



August 30, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Governor's Council on Climate Change
Email: deep.climatechange@ct.gov

RE: Comments of the Sierra Club to the Governor's Council on Climate Change

Dear Members of the Governor's Council on Climate Change:

On behalf of the Sierra Club and our more than 36,000 members and supporters in Connecticut, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the meeting of the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3) on August 9th. The Sierra Club continues to appreciate GC3 members' efforts to chart a path to a more prosperous clean energy future for the state, particularly noting the data from the June 20th meeting of the Analysis, Data, and Metrics working group that shows the 55% by 2030 scenario creates more jobs and economic growth than less ambitious scenarios. We are concerned, however, that the latest modeling inputs discussed by the GC3 may be departing from the most cost effective approach to reducing carbon pollution.

As the GC3 has repeatedly emphasized, cleaner electricity is the foundation for achieving Connecticut's climate protection targets. The cleaner our electricity is the more effective electric vehicles and heat pumps are at reducing pollution. It is therefore surprising and concerning that the GC3 has shifted toward modeling scenarios that have higher electricity pollution rates, which in turn requires greater investment in other sectors and potentially higher costs. On September 8th, 2016 the scenarios presented to the GC3 achieved 95% carbon free electricity, and thus needed only 79% penetration of electric vehicles by 2050. In contrast, those scenarios discussed on August 9th, 2017 only achieve 87% carbon free electricity and require corresponding 95% electrification of transportation.

The GC3 should make public the inputs and assumptions for both previous and current LEAP modeling scenarios, and clearly explain how the current approach is more cost effective than those that have higher levels of clean electricity. If it is not, the GC3 should re-focus on exploring the most cost effective and beneficial pathways to reach the state's goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kresowik
Eastern Region Deputy Director
Beyond Coal Campaign
Sierra Club