Energy & Technology Committee

Informational Hearing

Claire Coleman *Climate and Energy Attorney* **Connecticut Fund for the Environment February 8, 2018**



Global Climate Change

- Climate change is the greatest crisis facing humankind. It threatens our very survival.
- Humans are on track to warm the planet by more than 2 degrees Celsius, which is likely to cause catastrophic consequences.



Climate Change Impacts in CT

Impacts of climate change in CT include:

- Sea level rise and flooding
- More heat waves
- More frequent and intense storms
- Ocean (Long Island Sound) acidification
- Loss of wildlife habitat and loss of species
- Spread of disease and invasive species
- Property damage (from storms, flooding, etc.)
- Declines in health and quality of life







Federal Rollbacks → Opportunity for States to Lead

U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE

California Colorado Connecticut Delaware Hawaii Massachusetts Minnesota New York North Carolina Oregon Puerto Rico Rhode Island Vermont Virginia Washington

Ahead of the CURVE States Lead on Climate Change

CT's Longstanding COMMITMENT: REDUCE Climate Pollution

- In 2008 CT Fund for the Environment helped pass the Global Warming Solutions Act, which requires CT to reduce GHG emissions at least:
 - •10% from 1990 levels by 2020
 - •80% from 2001 levels by 2050

CT Not on Track to Meet Climate Goals

Connecticut Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions 1990-2013

Comparison of Electricty Sector Generation and Consumption-based Accounting



* Targets shown in this graph utilize the consumption-based 1990 baseline of 44.7 MMTCO₂e. The generation-based 1990 baseline is 44.9 MMTCO₂e.

What's Needed?

Energy Policy that Advances Our Climate Goals

- 1) Enhanced Accountability for GHG-Reductions
- 2) Ramp up Renewables
- 3) Protect and Expand Smart Investments in Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy

GC3: Strong Interim GHG-Reduction Target Needed & Beneficial to State

Assessment of 2030 Interim GHG Reduction Targets for CT



RPS Expansion & Renewable Growth Critical to GWSA Compliance:



Other States Increase RPS Demand: Summary of Targets @ 2030



MA @ 2%/yr beginning 2017
New RE Obligation

MA @ 2%/yr beginning 2017 Existing (or New) RE Obligation

* Subject to final approval. <u>Note</u>: Year associated with target is shown below the state abbreviation.

Benefits of Extending and Strengthening CT's RPS



LBNL/NREL, Jan 2016 Report

Expand Access to Clean Energy Through Shared Solar

- About 80% of CT residents can't put solar panels on their roofs, because:
 - They live in an apartment
 - They have a shady roof
 - They rent







Benefits of Shared Solar

- Combat climate change
- Promote energy democracy
 - EVERYONE should have access to clean energy regardless of income or where you live.
- Create more green jobs
- Cost-effective Solar Generation





Harness your power. Demand solar access for all.

CT SHARED SOLAR MOVING FROM PILOT TO FULL SCALE PROGRAM

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SUNT OF CONNECTICE	2014	
General Assembly February Session, 2014 Referred to Committee of	Raised Bill No. 5412 LC0 No. 1906 *01906ET_* on ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY	2016
Ints (ET AN Be i Sect (1) ¹	2015	Substitute House Bill No. 5427 Public Act No. 16-116
neans a C 1 of the g capacity ratin ns an individu n company; ' has the same	Substitute Senate Bill No. 928 Public Act No. 15-113 ENERGY FACILITY PILOT PROGRAM O15 - CASE study supports full shared solar law 2015 - 6 MW pilot passed (P.A. 15-113) 2016 - Fix to pilot passed (P.A. 16-116) 2016 - Fix to pilot passed (P.A. 16-116) where an section 16-1 of the general statutes, that (A) is served where the same electric distribution company service territory as the indivi- ing of four megawatts or less, and (D) has at least two subscribers; and electric meter or a set of electric meters, when such meters are combined for billing purport e meaning as provided in section 16-1 of the general statutes; r of an electric distribution company who (A) has contracted for a subscription, and (B) has it ted:	AN ACT CONCERNING THE SHARED OF PILOT PROGRAM. LITY • 2017 - DEEP rejected bids from initial RFP; LITY New RFP issued • 2017 - 3 Pilot Projects Chosen eral • 2017 - PURA Approved Projects • Nov. 2017 - PURA Approved Projects • Selected (Docket No. 17-06-28) s is passi on (a) An electric distribution company may recover its costs and investments that have been prudently incurred as well as its revenues lost resulting from the provisions of sections 16-1, 16-19ff, 16-50k, 16- 50x, 16-243h to 16-243q, inclusive, 16-244c, 16-244u, 16-245d, 16-245m,
is any for-prof	ted; fit or not-for-profit entity permitted by Connecticut law that (A) owns or operates one or mor ith a third-party entity to build, own or operate one or more shared clean energy facilities; ar	Connecticut Fund for the Environmen Save the Sound*

OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY: POWER RIGHT WHERE WE NEED IT





U.S. Population Density Source: AWS Truepower

U.S. land-based and offshore wind resource estimates Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

(from the Vestas international survey of consumers)

Getting in on the Offshore Wind Boom

Block Island:

- 5 turbines with 30 MW total capacity
- Employed 300 union workers during construction

Mass: Legislative mandate for 1600 MW of offshore wind by 2027.

Initial RFP for 400-800 MW (June 2017).

NY: Gov. Cuomo's 2017 Exec Order called for 2400 MW of offshore wind by 2030.

 2018 State of State called for solicitations in 2018 and 2019 for at least 800MW. CT: Legislative Authority for up

- to 240MWs. (P.A. 17-144)
- DEEP issued a request for proposals in January 2018 for up to 240 MW.

Additional Authority and Mandates for Offshore Wind Needed!



Restoring and Protecting Investments in Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy



Critical Energy Efficiency Investments

- Lowers electric bills for consumers
- Saves state energy expenditures
- Booming green jobs market 34,000 in Connecticut in 2017
- Economic impacts of fund EE diversions:
 - Several thousand jobs lost
 - Over 200 million in private capital investments
 - 12,900 homes won't be weatherized
 - 5,600 low-income families lose energy bill savings
 - \$230M lost investments in state EE project
- Environment and Health Impacts of Fund Diversions:
 - Lost energy savings = more reliance on fossil fuels
 - 13 million gallons of oil burned in CT in next 2 years
 - ISO-NE regional market impacts



Clean Energy Investments = Good for Consumers

- Ratepayer Impacts Important Consideration but must also look at long-term life-cycle costs as well and other co-benefits:
 - Costs of renewables are plummeting increasingly cost competitive with fossil fuels.
 - ✓ No ongoing fuel costs sunlight and wind are free!
 - ✓ Cuts costs system wide no operation costs
 - ✓ Lowers wholesale electricity prices
 - \checkmark No hidden costs to our health and planet



Renewable Growth Supports Grid Reliability



ISO-NE and Synapse Estimates on Expected 2024 capacity for wind, solar, and other renewables

Other Benefits of Renewable Growth:

Jobs

- Shared Solar: 200 Mw shared solar estimated to bring 2,580 full time jobs during construction and an additional 104,000 hours of work associated with maintenance. (*Source: Vote Solar*)
- Offshore Wind: Ambitious offshore wind deployment could create 500,000 job-years by 2030. (*Source: NYSERDA Report, Oct. 2017*).

Revenue

- **Shared solar:** 200 Mw project = \$370 million in local economic benefits, and \$80 million in property taxes. (*Source: Vote Solar*)
- Virtual Net Metering: saves municipalities hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in energy costs

Human Health Benefits and Reduced Healthcare Costs



Source: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, June 2015

Conclusion: Renewable Energy is Connecticut's path to a Healthier, Economically Vibrant Future



Questions? Contact Claire Coleman: ccoleman@ctenvironment.org

