



# 2019 Legislative Session Energy Policy Summary

Connecticut Council of Small Towns  
June 12, 2019

# Connecticut Green Bank

## Mission and Goals



Support the strategy to achieve **cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable** sources of energy while **creating jobs** and supporting **local economic development**



- **Attract and deploy private capital investment** to finance the **clean energy policy goals** for Connecticut
- **Leverage limited public funds** to attract multiples of private capital investment while **reinvesting public funds over time**
- Develop and implement strategies that **bring down the cost** of clean energy in order to make it more **accessible** and **affordable** to customers
- Support affordable and healthy homes and businesses in distressed communities **reduce energy burden** and **address health & safety**

# Connecticut Green Bank

## Delivering Results for Connecticut



- **Investment** – mobilized over **\$1.5 billion** of investment into Connecticut’s clean energy economy with a **6:1 leverage ratio** (8:1 in FY 2018)
- **Economic Development** – created over **16,000 total job-years** – 6,500 direct and 10,000 indirect and induced, while raising over **\$80 million in sales, individual, and corporate tax revenues** to the state
- **Energy Burden** – reducing the energy burden on over **34,000 families and businesses**, including “**beyond parity**” for LMI solar
- **Environmental Protection** – deployed nearly **330 MW** of clean renewable energy helping to reduce nearly **5.3 MTCO<sub>2</sub>** that cause climate change and **\$185 million in public health improvement**

### **Private investment drives economic growth**

Creates jobs, lowers energy costs, and reduces GHGs

#### **REFERENCES**

CT Green Bank data warehouse report from July 1, 2011 (passage of PA 11-80) through December 31, 2018

# Legislative Updates

### Municipal and Commercial Properties

- **Virtual Net Metering** - Extends net metering for two additional years and increases the virtual net metering cap from \$10 million per year to \$20mm.
- **LREC / ZREC** - Extends LREC/ZREC an additional two years
- **Highway Solar** - Requires DOT to identify all land it owns that may be suitable for the siting of Class I renewable energy sources and submit the inventory to DEEP to analyze the potential.
- **School Construction** - DEEP establishes updated energy efficiency requirements on state building construction projects by 1/1/20. Applies to new public schools costing >\$5mm (of which at least \$2mm is state funding), and public-school renovations costing >\$2mm.
- **Batteries and Utilities** - Explicitly allows electric utilities to own energy storage systems and allows them to recover costs from ratepayers.
- **Anaerobic Digesters** - Exempts certain AD facilities at animal feeding operations from DEEP permit requirements; allows DEEP to procure up to 10 MW of energy; and requires PURA to establish interconnection standards.

### Residential Solar and Home Improvement Loans

- Increases the Green Bank's Residential Solar Investment Program target from 300 MW to 350 MW, functionally adding a year to the rooftop solar incentive availability.
- Adjusts the design options for the successor form of solar compensation (net metering), including to allow for monthly netting intervals.
- Extends the EnergizeCT Heating Loan Program through 2024, for furnace and boiler replacement.



**energize** <sup>SM</sup>  
CONNECTICUT  
**HEATING LOAN**

# Offshore Wind

HB 7156

- Authorizes DEEP's procurement of energy, capacity, and/or environmental attributes from up to 2,000 MW of offshore wind total by the end of 2030.
- Requires a 2019 solicitation that must include at least one proposal for 400 MW.
- Includes prevailing wage, project labor agreements, environmental and fisheries mitigation plans





# State Budget

HB 7424

- Makes DEEP's CHEAPR electric vehicle rebate more permanent with \$3mm/year dedicated state appropriations
- Establishes DAS state fleet emissions reductions targets, if they can be cost-neutral
- Increases the number of PURA commissioners from three to five
- Creates the quasi-public Municipal Redevelopment Authority to stimulate economic and transit-oriented development;





# Environmental Infrastructure

SB 927 Passed Senate 34-2



- Expands the Green Bank's scope to include non-energy investments that still relate to mitigating or adapting to climate change.
  - climate adaptation and resiliency
  - water reclamation
  - waste and recycling
  - agriculture, land conservation
  - parks and recreation
  - other environmental markets



## Other CT Green Bank provisions (USDA \$)

SB 960 Passed Senate 33-0

- Explicitly blesses the Green Bank's efforts to secure low-cost capital from USDA

# Infrastructure Bank

SB 70 Passed Senate 22-14

DIED



- Establishes quasi-public Connecticut Infrastructure Bank
- Public-private funding for acquisition, removal, construction, equipping, reconstruction, repair, rehabilitation, and improvement of easements and rights-of-way to:
  - roadways, highways, bridges, commuter and freight railways, transit and intermodal systems, airports and aeronautic facilities, ports, harbors, navigable waterways, energy transmission and distribution resources, and transit-oriented development

