

December 16, 2021

**SUMMARY OF GOVERNOR LAMONT'S
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-3
ON CLIMATE**

The 23 actions in this Climate Executive Order implement recommendations put forward by the Governor's Council on Climate Change in their January 2021 report, *Taking Action on Climate Change and Building a More Resilient Connecticut for All*, by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and making our state more resilient to the impacts of climate change, within the executive authority of the Governor.

The 23 actions address climate change in the areas of buildings and infrastructure; clean transportation; community climate resilience; health, equity and environmental justice; jobs and the economy; and natural and working lands.

The following summary outlines each of the 23 actions in more detail.

CLIMATE, BUILDINGS and INFRASTRUCTURE

1. **Comprehensive Energy Strategy – Achieving GHG Reductions Consistent with the Global Warming Solutions Act.** Directs DEEP, in the next Comprehensive Energy Strategy, to identify strategies to provide for more affordable heating and cooling for Connecticut residents and businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from residential and commercial buildings and industrial processes, and improve the resilience of the state's energy sector to extreme weather events, fuel commodity price spikes, and other disruptions.
2. **Energy efficient and climate resilient building codes.** Directs DAS Building Inspector to:
 - Maintain up-to-date code
 - Make reduction in greenhouse gas emissions a core consideration when adopting the State Building Code
 - Consider sea level rise scenario of up to 1 foot 8 inches by 2050 and other impacts of climate change when making amendments to State Building Code
 - Solicit testimony from resilience experts when developing the code
 - Consider resiliency standards based on best available science, including the Insurance Institute of Business & Home Safety FORTIFIED standards
 - Train new and existing code officials on construction techniques that lower emissions and improve climate resilience and continue to recruit new Codes and Standards Committee members with expertise in these areas
 - Work with DEEP to adopt High Performance Building Standards
3. **Strengthening Interim Targets for GreenerGovCT Lead By Example.** In order to meet 45% GHG emissions reduction goal the state will adopt targets to implement organics/food waste diversion, purchase 100% zero carbon electricity, lease zero emission light-duty

vehicles, plan for retrofit and new construction zero carbon heating and cooling, divest buildings, deploy solar, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from state buildings.

4. **Appliance Standards.** Directs DEEP to promulgate regulations to promote energy conservation and efficiency, provided that the subject appliances remain cost-effective for consumers who purchase and use them.
5. **Resilient state buildings.** Directs DAS to ensure state buildings are capable of withstanding wind and flood risks and to consider use of Insurance Institute of Business & Home Safety's FORTIFIED standards to meet this goal.
6. **Solar arrays on DAS and DOT state properties.** Directs DOT and DAS to identify opportunities to deploy solar on their properties and rights-of-way.

CLEAN TRANSPORTATION

7. **Statewide battery electric bus fleet by 2035.** Directs DOT to cease purchasing or providing state funding to third parties for the purchase of diesel buses by the end of 2023 and create an implementation plan which identifies any barriers to full bus fleet electrification.
8. **2030 vehicle miles traveled reduction target.** Directs DOT to set a 2030 VMT reduction target and develop a plan of investments to influence the reductions.

COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE

9. **Connecticut Community Climate Resilience Program.** Directs DEEP to establish a Connecticut Community Climate Resilience program with funding from the microgrid and resilience grant program for plans and project development with 40% of resources targeted at municipalities where vulnerable populations reside. This planning investment will, among other things, help to identify a pipeline of projects that could obtain federal infrastructure funding.
10. **Community resilience engagement and technical assistance.** Directs DEEP to work with partners, including UConn, to help municipalities and Councils of Government implement climate resilience actions, including establishing stormwater authorities and municipal climate resilience boards enabled under Governor's bill AAC Climate Change Adaptation signed into law as P.A.21-115.
11. **State vulnerability assessment of state government assets and operations and state climate resilience project pipeline.** Directs the EO1 Greener Gov Steering Committee co-chairs (OPM, DAS, DEEP) in cooperation with DESPP to assess the vulnerability of state government assets and operations to the impacts of climate change and create a list of priority assets and infrastructure for climate resilience projects for each agency.
12. **Resilient Stormwater and Drainage Systems.** Directs DEEP to update the design criteria for stormwater management systems and DOT to identify culverts that need to be repaired or replaced to guide application for federal funding for this work.

