

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INPUT
GOVERNOR LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 3

On September 3, 2019, Governor Ned Lamont signed [Executive Order No. 3 \(E.O. 3\)](#) strengthening Connecticut's commitment to transition to a decarbonized economy and enhance resiliency of the state's economic, cultural, and natural resources to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and flooding, increasingly powerful storms, extreme heat events, and ecosystem degradation.

Expanded Scope and Membership of the Governor's Council on Climate Change

E.O. 3 broadens the responsibilities of the [Governor's Council on Climate Change](#) (GC3). First, the GC3's focus on climate mitigation strategies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (achieving a 45% reduction from 2001 levels by 2030) has been expanded to include monitoring the state's progress on the implementation of carbon mitigation strategies outlined in the report [Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% Reduction by 2030](#). In addition to this, the Council will be required to develop a climate adaptation strategy that assesses and prepares Connecticut for the impacts of climate change. Key adaptation actions will include developing an inventory of state agencies' vulnerable assets and operations, and updating the statewide [2011 Climate Change Preparedness Plan](#) with strategies to protect vulnerable communities and natural resources that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change. Finally, E.O. 3 expands the membership of the GC3 to include additional state agencies, local government representatives, and five individuals who represent health, equity, affordability, or environmental justice. GC3 members are appointed by the Governor.

Executive Order 3 Implementation Process

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will work closely and engage with other state agencies, communities, and stakeholders to implement E.O. 3 over the coming months and years. Accurately assessing and strengthening Connecticut's preparedness and resilience to the expected impacts of climate change in the coming decades will require the inclusion of stakeholders who bring a diversity of knowledge, perspective, and expertise to the process.

At this time, as directed by E.O. 3, two subcommittees are being formed to accomplish the work of the GC3: a Climate Change Mitigation subcommittee, and a Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency subcommittee. All GC3 members are invited to participate on either or both subcommittees. E.O. 3 also provides for DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes, who serves as the Chair of the GC3, to designate additional subcommittee participants. Meetings of the two subcommittees will be noticed and open to the public, and will include opportunities for public comment.

Structure of the Governor's Council on Climate Change

Ad hoc working groups may also be established as needed and tasked with a time-limited scope of work on specific substantive areas to serve the mission of the subcommittees. Working groups will coordinate with the subcommittees to achieve specific objectives and deliverables. The following thematic areas are proposed as the basis for initial working groups (additional working groups may be formed as needed):

Joint Working Groups (reporting to both the Mitigation and Adaptation/Resilience Subcommittees)

- **Science and Technology** - Provide scientific and technical support to GC3 and subcommittees and assist with translating climate modeling and data into actionable, downscaled information that can be used to incorporate climate change into planning processes.
- **Equity and Environmental Justice** - Develop a robust stakeholder engagement process to ensure that the communities most vulnerable to and disproportionately impacted by climate change have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that meet their needs and achieve equitable solutions.
- **Working and Natural Lands** - Evaluate the role of nature-based solutions (e.g., scaling up the preservation and restoration of forests and coastal wetlands, green and natural infrastructure, agricultural lands) in climate change mitigation and adaptation and how to best incorporate the economic, social, and environmental co-benefits of these solutions into Connecticut's climate change planning strategies.

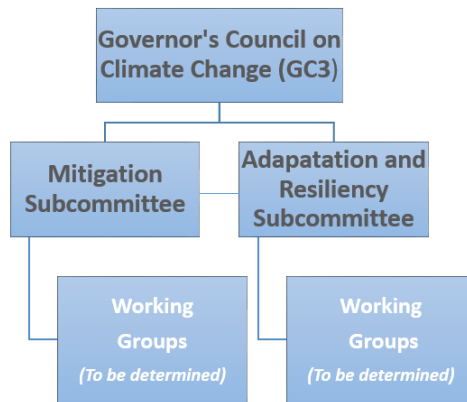
Adaptation Working Groups

- **Assessing Vulnerabilities in State Assets & Operations** - Assist in development of a framework for state agencies to complete an inventory of vulnerable assets and operations, including defining vulnerability criteria, risk parameters, and relevant climate hazards for analysis.
- **Financing Adaptation** - Identify innovative and practical options to finance climate adaptation and mechanisms to scale investment in the broad spectrum of climate resilience strategies and solutions.
- **Adaptation Planning and Implementation** - Review and update the [2011 Climate Change Adaptation/Preparedness Plan](#) to include the most current and locally-scaled scientific information and analyses available and provide updated recommendations for adapting to and improving the state's resilience to climate change.

Mitigation Working Groups

- **Progress on Mitigation Strategies** - Review and evaluate progress in implementing the recommendations outlined in the 2018 GC3 report, [Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030](#). Assess how recommended strategies are integrated into existing and new policy planning efforts, evaluate the efficacy of existing and proposed policies at reducing GHG emissions, and prioritize the equitable distribution of costs and benefits of climate change mitigation.

GC3, subcommittees, and working group structure



Developing a Framework for Adaptation & Resilience

In approaching the critically important task of leading the development, implementation, and institutionalization of climate change adaptation strategies in Connecticut as described above, the GC3 will consider the following key framing questions:

1. Which sectors and systems will be impacted by climate change and its related hazards and in what way?
2. What additional science and data are needed to better understand and address the expected impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities and ecosystems in Connecticut?
3. How will we ensure diverse stakeholders are engaged throughout the planning, development, and implementation of adaptation and resilience strategies?
4. How can we prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that protect vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change?
5. What strategies can we employ to protect and harness our natural resources to mitigate the effects of climate change while fostering natural resource adaptation to a changing climate?
6. How can federal, state, regional, municipal, and local adaptation efforts best be aligned to maximize impact and benefits?
7. What funding sources and mechanisms can we leverage to advance investment in adaptation and resilience?

Request for Public Participation

We invite members of the public to submit comments on the following questions that will help inform the approach of the GC3:

1. Please comment on the scope of the framing questions for adaptation and resilience (see prior section). Should any of these questions be omitted or reframed? Are there any additional questions that should be asked?
2. Please provide comment on the working group thematic areas, as they contribute to the tasks set forth in E.O. 3. Recognizing the resource limitations on managing multiple

working groups, should the scope of any of the proposed working groups be adjusted, or supplemented?

Comments should be submitted to: DEEP.ClimateChange@ct.gov Please submit comments by November 8, 2019 at 5:00 PM EST.

For more information on the work of GC3 please see the [GC3 website](#). To be automatically notified on updates and progress regarding the implementation of E.O. 3 and to indicate interest in assisting the council in convening stakeholders, sharing information or presentations with a Subcommittee or working group, or otherwise supporting the mission of the Council please complete the following form available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTExecutiveOrder3>

Key Deadlines and Deliverables for E.O. 3:

- 1. No later than January 15, 2021** – Item 3: The Council shall report to the Governor no later than January 15, 2021, and annually thereafter, on the state’s progress on the implementation of the strategies identified in [Building a Low Carbon Future for Connecticut: Achieving a 45% GHG Reduction by 2030](#).
- 2. By January 15, 2021** – Item 5b: Prepare and report to the Governor on a revised statewide Adaptation Resilience Plan for Connecticut.
- 3. By December 31, 2021** – Items 5c: Each state agency member of the climate change adaptation and resiliency subcommittee shall report to the Council on the alignment of climate change adaptation strategies incorporated into their relevant planning process and documents.
- 4. At least once, by the close of each calendar year** – Council shall report on its progress to the chairpersons and ranking members of relevant joint standing committees of the Connecticut General Assembly.
