



*Connecticut Chapter
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State of CT Energy Policy – Facts You Should Know

The Connecticut state energy policy is designed to **increase** the number of customers who use “natural” gas, a fossil fuel which is 97% methane.

900 miles of new high pressure large diameter, intrastate pipeline will be constructed to connect new customers to a gas supply entirely owned by Iberdrola and Eversource.

Four new gas power plants are proposed or approved in Connecticut (Oxford, Bridgeport, Danbury and Killingly), although the state is already a net energy exporter. A gas mainline is planned to run from UCONN to Coventry. Two additional interstate pipeline expansion projects are proposed, and one, **the AIM pipeline**, was just completed in CT, NY, MA and RI.

Economic Issues

Conversions to gas are **subsidized by rate payers and consumers will continue to pay for pipeline construction and operation for years to come**

Yet, all of the infrastructure is privately owned by for-profit companies and the primary use of the interstate pipeline is to transport gas to export points outside of Connecticut.

Environmental Issues Surrounding the Pipeline

“Natural” gas is a non-renewable resource, the extraction of which leads to significant environmental degradation. Fracking waste, containing hundreds of toxic chemicals, must be disposed of.

Gas produces less carbon dioxide when burned than coal or oil but is itself a greenhouse gas and the leaks, or fugitive methane emissions, cause significant global warming.

Continued reliance on gas and other fossil fuels delays conversion to renewable resources such as solar and wind.

How Are People and Governments Reacting?

The CT State Supreme Court agreed to hear a case against the Dept. of Energy (DEEP) for approving the intrastate pipeline construction without environmental impact statements or public awareness.

The governor of New York asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction on the AIM pipeline until an independent analysis can be done to determine if the expanded high pressure pipeline can be safely built next to an aging nuclear plant.

According to Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy, electricity demand in New England has been flat since 2010. Our energy needs could be met with greater efficiencies and with more locally controlled renewable power coming online.

Homeowners whose land will be impacted by pipeline construction are outraged as they imagine the proximity of such large pipelines with the potential to leak and harm property values.

The Take-Home Message

Connecticut lags far behind the national average in renewable energy use and only a fraction of the renewable energy that we do use is actually produced in the state. Connecticut is giving public money to private corporations to fabricate a need for more methane, or natural gas, a dirty and polluting fossil fuel, at a time when we need to take advantage of cleaner choices such as high efficiency electric heat pumps for residential heating and local renewable energy to power our grid.

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What You Can Do:

Contact Commissioner Klee at DEEP and request that correct figures for methane leakage and global warming potential be used as DEEP revises the Connecticut Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) this fall. Let the Commissioner know that renewable energy options and increased energy efficiencies are the only way to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reductions that the state is committed to, and that time to achieve those reductions is short and growing shorter.

Email robert.Klee@ct.gov or call (860) 424-3571

Contact your state senators and representatives and ask that they approve a new CES in the next legislative session with no ratepayer subsidies for fracked gas expansion, and replaced with an immediate push for a 100% renewable energy powered electricity grid.

Sample letter:

Dear Commissioner Klee/State Senator/State Representative,
Ratepayer subsidized gas conversions are driving massive interstate gas pipeline construction. Numerous well-respected scientists such as Robert Howarth have released studies showing that in the near term, methane will cause 86 times the global heating of carbon dioxide. The amount of fugitive methane emissions is underestimated in the models that DEEP uses to inform the CES revision process. The ratepayer subsidized conversions to gas are not economically sensible as gas is not cheaper than oil, are not good for the climate as methane will harm the climate much more than carbon dioxide, and hurt our economy as public funds are transferred to private corporations.

Renewable energy infrastructure creates more jobs than fossil fuels.

There is no economic benefit in gas conversions.

There is no benefit to the climate in converting hundreds of thousands of new customers, or electric generating plants, to gas; in fact, these conversions will hasten climate change.

Additional fossil fuels are not needed because renewables are now competitive in cost and in the long run cheaper.

Connecticut lags far behind the national average in renewable energy use.

A renewable energy economy is socially just.

We are out of time to delay dealing with the impact of climate disruption.

Respectfully submitted,
Your Name and Town