

CONNECTICUT CLIMATE PROGRESS

Assessing Implementation of Executive Order 21-3



**CT COALITION FOR
CLIMATE ACTION**

ClimateActionCT.org

In 2021, Governor Lamont signed Executive Order (EO) 21-3, which called for 23 climate actions to create a safer, healthier, more affordable Connecticut.

To gauge the administration's progress towards achieving its climate mandates, the Connecticut Coalition for Climate Action investigated the progress made on each item of the executive order, as of fall 2025.



Our Mission

Connecticut promised to cut climate pollution and protect our future. It is time to keep that promise. Environmental advocates, health experts, labor and municipal representatives, and more, together representing 300,000 people, have formed the CT Coalition for Climate Action to make sure that happens.

The CT Coalition for Climate Action is working together to:







- Maximize our collective power
- Focus on a handful of climate actions that need immediate attention
- Unite skilled organizations and individuals working across multiple spaces

This report was prepared by the Connecticut Coalition for Climate Action Steering Committee using the best information available as of fall 2025. More information on the Coalition can be found at <https://www.climateactionct.org>.



This report was made possible through the Henry L. and Grace Doherty Climate and Resilience Institute at Save the Sound, and the generosity of many donors to Save the Sound.

Each section of the [Executive Order 21-3](#) was graded based on  full completion,  some progress, and  no progress/no publicly available data to show progress.

Buildings and Infrastructure

	<p>EO Section 1: Within the Comprehensive Energy Strategy report, identify strategies to lower heating and cooling costs, reach the economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction targets required by the Global Warming Solutions Act, and improve the resilience of the state's energy sector.</p>	<p>A Comprehensive Energy Strategy was initiated in January 2022, but the final document has not been issued, missing the statutory requirement of preparing a report every four years.</p>
	<p>EO Section 2: Update building codes to ensure energy efficiency, GHG reductions, and climate resilience and provide training and educational programs; and improve training for code officials in these areas.</p>	<p>DEEP is actively working to update the High Performance Building Standards to reference the 2024 International Green Construction Code as an "add on" for the soon-to-be-adopted 2026 state base building code. However, DAS will not provide training to administer the new code.</p>
	<p>EO Section 3: Implement specific lead-by-example interim targets to meet the state government 45% GHG emissions reduction goal by 2030.</p>	<p>Progress can be found on the GreenerGov webpage. The 2024 Report shows that Executive Branch emissions went down over 14% since 2019, though additional efforts are still needed to meet the 2030 goal.</p>
	<p>EO Section 4: Promulgate regulations to increase energy efficiency standards for appliances.</p>	<p>Although DEEP has supported legislative proposals to update standards, the appliance standard regulations have not been updated in statute since 2017.</p>
	<p>EO Section 5: Ensure state buildings are capable of withstanding wind and flood risks reasonably expected during the lifespan of the structure.</p>	<p>DAS collaborated with the CT Dept of Insurance to review the 2024 code changes and especially the roof taping requirements usually found in FORTIFIED standards. They have implemented three options for roof underlayment protection that exceeds the minimum code requirements.</p>
	<p>EO Section 6: Host solar arrays on DAS and DOT State Properties.</p>	<p>DOT conducted an initial review of property, and is contracted to continue progress. DAS has three solar projects and an additional project is underway.</p>

Clean Transportation

	<p>EO Section 7: Cease purchase of diesel buses by 2023 and electrify the state fleet by 2035.</p>	<p>DOT has only purchased Battery Electric Buses since 2023. Additionally, the agency purchased 61 electric buses and plans to move forward to meet the 2035 deadline to electrify the state fleet.</p>
	<p>EO Section 8: Setting a 2030 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Target.</p>	<p>DOT set a 5% reduction goal for VMT by 2030 and outlined strategies to achieve that goal.</p>

Community Climate Resilience



EO Section 9: Establish a Connecticut Community Climate Resilience Program to fund adaptation and resilience planning.

