

Governor's Council on Climate Change Mid-term Target Recommendation and Statement of Principles

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 46, Governor Dannel P. Malloy tasked the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) to "establish interim goals that, if met, will ensure that the state will achieve the 2050 target." After a thorough review of a variety of mitigation scenarios that drive down greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the electric, building, and transportation sectors, the GC3, through consensus, recommends an economy-wide **greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 45 percent below 2001 levels by 2030**. This mid-term reduction target will place Connecticut on a linear downward trajectory from today's GHG emissions to the 80 percent reduction from 2001 levels by 2050 required by the Global Warming Solutions Act.

Connecticut has already demonstrated that reducing GHG emissions goes hand in hand with economic growth and job creation. Transitioning to a clean energy economy will further strengthen the state's economic growth, creating jobs and lowering energy bills for families and businesses. Going forward, the GC3 recognizes that a 45% reduction by 2030 is an ambitious goal that will require significant changes to all sectors of the state's economy, and participation by all parts of society. In order to ensure success in meeting this goal, the GC3 adopts and endorses the following statement of principles to guide the implementation of actions needed to meet the 45% by 2030 goal:

- We must design and implement a major transformation of how we generate and utilize energy. This requires a commitment to modernizing and decarbonizing our transportation system, vehicles, building stock, heating and cooling systems, and electricity generation system.
- We must prioritize and implement measures that:
 - achieve the largest GHG emission reductions in a cost-effective, timely, and efficient manner, with a focus on implementing proven, scalable strategies.
 - balance and factor in measurable in-state co-benefits (such as improved health, economic development, energy security and independence, and quality of life) as well as life-cycle costs and the cost of inaction;
 - address racial, class, gender, geographic and generational equity in both costs and benefits.
- The success of our efforts to reduce GHG emissions in Connecticut – and its value to the national and international efforts to limit the increase in global average temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius – requires engagement and action from all levels of government (local, state, regional, national and international).
- We must harness and foster innovation by engaging, incentivizing, and supporting the private sector as it develops and implements solutions that will lead to GHG emission

reductions. This includes leveraging limited public funds to attract and mobilize multiples of private investment.

- We must effectively engage and incentivize individual citizens, civic organizations, religious groups, non-governmental organizations, and other members of civil society to understand the urgency in becoming active participants in the transition to a decarbonized economy.
- We must maximize synergies between mitigation and adaptation measures, and avoid trade-offs between the two.
- We must implement a regular review process to ensure the state is on a clear and consistent path to achieve its GHG goals, and allow for course-correction in the face of unanticipated changes over time.