

May 5, 2021

**Legislative Actions to Implement the Recommendations of the  
Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)**

*Bills before the Connecticut General Assembly that are related to GC3 recommendations and that have passed favorably out of committee are listed below. The related GC3 recommendations are shown in parentheses. You can use the number to find the GC3 recommendation in the [GC3 January 2021 report, Taking Action on Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut for All](#).*

**CLIMATE MITIGATION**

**Cross-cutting**

1. **Governor's Bill.** An Act Reducing Transportation-related Carbon Emissions ([SB 884](#)). (GC3 #3, #21a)  
Authorizes the DEEP to implement the Transportation and Climate Initiative Program (TCI-P) to reduce transportation emissions by 26% and invest at least 50% of funds from the program in communities overburdened by air pollution and underserved by transportation. The bill establishes the Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Board to advise the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and requires that at least half its members be residents of these communities.
  
2. **Governor's Bill.** AAC Climate Change Mitigation and Home Energy Affordability ([SB 882](#)) (Executive Order 3, GC3 #5a, #8c, #12e, #12f)  
Codifying the zero-carbon energy supply by 2040 goal in statute and requiring renters to provide energy use information on their properties with the option for homeowners to also disclose this information.

**Equity & Environmental Justice**

3. AAC Establishing an Energy Efficient Retrofit Grant Program for Affordable Housing ([SB 356](#)) (GC3 #3, #7c)  
Requires the Department of Housing (DOH), by September 1, 2021, to establish an energy efficiency retrofit grant program, and imposes a new \$5 building permit application fee to fund it. Generally, the bill requires that the program (1) award grants for installing energy efficient upgrades to affordable housing, including housing authority property, and (2) set goals for upgrades to affordable housing units, from 2021 to 2025.
  
4. An Act Increasing Representation on the Energy Conservation Management Board ([SB 856](#)) (GC3 #3, #7a, #7g)  
To increase representation on the energy conservation management board, including low-income residential customers and municipalities.

**Progress on Mitigation Strategies**

5. AAC The Establishment of Energy Use Building Standards for Voluntary Adoption ([HB 6572](#)) (GC3 #7d)  
This bill allows municipalities to establish a requirement that new or substantially renovated buildings over 40,000 square feet demonstrate that they use at least 10% per square foot less energy than maximum levels permitted under the state building code (i.e., a "stretch code").

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6. **Governor's Bill.** AAC Workforce Development ([SB 881](#)) (GC3 #10)  
Establishes an Office of Workforce Strategy that can assist the state with clean energy-related workforce development.
7. AAC Emission Standards for Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles ([SB 931](#)) (GC3 #16c, #22a, #22b)  
This bill requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner, by December 31, 2021, to assess the energy, environmental, and air quality impacts of adopting California's medium- and heavy-duty vehicle standards in Connecticut. If the commissioner determines that adopting the California standards is necessary to meet federal air quality standards or state greenhouse gas reduction requirements, she may adopt regulations to implement the standards here. If commissioner adopts these regulations, the commissioner must amend them whenever the California standards change. The regulations may incorporate by reference the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) adopted regulations.
8. **Governor's Bill.** AAC Equitable Access to Broadband ([HB 6442](#)) (GC3 #20f)  
To promote broadband build-out in unserved and underserved areas through mapping and restoring statutory mandates, to streamline costly deployment processes, and to give the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) additional authority to protect consumers.

#### Natural & Working Lands

9. AAC the Solicitation of Biogas Injection Proposals from Anaerobic Digestion Facilities ([HB 6409](#)) GC3 (#42a, #42e)  
This bill allows the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner, in consultation with certain other officials, to solicit proposals from anaerobic digestion facilities to make biogas suitable for injecting into the state's natural gas distribution system.

### CLIMATE ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

#### Cross-cutting

10. **Governor's Bill.** AAC Climate Change Adaptation ([HB 6441](#)) (GC3 #31b, #32a, #33c, #34b, #35c, #35d, #36a, #36b, #50e, #55d, #57)  
The bill 1) authorizes municipalities to create stormwater authorities to address flooding and water pollution; 2) enables municipalities to have the option to adopt a real estate conveyance fee to fund adaptation and resilience projects; 3) adds flood prevention and climate resilience to the purview of municipal flood and erosion control boards and clarifies they can use funds to cover operations and maintenance costs; and 4) expands the Connecticut Green Bank to include an Environmental Infrastructure Fund to finance adaptation and resilience projects.

#### Natural & Working Lands

11. AAC Enhancements to Certain Agricultural Programs ([HB 6385](#)) (GC3 #41b)  
Includes urban and nontraditional farming practices as indicated purposes for the Department of Agriculture's transition and viability grants.

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**Infrastructure & Land Use Climate Adaptation  
Public Health & Safety Climate Adaptation**

12. AAC Geographic Information Systems ([HB 6647](#)) (GC3 #50c, #53b, #53f,j, #54a)  
This bill establishes a: 1. Geographic Information Officer position to oversee a new Geographic Information Systems Office, and its staff, within the Office of Policy Management (OPM) (§ 2) and 2. Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council (GIS Council) to consult with OPM on geographic information system (GIS) matters (§ 1). The officer is generally responsible for coordinating the collection, analysis, and accessibility of GIS data. The council is generally responsible for assisting in making GIS data free and publicly available.

**Financing & Funding Climate Adaptation**

13. AAC the State Treasurer and Climate Change and Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds ([SB 971](#)) (GC3 #56e)  
This bill expands the options municipalities have to invest climate change and coastal resiliency reserve fund assets by allowing them to invest in any trust fund the state treasurer holds, administers, or invests. As with other investments of reserve fund assets, investments made through the state treasurer may only be in certain financial instruments authorized under existing law.
14. AAC The Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program ([HB 6571](#)) (GC3 #21a, #56f)  
This bill expands eligibility for the Green Bank's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE) by allowing the program to finance, for qualifying commercial real property, the installation of (1) zero-emission vehicle refueling infrastructure and (2) resilience improvements.