



January 6, 2022

2022 COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY
SECTION 16a-3d of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

NOTICE OF PROCEEDING and SCOPING MEETING

Under Section 16a-3d of the Connecticut General Statutes (General Statutes), the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is charged with preparing a Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) for the state every four years. The CES examines future energy needs in the state and identifies opportunities to reduce costs for ratepayers, ensure reliable energy availability, and mitigate public health and environmental impacts of Connecticut's energy use, such as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and emissions of criteria air pollutants. Pursuant to Section 16a-3d, the CES reviews and develops: (1) an assessment and plan for the future energy needs in the state; (2) energy policies and long-range planning objectives to meet the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals (established in 22a-200a of the General Statutes); and (3) the findings of the Integrated Resources Plan (under Section 16a-3a of the General Statutes), the Conservation and Load Management Plan (under Section 16-245m of the General Statutes), clean energy investment plans developed by the Connecticut Green Bank (under Section 16-245n of the General Statutes), and the Energy Assurance Plan, or its successor, developed pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. In addition, Governor Lamont's Executive Order 21-3 directs DEEP to include in the next CES a set of strategies to: (a) provide for more affordable heating and cooling for Connecticut residents and businesses, (b) achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from residential and commercial buildings and industrial facilities as needed to enable the state to meet the economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction targets for 2030 and 2050 established in the Global Warming Solutions Act, and (c) improve the resilience of the state's energy sector to extreme weather events, fuel commodity price spikes, and other disruptions.

In planning for effective management of Connecticut's energy supply, energy distribution, and energy demand – including electricity, heating, cooling, and fuels used for transportation – the CES provides recommendations for legislative and administrative actions that will aid in the achievement of interrelated environmental, economic, security, and reliability goals.

The 2022 Comprehensive Energy Strategy will build on and/or potentially modify findings and recommendations of prior Comprehensive Energy Strategies released in 2013 and 2018, which are available on the DEEP Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy's [Comprehensive Energy Strategy web page](#). The 2022 CES will also consider emerging issues and recommendations that may not have been addressed in prior years. The agency looks forward to engaging with stakeholders throughout this process, including through public hearings, technical meetings, and opportunities for written comment.

DEEP will apply five overlapping lenses in developing the CES with stakeholder input:

- *Climate* — Like the 2018 CES, the next CES will concentrate on policy mechanisms needed to meet the state’s GHG emissions-reduction targets in Section 22a-200a of the General Statutes. DEEP has addressed GHG emissions reductions for major portions of Connecticut’s energy landscape in other recent planning documents: the electric sector in the Integrated Resources Plan, and the transportation sector in the Electric Vehicle Roadmap. Annual GHG inventory reports highlight emissions trends in these and other sectors. The CES will extend these analyses.
- *Equity* — The environmental and economic costs of the state’s energy systems are borne disproportionately by low-income communities and communities of color. Throughout the CES process, the agency will track and address this concern.
- *Affordability* — With an upward pressure on electric rates and the impacts of energy price spikes, another major consideration throughout the CES will be affordability.
- *Economic Development* — As the state decarbonizes and utilizes new and emerging technologies to meet its climate goals, Connecticut must focus on workforce development and job training to grow the green economy in the state, while simultaneously maintaining its economic competitiveness to attract and retain businesses through affordable energy costs.
- *Resilience* — With climate change increasing the incidence of extreme weather events, the CES will address solutions to improve the resilience of the state’s energy systems.

Recent major quantitative modeling exercises conducted in other Northeast states and across the country provide a rich, diverse set of insights into building sector and energy strategies, and pathways that are viable in Connecticut. DEEP intends to rely on results from such studies where appropriate rather than duplicating those efforts.

DEEP intends to issue interrogatories to request specific information from relevant stakeholders, including, but not limited to, the state’s electric distribution companies and natural gas distribution companies. Responses to interrogatories will be posted on the [Energy Filings web page](#).

By way of this Notice, DEEP announces it is holding a virtual meeting to deliver a presentation and receive stakeholder comments on the scope of 2021 CES on **Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Eastern via Zoom**. To join the meeting, please [register using this link](#). The objective of the scoping meeting will be to provide an overview of, and seek public input on, the expected structure, schedule, and topics for the CES as well as key research questions that will be a focus of the CES analysis. DEEP requests oral and/or written public comments on the following major topics, as well as other energy-related topics not listed below:

1. The agency’s intention to focus this CES on equitable approaches to the decarbonization of buildings and energy resilience.

2. The agency's intention to rely on published quantitative modeling studies from other states, where appropriate. Identify specific modeling studies the agency should rely on.
3. Key issues, policies, and measures to consider regarding thermal decarbonization and energy affordability of buildings, including but not limited to:
 - a. whole-building approaches, including specific approaches for affordable housing;
 - b. reevaluating natural gas expansion and the future of natural gas given the direction of Executive Order 21-3 to develop strategies for more affordable heating and cooling, achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions, and improve energy resilience;
 - c. decarbonization of buildings heated by delivered fuels;
 - d. strategies to promote deployment of renewable thermal/clean heat resources;
 - e. maximizing co-benefits of building decarbonization, including health, affordability, economic development, and housing security;
 - f. state building decarbonization; and
 - g. just-transition and workforce development issues.
4. Decarbonization of industrial thermal processes.
5. Greenhouse gas accounting for biofuels.
6. Resilience and reliability in a decarbonized economy:
 - a. carbon-free strategies to address resilience and regional winter reliability issues in the electricity sector, including but not limited to distributed generation, active demand response, storage, gas demand response, and retention of existing carbon-free resources, along with any wholesale market reforms needed to implement such strategies;
 - b. thermal resilience during extreme weather events and other disruptions;
 - c. electric vehicle charging resilience, including but not limited to vehicle-to-building charging and resilience of public charging stations.
7. Updates to the Electric Vehicle Roadmap for Connecticut:
 - a. setting goals for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles; and
 - b. updates to reflect regulatory and other state initiatives.

8. Updates to the Integrated Resources Plan, including but not limited to:
 - a. emerging technologies and the role they can provide in meeting Connecticut's climate goals and resource adequacy, including but not limited to green hydrogen; and
 - b. wholesale electric market reforms.

Written comments may be filed electronically via the [Energy Filings web page](#) or submitted directly to DEEP at DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov on or before **March 3, 2022, by 4:00 p.m.** After reviewing the comments received on scoping, DEEP will prepare and publish a final scope of the proceeding and a schedule following the written comment period. All materials submitted by stakeholders in this proceeding will be posted on the DEEP website. Any questions may be directed to DEEP.EnergyBureau@ct.gov.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language, require some other accommodation or wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint. Any person needing a hearing accommodation may call the State of Connecticut relay number — 711. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program, or event.

Notice filed with the Secretary of State on January 6, 2022.