

Governor’s Council on Climate Change Member Statements on GC3 Phase 1 Report Process:

Connecticut Green Bank:

*“We would like to commend the Governor and DEEP on their excellent work focusing this comprehensive and inclusive process on the need to prioritize vulnerable communities in terms of engagement, actions, and investment,” said **Bryan Garcia, President and CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank**. “We believe that continuing to ensure that ratepayer and RGGI funds are invested to help families and businesses, particularly in vulnerable communities, reduce the burden of energy costs while creating good paying jobs and improving our environment through the deployment of clean energy is vitally important. Additionally, we support the broadening of the Green Bank’s scope beyond ‘clean energy’ to include ‘resiliency’ to enable more private investment to reduce the impacts of climate change.”*

Connecticut Department of Housing:

*“The Connecticut Department of Housing enthusiastically supports the recommendations of the 2021 Governor’s Council Report ‘Taking Action on Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut For All,’” **Connecticut Department of Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno** said. “We are confident the action items identified in this report are consistent with the Department’s mission to ensure everyone has access to quality housing opportunities and options throughout the State of Connecticut. Advanced building codes for energy savings and comfort, public transportation priorities, resilient design, and equitable funding initiatives will all serve our most vulnerable populations. The GC3 effort has currently inspired The Department of Housing, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, and other stakeholders to collaborate on a progressive energy and green building ranking system for funding determinations. We believe the report will have that kind of positive influence for other measures throughout the state. We are grateful to the leaders of the GC3 effort at the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection for their tireless work. We look forward to continued collaboration and the implementation of these thoughtful, ambitious recommendations to address the complex issues of climate change and resiliency.”*

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection:

DESPP Commissioner James Rovella stated that the GC3 initiatives are an example of the collaboration and coordination essential to good policy-making:

*“We appreciate the inclusion of emergency management and public safety subject matter experts in the GC3 process over the course of the last year,” **Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner James Rovella** said. “The recommendations reflect a commitment to social equity and will allow this agency to build on existing preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation planning to support the whole Connecticut community.”*

Town of Guilford:

*“From the perspective of a shoreline Town planner with 30 plus years of experience with coastal planning issues, the recommendations to the GC3 process are both daunting and empowering. Local governments will have major responsibilities in creating a more resilient environment in the face of climate change impacts,” **George Kral, Town Planner of the town of Guilford** said. “Resources and tools will need to be*

made available to our towns and cities as described in the report to the GC3. This work is a terrific beginning in this long and challenging process."

Connecticut Department of Public Health:

"The Department of Public Health is very pleased with the GC3's collaborative approach to address climate change with a consistent focus on health equity and assisting vulnerable populations," **Department of Public Health Acting Commissioner Deidre Gifford** said. *"During this time of COVID-19, there is a heightened awareness on human health and implementation actions to address our most vulnerable Connecticut residents. We look forward to the climate work ahead focused on health equity with our sister state and local agencies, community leaders and the private sector to forward important climate change action."*

Connecticut Department of Transportation:

"Transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut so transportation must be a central part of the solution in curbing it," **Department of Transportation Commissioner Joseph Giulietti** said. *"Since the CTDOT is an important partner in our state's path to a carbon-free future, we applaud the recommendations in the report, including our work already in progress to phase in electric transit buses, improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and converting our state fleet to electric vehicles. This report not only reflects countless hours of hard work by a broad, diverse group of stakeholders, it is a strong endorsement of Governor Lamont's bold commitment to the Transportation Climate Initiative and combating climate change."*

Connecticut Insurance Department:

"The Insurance Department is proud to have been a part of the Governor's Council on Climate Change. We are working with industry to better drive investment decisions related to fossil fuels, and to encourage insureds to mitigate risk by providing credits for more resilient construction," said **Insurance Commissioner Andrew N. Mais**. *"We are actively working with other states through the National Association of Insurance Commissioners to have insurers address their investments in fossil fuels in the hopes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, a major contributor to climate change. Climate change and its side effects—forest fires, stronger and more severe storms, and more frequent droughts – are a threat to property, businesses, and our way of life."*

