



November 8, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Governor’s Council on Climate Change  
 Email: [deep.climatechange@ct.gov](mailto:deep.climatechange@ct.gov)

**RE: Comments of the Sierra Club to the Governor’s Council on Climate Change**

Dear Members of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change:

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 36,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the meeting of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3) on October 19th. The latest modeling continues to demonstrate that moving as fast as possible to a 100% clean energy future is best for Connecticut’s families, businesses, economy, and budget. In fact the data suggest that a target even higher than 55% by 2030 would likely boost Connecticut’s prosperity more than other scenarios. As a result, the GC3 should not waste time and resources discussing lower levels of carbon pollution reductions through 2030. Instead, the GC3 should act quickly to select the most ambitious mid-term target under discussion and finalize recommendations to further invest in energy efficiency, increase clean renewable energy, and deploy electric vehicles and heat pumps to create jobs, save families and businesses money, and grow Connecticut’s economy.

Once again, the data largely speak for themselves:

Combined Sector Economic & Fiscal Impact (2020 – 2030)			
	35% Midterm Target	55% Midterm Target	55% +Aggressive 2030 Renewables
Economic or Fiscal Variable	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change
Total Employment (Jobs)	16,000 0.65%	26,000 1.0%	25,000 1.0%
State GDP (millions current \$)	\$2,000 0.6%	\$3,800 1.0 %	\$3,500 0.9%
State Revenue (millions current \$)	\$105 0.4%	\$175 0.6%	\$155 0.5%
State Expenditure (millions current \$)	\$120 0.5%	\$160 0.6%	\$180 0.7%

What is perhaps most interesting about the latest modeling results are that scenarios even more ambitious than 55% by 2030 are likely better for Connecticut’s economic prosperity. The reason economic growth in the more aggressive renewables scenario is very marginally lower across the entire economy appears to be due to correspondingly lower investment in clean transportation and heating. By combining the higher economic growth output for the electric sector of the 55% plus aggressive renewables scenario (50% renewable by 2030) with the level of investment in electric vehicles and heat pumps from the standard 55% scenario for the other sectors, economic prosperity for Connecticut can be increased even further.

Electricity Sector Economic & Fiscal Impact (2020 – 2030)			
	35% Midterm Target	55% Midterm Target	55% +Aggressive 2030 Renewables
Economic or Fiscal Variable	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change
Total Employment (Jobs)	600 .03%	1,200 0.05%	800 0.04%
State GDP (millions current \$)	-\$50 -0.021%	-\$3 -0.008%	\$35 0.017%

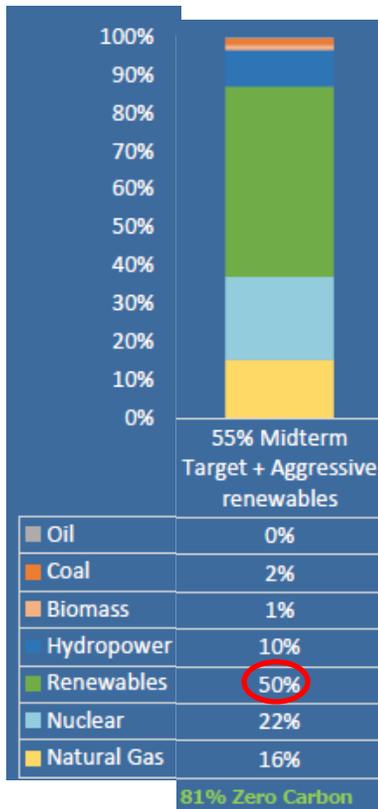
Transportation Sector Economic & Fiscal Impact (2020 – 2030)			
	35% Midterm Target	55% Midterm Target	55% +Aggressive 2030 Renewables
Economic or Fiscal Variable	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change
Total Employment (Jobs)	400 0.02%	1,400 0.06%	1,100 0.05%
State GDP (millions of current \$)	\$100 0.03%	\$400 0.1%	\$300 0.07%

Building Sector Economic & Fiscal Impact (2020 – 2030)			
	35% Midterm Target	55% Midterm Target	55% +Aggressive 2030 Renewables
Economic or Fiscal Variable	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change	Average Level & % Change
Total Employment (Jobs)	15,000 0.6%	23,500 0.9%	23,000 0.9%
State GDP (millions of current \$)	\$2,000 0.5%	\$3,300 0.9%	\$3,200 0.8%

Thus scenarios with deeper carbon pollution reductions than 55% by 2030 - in which the greater economic growth from higher levels of clean renewables are paired with the benefits of more electric vehicles and heat pumps - could actually yield even greater economic benefits for the state.

While the discussion of targets in other states is certainly interesting, the GC3 should focus on what is best for Connecticut and the climate. If cutting carbon pollution faster than any other state creates more jobs, economic prosperity, and a stronger state budget – in addition to helping avoid the worst impacts of climate disruption and improving health outcomes - why wouldn't Connecticut want to be the national leader? The conclusion is clear: the GC3 should quickly finalize a mid-term target for reducing harmful carbon pollution of at least 55% by 2030. Then the GC3 should issue corresponding recommendations to maximize the state's economic prosperity by a) accelerating the state's clean renewable energy requirements to 50% by 2030 and b) establishing and funding programs to ramp up electric vehicles to 32% of the fleet and heat pumps to 39% penetration by 2030.



	2020	2030	2050
<b>55% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
# of ZEVs	70,000	750,000	2,610,000
% of Fleet	3%	32%	95%
% of Sales	5%	72%	100%
<b>Sensitivity: 55% case + Aggressive Renewables**</b>			
# of ZEVs		600,000	2,610,000
% of Fleet		25%	95%
% of Sales		62%	100%

Residential RT	2020	2030	2050
<b>35% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Thermal Load	10%	18%	87%
<b>45% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Thermal Load	11%	26%	87%
<b>55% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Thermal Load	13%	39%	87%
<b>Sensitivity: 55% Case + Aggressive 2030 Renewables***</b>			
% of Thermal Load		32%	87%

Commercial RT**	2020	2030	2050
<b>35% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Heated Sq. ft.	5%	10%	69%
<b>45% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Heated Sq. ft.	9%	20%	69%
<b>55% below 2001 levels by 2030</b>			
% of Heated Sq. ft.	17%	39%	69%
<b>Sensitivity: 55% Case + Aggressive 2030 Renewables***</b>			
% of Heated Sq. ft.		25%	69%

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kresowik  
 Eastern Region Deputy Director  
 Beyond Coal Campaign  
 Sierra Club