



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Gina McCarthy
Commissioner

Dear Friends:

I am writing in response to your e-mail to Governor M. Jodi Rell regarding climate change actions in Connecticut. I share your concerns about the significant environmental, economic, and social impacts of climate change on Connecticut, our New England region and truly, the world.

While global climate change is a problem that no one state can solve alone, Connecticut has shown great leadership in developing innovative state and regional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A Climate Change Action Plan was developed in 2004, and the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change regularly reviews our state's progress in meeting our climate change goals. Connecticut is also a founding participant of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a first of its kind program in the United States, designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large power plants.

In addition to state government action, towns, business, campuses, schools, faith communities, and individuals across Connecticut are taking action to address climate change. Some of these climate change solutions are listed below. I hope you will share these ideas with your family, friends, and neighbors.

- **Support clean energy.** Electricity customers can choose clean energy from sources such as wind, landfill gas, and small, low-impact hydropower. Join over 12,800 Connecticut residents and businesses in choosing clean energy through the [CTCleanEnergyOptions](http://www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com) program (www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com) In addition, approximately 50 towns have committed to buy clean energy. You can help get your town involved by going to www.ctinnovations.com/communities
- **Cut energy use and costs.** Find out more about Connecticut programs for Energy Star lights, appliances, rebates, and federal tax credits at www.ctsavesenergy.org. If every home in the United States replaced one conventional light bulb with an Energy Star bulb, we would save enough energy to power over 2.5 million homes.
- **Choose cleaner transportation.** Find out about public transit routes (www.ctrides.com) and carpooling options (<http://www.nuride.com/>), or walk, or ride a bicycle (<http://www.wecyclect.org/>). And avoid unnecessary idling to save money and leave the air cleaner.
- **Buy locally grown food.** The produce we eat in the United States travels on average 1,500 miles from farm to table. That's a lot of greenhouse gas emissions from food transportation. Buy locally grown food at one of over 80 Connecticut farmers markets (www.ctfarmersmarkets.com) or look for the Connecticut Grown label in grocery stores.
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle.** Simply reducing the amount of trash you generate will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Visit www.ctclimatechange.com to find out more about what Connecticut is doing to address climate change and climate solutions for individuals, towns, schools, and businesses. You will also find opportunities for public input on Connecticut's climate change program and a schedule of upcoming public stakeholder meetings.

Thank you for your message. You can be assured that Governor Rell and Connecticut's state agencies will continue to seek greenhouse gas reductions within Connecticut in collaboration with other states.

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