

17 December 2018

**TO: DEEP Commissioner Klee and the members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change**

**CC: Governor Dannel Malloy and Governor-elect Ned Lamont; DEEP Deputy Commissioner Mary Sotos, Air Bureau Chief Tracy Babbage, Energy Demand Director Diane Duva and Climate Change Director Keri-Enright-Kato**

**RE: Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governor's Council on Climate Change**

Clean Water Action is grateful for the opportunity to respond to your request for public comments pertaining to the implementation of the GC3 GHG Reduction Recommendation Report. As part of our mission, we coordinate of the work of the CT Energy Network<sup>1</sup>.

Clean Water Action's comments appear below each of the three questions that you have posed:

**1. Which strategies do you feel should be prioritized?**

We feel that energy efficiency in all its forms should be a top priority. Among the many reasons for this is that everyone who lives and works in CT could actively participate and increase energy efficiency in various ways that relate directly to their lifestyles — if they understand what is involved and are provided with helpful solutions.

This is not to say that all of the other Recommendations and Strategies are less important, but we hold up energy efficiency as key because everyone, including elementary school students, can find ways to reduce energy consumption and energy waste by being more thoughtful.

**2. Who are the key actors for implementation of this plan?**

State and local government personnel at all levels, and also the regional councils of governments, should lead by example. Commitments to the success of the GC3's recommendations could be cited in these entities' respective Plans of Conservation & Development (POCDs) whenever periodic revisions are made, because the pertinent elements of the Comprehensive Energy Strategy and the Conservation & Load Management Plan are not accessible enough for the general public.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of this Network are mostly volunteers who serve on local energy committees, task forces and Commissions in dozens of Connecticut cities and towns. For more than a decade, they have worked with Boards of Selectmen, City Councils, Boards of Education and community groups to speed the transition away from fossil fuels. They have helped their hometowns understand and implement the clean energy, energy conservation (behavioral change) and energy efficiency programs that have been offered by the CT Green Bank, DEEP, the utility companies, etc.

Residents, businesses, spiritual communities and every non-profit organization can and should be guided by POCDs. The policies, incentives, zoning regs and building codes that can render the GC3 goals achievable should grow quickly out of such Plans, and become accepted practice.

**3. What is the best way to engage you and other stakeholders as we move to the implementation phase?**

As was stated a few times during the meeting, the influence of CT's many local and mostly volunteer members of "clean energy task forces" should be recognized as a truly dynamic work force. We can attest that these task forces are energy-savvy and usually very well engaged with local communities — especially since the certification process that has been created by the Sustainable CT initiative has encouraged these groups to connect with other Town boards, commissions and community groups. Provided with some essential marketing tools and very modest operating budgets — which almost none of the energy task forces have ever been allocated — our Network and its allies could execute significant outreach and engage the public to implement the strategies at the local level in ways that the state cannot.

We also encourage the GC3 and DEEP to implement broad consumer education and a regular media/airwaves process that will, over time, build public awareness and participation around all of the Recommendations and Strategies.

With sincere appreciation to the Council and to all who have assisted in the development of the Report,



Anne Hulick, CT Program Director



Milledge "Guy" West, CT Energy Program Liaison



Patrice Gillespie, CT Municipal Outreach Coordinator

