

CONNECTICUT CLEAN ECONOMY COUNCIL

2026 Biannual Report on Work, Findings and Recommendations

**Presented to
Governor Ned Lamont
Office of Policy and Management
The Energy and Technology, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and
Commerce Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly**

**by the
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Department of Economic and Community Development, and
Office of Workforce Strategy**

**Pursuant to
Public Act 25-125**

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Introduction

[Public Act 25-125](#) §§ 6 and 7 established a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to “advise on economic development strategies and policies that strengthen the state’s climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability programs, in particular for vulnerable communities, as defined in [Section 16-243y](#) of the general statutes.”

Public Act 25-125, Section 6 (g) reads: *“Not later than February 15, 2026, and biannually¹ thereafter, the council shall report on its work, findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management, and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and technology, higher education and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.”*

Duties

The Act establishes that the Council shall meet at least quarterly and shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1) Identify opportunities to leverage state and federal funding to scale economic development and workforce opportunities associated with climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability investments;
- 2) Serve as a central coordinating body for climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability workforce efforts and opportunities statewide for a technically advanced, enduring labor force;
- 3) Develop economic development and workforce strategies that support investment and growth of climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience and sustainability job growth; and
- 4) Advise the Governor on any statewide economic or workforce action plan in clean energy, climate and sustainability.

¹ The Council’s co-chairs believe that the “biannual” language included here was intended to be “biennial” and will be submitting a revision request when the next legislative session begins.

Reporting Requirements

The Act directs the Council to “develop a plan to facilitate the transition of workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs” that shall be submitted not later than July 1, 2026, to the Energy and Technology, Higher Education and Employment Advancement, and Commerce Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly in accordance with the provisions of [Section 11-4a](#) of the general statutes.

Additionally, not later than February 15, 2026, and biannually² thereafter, the Council shall “report on its work, findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Office of Policy and Management, and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment, energy and technology, higher education and commerce, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.”

Membership

The Council shall consist of the following members:

- 1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner’s designee, who shall also serve as a co-chairperson of the Council;
- 2) The Chief Workforce Officer, or said officer’s designee, who shall also serve as a co-chairperson of the Council;
- 3) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner’s designee, who shall also serve as co-chairperson of the Council;
- 4) The Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner’s designee;
- 5) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary’s designee;
- 6) A representative from the office of the Governor;
- 7) The Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer’s designee;
- 8) The Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer’s designee;
- 9) The Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner’s designee;
- 10) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner’s designee;

² Please refer to footnote on page 1.

- 11) One member appointed by the Chief Workforce Officer who shall be a representative of a regional workforce development board;
- 12) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 13) One member appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- 14) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;
- 15) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives;
- 16) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
- 17) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and
- 18) Any other member so designated by the co-chairpersons.

Members appointed by the Legislative Leaders must have at least one of the following qualifications or backgrounds:

1. Be a Connecticut Technical Education Career System member;
2. Be a representative of a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping people overcome barriers to workforce participation;
3. Have expertise in hiring and training employees in green technology-related trades;
4. Be a representative of a higher education institution who has expertise in technical education; or
5. Be a Connecticut State Building Trades Council member.

Work, Findings and Recommendations

Administrative Support

Following passage of [Public Act 25-125](#) the co-chairs of the Council and supporting staff convened to determine necessary next steps to administratively support the operations of the Council, with a goal of hosting the Council's first meeting in the fourth quarter of 2025.

Member Appointment Notices and Designees

Council Appointment Notices were sent to all appointing authorities as outlined in the Act. Membership as of January 2026 includes:

Section 6(d)	Council Member	Appointing/Designating Party
(1) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as a cochairperson of the commissioner's designee,	Andrew Lavigne	DECD Commissioner Daniel O'Keefe
(2) the Chief Workforce Officer, or said officer's designee, who council, shall also serve as a cochairperson of the council,	Tracy Ariel	Chief Workforce Officer Kelli-Marie Vallieres
(3) the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee, who shall also serve as cochairperson of the council,	Katie Dykes	DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes
(4) the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee,	Raquel Ocasio	DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalito
(5) the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee	Joanna Wozniak-Brown	OPM Secretary Joshua Wojcik
(6) a representative from the office of the Governor,	Charlotte Moller	OTG
(7) the chief executive officer of the Connecticut Green Bank, or the chief executive officer's designee,	Sara Harari	CEO Bryan Garcia
(8) the chief executive officer of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, or the chief executive officer's designee,	Matt McCooe	CEO Matt McCooe
(9) the Labor Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee,	Ed Howell	DOL Commissioner Dante Bartolomeo
(10) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's designee,	Zachary Alexander	DCP Commissioner Cafferelli
(11) one member appointed by the Chief Workforce Officer who shall be a representative of a regional workforce development board,	Catherine Awwad	Chief Workforce Officer Kelli-Marie Vallieres
(12) one member appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,	Adrienne Farrar Houël	House Speaker Matthew Ritter
(13) one member appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate,	Joe Carbone	Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney
(14) one member appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,	Not yet appointed	Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
(15) one member appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives	Jahangir Aziz Dekhan	House Majority Leader Jason Rojas
(16) one member appointed by the minority leader of the Senate	Robert Maddox	Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding
(17) one member appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and	Joseph Toner	House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora

(18) any other member so designated by the cochairpersons.	Not yet designated	
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Council Website Established

A Council website was established (portal.ct.gov/ccec) to host information on the Council and to host future meeting announcements, agendas, minutes, and links to video recordings. Meetings are also posted to the [State Agency Public Meeting Calendar](#).

Summary of the First Meeting of the Council (Held on November 21, 2025)

The Council held its first quarterly meeting virtually on November 21, 2025, in accordance with the meeting frequency required under Public Act 25-125. The purpose of the meeting was to formally convene the Connecticut Clean Economy Council, review the Council's statutory responsibilities, and receive preliminary input from members to inform future deliberations and required reporting.

Co-Chair Remarks

The co-chairs welcomed Council members and reviewed the statutory purpose of the Council as established in Public Act 25-125. The remarks described the Council's advisory role in supporting statewide coordination related to climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability, particularly where these areas intersect with economic development and workforce considerations. The co-chairs noted that the Council is intended to complement existing programs and initiatives and to serve as a forum for cross-agency and cross-sector communication, consistent with statutory direction to improve coordination and efficiency.

Member Introductions

Council members introduced themselves and their organizational affiliations. Representation reflected the membership categories specified in statute, including state agencies, workforce development entities, labor, education, economic

development, clean energy finance, and community-based organizations. Members briefly identified areas of professional experience relevant to the Council's charge.

Overview of Enabling Legislation

Staff reviewed Public No. 25-125, including the Council's duties, statutory responsibilities, membership structure, meeting requirements, and reporting obligations.

Discussion of Goals and Priorities

Council members provided preliminary observations related to the Council's statutory responsibilities. The discussion was informational and exploratory and did not result in the adoption of priorities, recommendations, or policy positions.

Key discussion themes included the following:

a) Scope of the Clean Economy

Members noted that activities related to climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability span multiple industries and occupational areas. Discussion reflected the broad scope articulated in statute and the relevance of this breadth to workforce and economic development considerations.

b) Coordination Across Existing Efforts

Members observed that multiple existing state, regional, and sector-based initiatives address clean economy workforce and economic development activities. Members discussed the role of the Council as a coordinating and information-sharing body to support alignment and awareness of existing efforts, consistent with statutory direction, rather than as an implementing entity.

c) Employer and Labor Market Considerations

Members identified the importance of employer demand and labor market information in informing workforce-related analysis. Discussion

focused on the use of existing labor market data and employer input to support the Council’s advisory and reporting responsibilities.

d) Equity and Access Considerations

Members referenced statutory language related to vulnerable communities and discussed the relevance of access to clean economy workforce opportunities within the Council’s advisory scope. These comments were framed in relation to statutory requirements and did not establish specific recommendations.

e) Data, Reporting, and Planning Considerations

Members noted the importance of utilizing available data sources, existing analyses, and interagency coordination to support the Council’s required reports and planning activities, particularly in relation to the February 2026 reporting deadline and the July 2026 worker transition plan.

The discussion concluded with agreement that staff would synthesize input received during the meeting and through follow-up communication for consideration in future agendas, draft reports, and planning materials.

Staff noted that the next meeting will be held in early February 2026. The notice for the meeting will be posted on the Council’s website and the State Agency Public Meeting Calendar.

Work will also begin on the plan to facilitate the transition of workers from fossil-fuel-based employment to clean economy jobs [as required by Public Act 25-125(6)(c)] to be submitted not later than July 1, 2026. The plan will be discussed further at the next quarterly meeting.

Recommendations

The only recommendation at this time is a pending legislative revision request to update the reporting frequency reference in Section (6)(g) from “biannual” to “biennial” to provide clarity on reporting timing.