Connecticut Department of Agriculture:

"I'm proud of the work undertaken by the Agriculture and Soils subgroup on the Governor's Council on Climate Change report to put forward recommendations that ensure all components of agriculture are recognized and embraced with positive feedback from various stakeholders within the industry," said **Bryan P. Hurlburt, Agriculture Commissioner and chair of the Ag Soils report**. *"Our large-scale goals, including farmland preservation and land use planning tools, on-farm energy efficiencies and improved soil health practices, building a sustainable and equitable food system, and addressing coastal acidification with a focus on the shellfish industry, are fiscally feasible and reinforce the importance of agriculture as part of the solution to climate change mitigation and adaptation."*

Community Foundation for Greater New Haven:

*“Climate change is the defining issue of our time,” said **Lee Cruz, Community Outreach Director with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven.** “It impacts the air we breathe, the food we eat, our health and wellness, and our financial security now and for many generations to come. Now, more than ever, it is important that government, the private sector, and philanthropy step up. Whether it is planning, advocacy, promoting or financial support, we all have one or more roles to play. It was an honor to serve along with Marianne Engelman-Lado of Yale University as Co-chair of the Equity and Environmental Justice Committee of the Governor's Council on Climate Change. It has motivated me to redouble my efforts to share this plan and the reasons to support its implementation with my colleagues in the philanthropic sector of Connecticut.”*

The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut:

*“The Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3) has made exciting and powerful advancements under Governor Lamont and his team,” said **Dr. Frogard Ryan, State Director of The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut and GC-3 Council member.** “We enthusiastically support addressing the overarching urgency of climate change through the near-term actions of the Phase 1 Report, especially the first-time inclusion of Working and Natural Lands and a focus on equity and environmental justice throughout. At TNC, we believe that the interconnection of these issues is critical and applaud the ambition of the Governor, DEEP and the many GC3 contributors for taking it on.”*

Connecticut Office of Policy and Management:

*“The work of the Governor’s Council on Climate Change has helped identify innovative options to finance climate resilience and adaptation, and has focused efforts to ensure that the state is prepared to leverage federal funds that we anticipate will become available under the Biden Administration, **Melissa McCaw, Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management,** stated. I look forward to engaging in the continued planning and implementation efforts of the Council.”*

Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority:

*“On behalf of PURA, we commend Governor Lamont for applying an equity lens to the GC3 efforts, and we look forward to continuing to work with all of Connecticut’s leaders and stakeholders to enable an equitable transition to a zero-carbon electric grid, **PURA Chairman Marissa Gillett** said. The strategies and perspectives reflected in this report are welcome input for the many proceedings and initiatives planned and already underway at PURA as we strive to mitigate the inequities and disproportionate impacts often experienced by our most vulnerable ratepayers and communities.”*

Operation Fuel:

*I wish to thank Governor Ned Lamont and Commissioner Katie Dykes, for the opportunity to serve on the GC3 and for their vision,” said **Brenda Watson, Executive Director of Operation Fuel.** “Expanding the membership and responsibilities of the GC3 to include voices that are typically left out planning efforts such as this, demonstrates this Administration’s commitment to environmental justice and energy equity. I don’t believe that many of us realized in late 2019, what early 2020 would bring and, we cannot ignore the weaknesses in our systems that were revealed in the early days of the pandemic. The pandemic also amplified yet another truth about our environment in that black, brown, and poor communities continue to experience huge disruptions in everyday life as a result of redlining, health inequities, and economic isolation when weather disasters strike. As we hunkered down per the Governor’s stay home stay safe*

orders, early home energy estimates note an increase of use by 25%-30%, where GHG emissions declined. What we learned is that we can easily achieve our GHG goals by enacting smart policies now. I also believe, this moment in time, is precisely why the GC3 report is incredibly important. This report, will drive our transition to clean energy across the state and with an emphasis on communities hardest hit by pollution and potential weather threats.”

Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs:

“The work of the GC3, the dedicated work of the Transportation Sector has created a roadmap to an energy efficient, equitable plan that can shape the future of transportation in Connecticut,” **Aziz Dehkan, Director and Lead Organizer of the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs**, said. “Those who took the time to produce these recommendations look forward to working with DEEP and Gov. Lamont to implement policies that address climate change.”

Stanley Black & Decker:

“As a member of the GC3 Council and the Mitigation subcommittee, representing business and industry in Connecticut, it has been advantageous to see the full immersion of diverse contributions,” said **Deb Geyer, Vice President of Environmental Health & Safety and Corporate Sustainability at Stanley Black & Decker**. “This will ensure the recommendations and timelines necessary to address climate change in Connecticut are doable and aligned to the needs of the community. The 2021 recommendations will ensure Connecticut remains on the path to 100% clean energy by 2040.”

UConn Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation:

Global warming will have unavoidable and significant impacts in Connecticut,” said **James O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation**. “We applaud the GC3’s report’s recognition that we must simultaneously share the burdens associated with reducing greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere and adapt our infrastructure to be more resilient to the rapidly increasing risk from flooding and severe weather. UCONN and CIRCA are committed to assisting the state in developing innovative approaches to overcome both these challenges.

Fuss & O’Neill:

“We know that the challenge of climate change mitigation and adaptation will require action and support from many groups across the state and it is critical to the implementation phase that the voices of all these groups and their unique, but often interdependent concerns, are represented,” said **Kevin Grigg, President and CEO of Fuss & O’Neill**. “It is encouraging and exciting to see the collaborative recommendations from government, academia, non-profits, and business and industry represented in the GC3 membership, in the working groups, and in this Phase 1 report as this sets the foundation for truly effective action on climate.”

Save the Sound:

“We would like to express our deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication shown by the appointees and workgroups of the GC3, the DEEP staff, and the members of the public over an intensive year of coordination, collaboration, and analysis,” said **Curt Johnson, President of Save the Sound**. “Now we must move to action. It has been thirteen years since Connecticut established legal commitments to slash its climate pollution, and we are feeling the impact of climate change from

stronger storms that batter our shores and disrupt our energy grid. Residents can't wait: we must pass legislation this year to establish accountability for meeting our greenhouse gas reduction targets, to enact the Transportation and Climate Initiative, to rapidly grow renewable energy and protect energy efficiency programs, and to invest in the resiliency programs that will prepare our communities for the future."

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development:

*"The Department of Economic and Community Development was honored to be part of the Governor's Council on Climate Change and recognizes the significance of today's report. Connecticut's ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change is an important factor in our state's economic resilience and competitiveness. In particular, we view renewable energy as an economic driver for our state. DECD will continue to promote workforce training and supply chain participation in the offshore wind sector among other renewable energy sectors more broadly," said **David Lehman, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.***

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments:

*"The Regional Council of Governments, representing the State of Connecticut's municipalities, are poised to assist the state achieve its climate goals," said **Matthew Fulda, Executive Director of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments.** "Collaboration of local, regional and state governments, as well as with the private sector, non-profits, academic institutions and NGOs will be critical for Connecticut to ensure the health, safety and resiliency of all our residents. The GC3 process, which brought together a large and diverse group of stakeholders from the Governor's Council to the hundreds of working group members, provided a clear roadmap for the type and scale of coordination needed to properly address our changing climate. Most importantly, Governor Lamont's emphasis on Equity and Environmental Justice throughout the planning process will ensure all residents, especially those that are most vulnerable to climate-related stressors and those often not included in long-term planning, are fully represented in the recommendations and programs endorsed by the GC3."*