share an inspiring Earth Day message. Chair Mallory will be followed by Congresswoman Jahana Hayes (CT-5), and Senator Richard Blumenthal. Registrants will have the opportunity to ask questions about their approach to improving, preserving, and protecting America's public health and environment. While registering, be sure to let them know what questions you would ask our guests. [REGISTER](#)

Residential Solar+Battery Storage Prog: Advancing Clean Energy

May 1, Wed, 6 PM, online hosted by WH Library

The Energy Storage Solutions (ESS) program will be covered in a 60-minute presentation introduced by the Sustainable West Hartford Commission. SmartPower VP Bob Wall will review the 2024 aspects of this multi-year initiative, and explain how home battery storage systems can provide quiet, clean reliable power at night, and especially when the grid goes down. Energy storage solutions can also support the grid during peak demand, facilitating better resource planning and load response. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. Chamae Mejias, a representative from one of CT's authorized ESS installers, will be on hand to help answer technical questions. All welcome. [REGISTER](#)

Energy Efficiency Solutions for Small Businesses

May 2, Thurs, 12-1PM, online webinar

Register for the First Thursday webinar series to learn about Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) program and the incentives available for our Connecticut small business owners. We will be joined by the supervisor of the small business team, Hannah Savage. Hannah and her team will provide a program overview of SBEA and share details on our currently available offerings and incentives for qualifying customers. For reference, small businesses are those utilizing less than 1.25 million kilowatt hours per year at a single Connecticut location. [REGISTER](#)

Upcoming Energy Efficiency Board 2024 Public Input Session and Request for Written Comment

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 | 12:00PM – 1:00PM EST, Virtual

The EEB and DEEP welcome and encourage input as part of the collaborative process with the electric and gas utility companies, the CT Green Bank, interested stakeholders and the public to develop the 2025-2027 Plan. Public input will inform the EEB and DEEP on updates to the next 3-year Plan that will take effect in 2025. For more information, [Click Here](#).

For a more complete listing of clean energy events, visit the [PACE online Calendar](#). You can [submit an event](#) to the PACE Calendar and also [subscribe](#) to it.

[Submit a Clean Energy Event](#)

WATT ELSE?

Columbia Law Report Debunks False Claims About EVs and Solar

A new report from the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law debunks the most pervasive false claims about EVs and renewables, including myths like: Solar energy is more expensive than fossil fuels and completely dependent on subsidies. [READ MORE](#)

Myth: Rising Electric Demand Requires More Gas Plants

Many utility companies are beating the drum for more gas plants to handle future electrification needs. According to a report from Energy Innovation, there are better ways to meet short-term and long-term demand. Listen to the authors of the report on the [Volts Podcast](#).

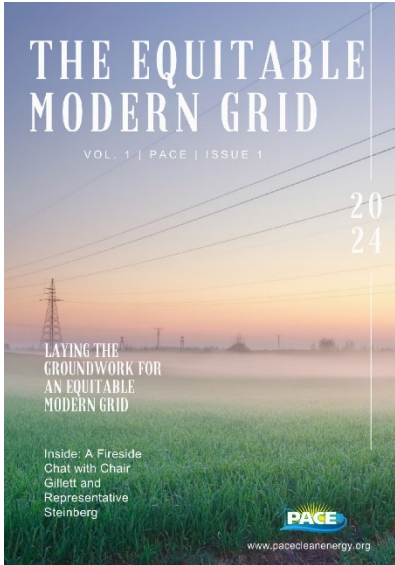
Advanced Power Lines Could Quadruple Transmission

The Goldman School and GridLab report have reached the same conclusion as many others: reconducting transmission lines (replacing old lines with advanced conductors) could vastly increase US transmission capacity. This step alone could enable 90% clean electricity by 2035. [READ MORE](#)

CT Drive Less Challenge

The CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT) announced the annual *Drive Less Connecticut Climate Challenge* launched on Earth Day and running through May 31, 2024. This year, the campaign's goals are to eliminate 425,000 pounds of emissions, eliminate 30,000 car trips, and reduce the miles driven by single-occupant vehicles by 480,000 miles. As a new feature this year, the campaign will arrange with its partner, [One Tree Planted](#), to plant 10 trees for every 30 car trips eliminated for up to 1,000 trees across the United States to help clear the air. This six-week challenge offers participants who record their green trips on the CTrides app chances to win prizes. To join, download the CTrides app or go to [CTrides.com/DLC](#) to set up a free account and start recording any eligible trips to win gift cards valued up to \$500. The CTrides app also offers a trip planner that gives residents travel options to destinations throughout Connecticut.

New! The Equitable Modern Grid Magazine



Enjoy the very first edition of The Equitable Modern Grid magazine. Inspired by a PACE webinar, this issue highlights the innovative work of Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). Read online or download PDF [here](#).

EV Club of CT

Check out the [EV Club of CT](#) for EV news, events, videos, blog posts, and more.
A place for both the EV curious and EV enthusiast.



Plus, listen to [recent webinars](#) that PACE and CTEN held on topics like energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy sector regulations. We make learning easy!

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