

Dear members,

At the ADM meeting, GHG mitigation technologies were discussed. However, the data for carbon dioxide emissions that DEEP used are outdated and currently incorrect. According to a recent Acadia Center analysis, carbon dioxide emissions in CT have been trending upward since at least 2012, and the state will not meet its mandated carbon dioxide reductions targets. In addition, a recent Harvard study found that methane emissions increased substantially in the last ten years, and the EPA acknowledged that they have underestimated methane emissions. The global warming potential of methane has also been underestimated, and we know that it is approximately 100 times worse than carbon dioxide in the short term. If the numbers are wrong, the conclusions will be flawed. Garbage in, garbage out. The metrics for both carbon dioxide and methane emissions should be corrected in the models DEEP uses.

Natural gas use, another issue at the meeting, is a major cause of increased methane emissions in the U.S., likely resulting from fracking. The massive increase in methane use and transport that Connecticut is currently undergoing from the intrastate pipeline expansion, with hundreds of miles of brand new gas pipeline built with no environmental assessments and no public knowledge to connect thousands of new customers to gas, is surely contributing to increasing carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

The CES currently calls for conversion of hundreds of thousands of customers to fracked methane, or natural gas, a dirty fossil fuel that is a worse agent of climate disruption than carbon dioxide. There are cleaner alternatives that the state should be promoting, instead of subsidizing the massive build out of fracked gas infrastructure. GC3 should use the CES review as a opportunity to push for alternatives to fossil fuels, such as electric air sourced heat pumps for home heating and cooling. Cooking should be electrified and the electricity grid should be converted to 100% renewables. This is not just a good idea: it is the only way the state will meet its imposed GHG reduction targets. The current path is a failing one, of increased GHG emissions and a destroyed climate.

Sincerely, The Rev. Dr. Molly O'Neill Loudon  
West Hartford, CT