



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Substitute Bill No. 306**



**AN ACT CONCERNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY STRATEGY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 16a-3d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 (a) On or before October 1, 2020, and every four years thereafter, the  
4 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, in consultation  
5 with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,  
6 shall prepare a Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Said strategy shall  
7 reflect the legislative findings and policy stated in section 16a-35k,  
8 provide any analysis and recommendations necessary to guide the  
9 state's energy policy to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction  
10 requirements, as established in section 22a-200a, in the most cost-  
11 effective manner and incorporate (1) an assessment and plan for all  
12 energy needs in the state, including, but not limited to, electricity,  
13 heating, cooling, and transportation, (2) the findings of the Integrated  
14 Resources Plan, (3) the findings of the plan for energy efficiency adopted  
15 pursuant to section 16-245m, (4) the findings of the plan for renewable  
16 energy adopted pursuant to section 16-245n, and (5) the Energy  
17 Assurance Plan developed for the state of Connecticut pursuant to the  
18 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, or any  
19 successor Energy Assurance Plan developed within a reasonable time  
20 prior to the preparation of any Comprehensive Energy Strategy. Said

21 strategy shall further include, but not be limited to, (A) an assessment  
22 of current energy supplies, demand and costs, (B) identification and  
23 evaluation of the factors likely to affect future energy supplies, demand  
24 and costs, (C) a statement of progress made toward achieving the goals  
25 and milestones set in the preceding Comprehensive Energy Strategy,  
26 (D) a statement of energy policies and long-range energy planning  
27 objectives and strategies appropriate to achieve, the state's greenhouse  
28 gas reduction goals established in section 22a-200a, a sound economy,  
29 the least-cost mix of energy supply sources to meet said goals and  
30 measures that reduce demand for energy, giving due regard to such  
31 factors as consumer price impacts, security and diversity of fuel supplies  
32 and energy generating methods, protection of public health and safety,  
33 environmental goals and standards, conservation of energy and energy  
34 resources and the ability of the state to compete economically, (E)  
35 recommendations for administrative and legislative actions to  
36 implement such policies, objectives and strategies, (F) an assessment of  
37 the potential costs savings and benefits to ratepayers, including, but not  
38 limited to, carbon dioxide emissions reductions or voluntary joint  
39 ventures to repower some or all of the state's coal-fired and oil-fired  
40 generation facilities built before 1990, (G) the benefits, costs, obstacles  
41 and solutions related to the expansion and use and availability of  
42 natural gas in Connecticut, and (H) a strategy for ensuring the state's  
43 energy efficiency goals are met.

44 (b) In adopting the Comprehensive Energy Strategy, the  
45 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall conduct a  
46 proceeding that shall not be considered a contested case under chapter  
47 54, but shall include not less than one public meeting and one technical  
48 meeting at which technical personnel shall be available to answer  
49 questions. Such meetings shall be transcribed and posted on the  
50 department's Internet web site. Said commissioner shall give not less  
51 than fifteen days' notice of such proceeding by electronic publication on  
52 the department's Internet web site. Not later than fifteen days prior to  
53 any such public meeting and not less than thirty days prior to any such  
54 technical meeting, the commissioner shall publish notice of either such

55 meeting and post the text of the proposed Comprehensive Energy  
56 Strategy on the department's Internet web site. Notice of such public  
57 meeting or technical meeting may also be published in one or more  
58 newspapers having state-wide circulation if deemed necessary by the  
59 commissioner. Such notice shall state the date, time, and place of the  
60 meeting, the subject matter of the meeting, the manner and time period  
61 during which comments may be submitted to said commissioner, the  
62 statutory authority for the proposed strategy and the location where a  
63 copy of the proposed strategy may be obtained or examined in addition  
64 to posting the proposed strategy on the department's Internet web site.  
65 Said commissioner shall provide a time period of not less than sixty days  
66 from the date the notice is published on the department's Internet web  
67 site for public review and comment. During such time period, any  
68 person may provide comments concerning the proposed strategy to said  
69 commissioner. Said commissioner shall consider fully all written and  
70 oral comments concerning the proposed strategy after all public  
71 meetings and technical meetings and before approving the final  
72 strategy. Said commissioner shall (1) notify by electronic mail each  
73 person who requests such notice, and (2) post on the department's  
74 Internet web site the electronic text of the final strategy and a report  
75 summarizing all public comments and the changes made to the final  
76 strategy in response to such comments and the reasons therefor. The  
77 Public Utilities Regulatory Authority shall comment on the strategy's  
78 impact on natural gas and electric rates.

79 (c) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection shall  
80 submit the final Comprehensive Energy Strategy electronically to the  
81 joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance  
82 of matters relating to energy and the environment and commerce.

83 (d) The Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection may  
84 modify the Comprehensive Energy Strategy in accordance with the  
85 procedures outlined in subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

86 (e) For the Comprehensive Energy Strategy next approved after  
87 October 1, [2021] 2026, and every Comprehensive Energy Strategy

88 prepared thereafter, the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental  
 89 Protection, in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and  
 90 Community Development, shall consider (1) the reductions in  
 91 greenhouse gas emissions resulting from low-carbon fuel blends used  
 92 in home heating oil on a life-cycle basis, (2) possible contributions to the  
 93 state's greenhouse gas emissions mandated levels, pursuant to section  
 94 22a-200a, in connection with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions  
 95 on a life-cycle basis, (3) the ability of a thermal portfolio standard to  
 96 further reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on a life-cycle basis, and  
 97 (4) the relative value of the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on a  
 98 life-cycle basis achieved by biodiesel and other low-carbon fuel blends  
 99 used currently in the state compared with the value of future projected  
 100 greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved by the retail heating oil  
 101 industry on a life-cycle basis five, ten, and twenty years into the future  
 102 using the Department of Energy and Environmental Protections'  
 103 contemporaneous projection of renewable energy utilized.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	16a-3d

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Subsec. (e), "October 1, 2021" was changed to "October 1, [2021] 2026" for accuracy.

**CE**      *Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*