DEEP established the [Climate Resilience Fund](#) and the second round of funding was opened in late 2025.



EO Section 10: Advance community engagement and provide technical assistance to local governments working toward climate resilience.

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) and DEEP created the [CIRCA Climate & Equity Fund](#), and requested grant proposals for projects that increase the capacity of vulnerable communities to mitigate, plan for, and respond to climate impacts. Continued and increased funding is recommended.



EO Section 11: Assess the climate vulnerability of State Government assets and operations, and incorporate findings into mitigation planning.

The [2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update](#) states that this assessment has been deferred to the 2023-2028 plan as the Resilience State Facilities Initiative. [OPM](#) announced that contracting is in process to begin this assessment.



EO Section 12: Ensure resilient stormwater and drainage systems through updated design criteria and culvert needs assessment.

Design criteria for stormwater management was updated in accordance with [NOAA Atlas 14](#) and DOT has multiple [culvert programs](#) in progress



EO Section 13: Include critical infrastructure facilities in state and local climate resilience planning.

[The State Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan covers these facilities; see pp 82-85 and fig.16-17.](#)

Health, Equity, and Environmental Justice



EO Section 14: Develop a community air quality monitoring program to collect and increase access to local air quality data.

Community air monitors measuring Particulate Matter 2.5, PurpleAir sensors, have been deployed at all 14 of DEEP's stations. More information can be found on [DEEP's site](#).



EO Section 15: Assess the need for CT to adopt Medium and Heavy-Duty (MHD) Vehicle Emissions Standards to attain healthy air quality and meet emissions targets.

DEEP produced an extensive report making the case for adoption of the MHDV standards.



EO Section 16: Establish a DPH Office of Climate and Public Health to address the intersection of climate change and health equity.

The [office was established](#) and is creating a Climate and Health Curriculum in collaboration with local health departments and districts (LHDs). However, this is a durational position. It is recommended that this work continue at DPH.



EO Section 17: Establish the Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC).

CEEJAC was established in 2022 and has been active since then. More information on specific actions can be found on [CEEJAC's website](#).

Jobs and Economic Development



EO Section 18: Create a Connecticut Clean Economy Council to advise on strategies and policies to strengthen climate mitigation, clean energy, resilience, and sustainability programs.

The Clean Economy Council was created but has not posted publicly available information. The CEC was codified in [PA 25-125](#).



EO Section 19: Include community resilience in the criteria for funding projects under certain economic development grants.

Climate and resilience are included in the assessment criteria for the [Municipal Brownfield Grant Program](#). Assessment criteria for the CT Communities Challenge grants are not publicly [available](#) at the time of publication.

Working and Natural Lands



EO Section 20: Maximize the climate mitigation potential of Connecticut's forests and ensure their resilience through stakeholder engagement.

DEEP engaged stakeholders through Urban Forestry Grant Opportunities, the Forest Landowner Assistance program, and the State Lands Management Program to improve forest resiliency. Monitoring and reporting on negative carbon emissions was included in the [latest greenhouse gas inventory](#). While the administration has met the explicit directive of the EO, we recognize that additional staff resources will be needed in order to achieve the anticipated substantive forest protection outcomes.



EO Section 21: Maximize the climate mitigation potential of Connecticut's working lands and soils and ensure their resilience through stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholder engagement is conducted through the [Farmland Preservation Advisory Board](#) under the [Department of Agriculture](#).



EO Section 22: Improve the resilience of state properties using nature-based solutions through state guidance.

Guidance on soil erosion and sediment control is [published](#). DEEP is in the process of working on state guidance through the nature-based solutions report mandated in PA 25-125.

Governor's Council on Climate Change



EO Section 23: Continue Governor's Council on Climate Change and require yearly reports.

While the GC3 has been relatively dormant since the end of 2022, it [reconvened in 2026](#).





©2026 CT Coalition for Climate Action
All Rights Reserved