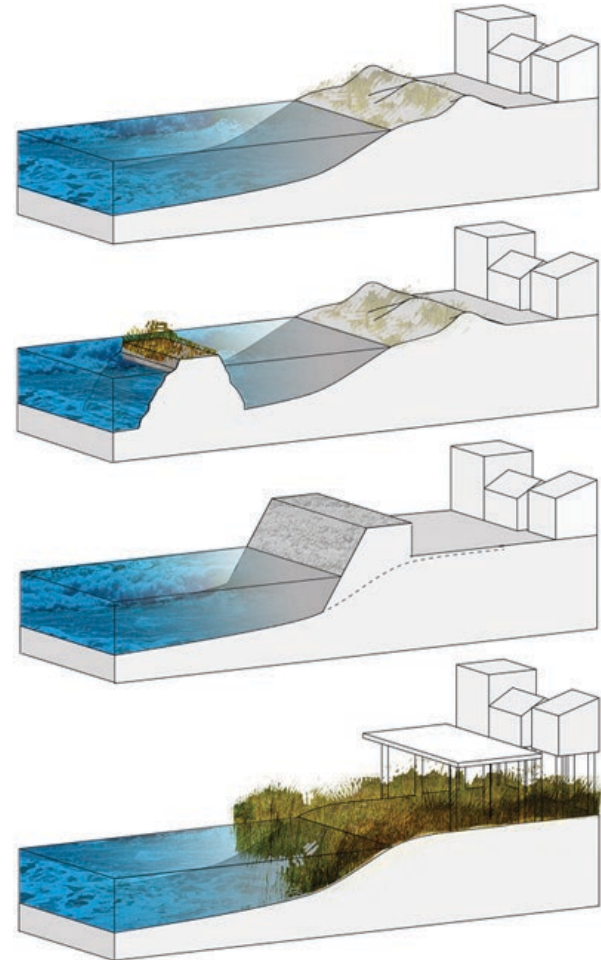


# Municipal Climate Change & Coastal Resiliency Reserve Funds

## SB 1062



- Allows a municipality to establish a climate change and coastal resiliency reserve fund.
- Arranged between municipal CEO, legislative body, and budget authority.
- Funds can be used to pay for municipal property losses, capital projects, and studies on mitigating climate change hazards and vulnerabilities, including land acquisition.



# Combining Property Assessments of Multiple Electric Generating Facilities SB 527



- Municipalities can already fix real and personal property for new electric generating facilities both during and after the construction period.
- Statute didn't previously address situations where new facilities were constructed on a site with existing generating units.
- If a municipality chooses, under this circumstance it can hold property taxes steady.



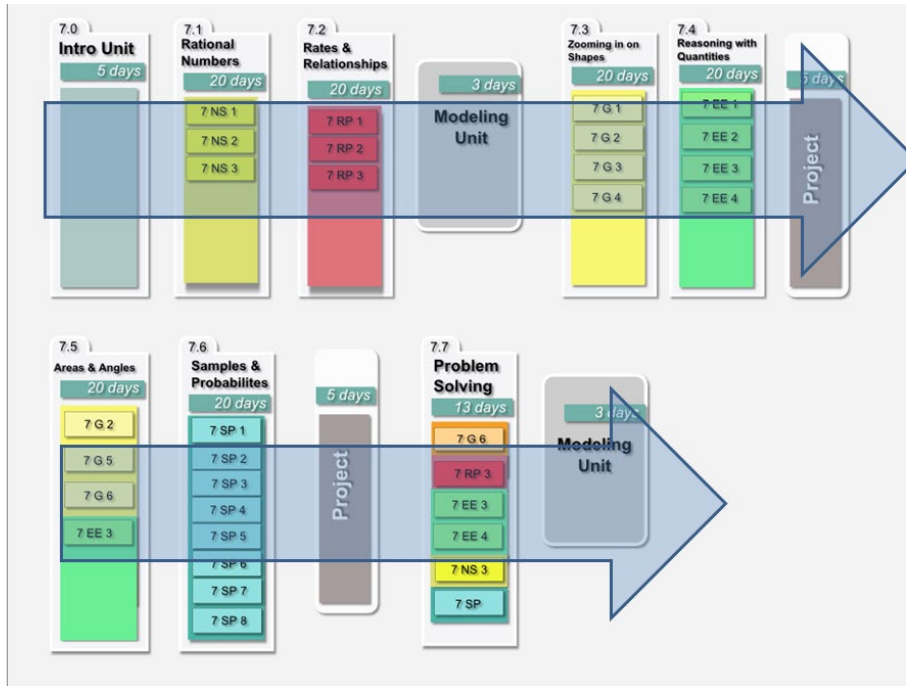


# Climate Change in School Curriculum

Passed House 102-44



DIED



**First in the nation mandate**

**The Next Generation Science Standards, which Connecticut adopted in 2015, include climate change as one of the topics to be covered. The state provides curriculum to support that goal.**

**Proposal would codify the best practice.**

# Energy Program Funding

- **Fund Sweeps** - No funds swept from Clean Energy Fund or the Conservation and Load Management (energy efficiency) Fund
- **Money Back** - Attempts to return money to the Energy Efficiency Fund failed
- **Fund Protection** - Attempts to solidify the Green Bank's enabling statute to prevent future Clean Energy Fund diversions failed



**Questions?**