13. **Resilient Critical Facilities.** Directs DESPP, DEEP, DAS and OPM to maintain a list of state and local critical facilities and directs all state agencies to consider this list in their capital and climate resilience planning, especially in floodplains or flood-prone areas.

CLIMATE, HEALTH, EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

14. **Community Air Quality Monitoring.** Directs DEEP to develop a community-based air quality monitoring program, in consultation with DPH.
15. **Assess the Need to Adopt California Medium and Heavy-Duty (MHD) vehicle emissions standards.** Directs DEEP to assess whether Connecticut needs to adopt California’s standards to meeting our air quality standards and emissions reduction targets.
16. **DPH Office of Climate and Public Health.** Directs DPH to establish an Office of Climate and Public Health (“OCPH”) to address the intersection of climate change and health equity. DPH has obtained federal (CDC) grant funding to support this work. The OCPH will:
- Utilize the social vulnerability index (“SVI”) in climate change planning for vulnerable populations, including for use in targeting resources;
 - Establish guidance, policies, and laws to reduce illness and death among Connecticut’s residents from climate-related disease and exposures with health equity as a consistent focus;
 - Implement actions identified in the Public Health & Safety section of the GC3 January 2021 report
 - Develop plans to assist residents in high SVI locations for climate control in dwellings;
 - Apply lessons learned from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery;
 - Provide training and education;
 - Convene and form partnerships
 - The OCPH shall coordinate efforts to implement the above charge drawing upon the expertise within DPH and across state agencies.
17. **Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council.** Establishes the Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (“CEEJAC”) within DEEP.
- Council will advise DEEP on current and historic environmental injustice, pollution reduction, energy equity, climate change mitigation and resiliency, health disparities, and racial inequity, including but not limited to the following:
 - Integrating environmental justice considerations into the programs, policies, and activities of DEEP
 - Providing mechanisms for Environmental Justice Communities to have a meaningful opportunity to participate in any decision to allow certain types of facilities in such communities
 - Developing a model plan for community engagement and stakeholder outreach
 - Strengthening DEEP partnerships

CLIMATE, JOBS and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

18. **Connecticut Clean Economy Council.** Establishes a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise the Governor on strategies and policies to strengthen the state’s climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs by identifying opportunities to leverage state and federal funding and maximize local economic development in clean energy, climate and sustainability; train the workforce in these areas; and support a diverse and equitable economic development and employment
 - Appoints DECD, DEEP, OPM, DOT, Office of Workforce Strategies, Office of the Governor, Green Bank, and CT Innovations.
 - Requires a report of findings by November 1, 2022.
19. **Climate Resilient Economic Development.** Directs DECD to include climate resilience and adaptation in its considerations for Municipal Brownfields grants and new Communities Challenge with additional consideration for any projects designed under the Connecticut Community Climate Resilience program created under this EO.

CLIMATE AND NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS

20. **Forest Climate Resilience and Mitigation Potential.** Directs DEEP to engage stakeholders on resources and programs to ensure Connecticut’s forests continue to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and to maximize forest’s potential to sequester and store carbon in support of state’s emissions reduction goals.
21. **Agriculture climate resilience and mitigation potential.** Directs the Dept. of Agriculture to engage stakeholders on what is needed to ensure working lands and soils in Connecticut continue to be resilient to the impacts of climate change and to maximize their potential to sequester and store carbon in support of state’s emissions reduction goals. The engagement will include streamlining protection of working lands, enhancing renewable energy and energy efficiency programs available to farms, and partnering with state and federal agencies to improve soil health.
22. **Climate resilience using nature-based solutions on state properties.** Directs DEEP and DAS to develop guidance for state agencies on how to use nature-based solutions for flood and erosion control and stormwater management, integrate coastal marsh migration in state projects in coastal areas, and utilize low impact development and green infrastructure in new state construction and state-funded construction or redevelopment.
 - Directs agencies to utilize this guidance for capital project planning and design all capital projects following this guidance and then to report on their progress to the EO1 Steering Committee on State Sustainability.

GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

23. **Continue Governor’s Council on Climate Change.** Extends the Governor’s Council on Climate Change to require a report on progress under both mitigation and adaptation and resilience planning in Sections 4 and 5 of EO3 by December 31, 2022 and December 31 every year thereafter.