



# Connecticut Climate Change

[www.ctclimatechange.com](http://www.ctclimatechange.com)

## What Can I Do About Climate Change?

There are lots of actions individuals can take to address climate change. Try some that are listed below. For more info on CT's climate change initiative, to view the *CT Climate Change Action Plan*, and to view this page with live links, go to: [www.ctclimatechange.com](http://www.ctclimatechange.com)

- **CUT ENERGY USE AND COSTS AT HOME**

CT offers many incentives for reducing energy use at home. **Compact fluorescent light bulbs** and **home weatherization products** are permanently sales tax exempt in Connecticut.

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs

Energy Star Natural Gas Furnaces

Boilers that are > 84% efficient

Oil Furnaces that are > 84% efficient

Efficient Ground Source Heat Pumps

Caulking, Insulation, Window Film, Weather Strips, etc.

Programmable Thermostats

Energy Star Propane Furnaces

Energy Star Windows and Doors

Water Heaters

For a complete list, see <http://www.ct.gov/drs/cwp/view.asp?a=1514&q=384952>

Until July 1, 2017, CT residents qualify for a \$500 rebate by purchasing and installing replacement Energy Star natural gas furnaces or boilers and propane or oil furnaces and boilers that are > 84% efficient.

[www.ctsavesenergy.org](http://www.ctsavesenergy.org) provides additional information on energy efficiency incentives, including federal tax credits for energy efficient home improvements and incentives for efficient new home construction. Additional info can be found at [http://www.ase.org/section/\\_audience/consumers/taxcredits](http://www.ase.org/section/_audience/consumers/taxcredits)

- **SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY**

Customers of CT Light & Power and United Illuminating can choose to support clean energy from wind power, small-scale hydroelectric power, and landfill gas. Choose clean energy and you'll be taking a big step towards cleaner air and healthier communities. <http://www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com/>

You can also encourage your town, business, faith community, and others to support 20% clean energy by 2010. Participating towns qualify for free solar panels <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/communities/>

- **RECYCLE**

Recycling reuses resources, saves energy, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Contact your town public works department to find out how you can recycle more, compost and prevent waste. For more info on recycling see [www.ct.gov/dep/recycle](http://www.ct.gov/dep/recycle)

- **BUY LOCALLY GROWN FOOD**

Buy food that is grown locally to support Connecticut's farmers and reduce food packaging and transportation emissions. You can buy locally grown food at many CT farms and farmers' markets. Find out what's in season and where to buy it and lots more about buying local foods at [www.buyctgrown.com](http://www.buyctgrown.com).

Schools can also buy local produce directly from farmers through the Farm-to-School program [www.ct.gov/doag](http://www.ct.gov/doag) - search "Farms to Schools"

- **CLEAN UP YOUR COMMUTE**

About 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation.

Try some cleaner options:

[Bike to work](http://www.wecyclect.org/btw.htm) - <http://www.wecyclect.org/btw.htm>

[Take the bus, train, or join a vanpool](http://www.ctrides.com/) - <http://www.ctrides.com/>

Find commuting partners and enjoy commuting incentives through NuRide

<http://www.nuride.com>

[Avoid unnecessary engine idling](#) - If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds, turn off your engine to save money and energy and leave the air cleaner.

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/idling/material/>

[www.ct.gov/dep/dieselreduction](http://www.ct.gov/dep/dieselreduction)

- **REDUCE SYNTHETIC FERTILIZER USE**

A portion of nitrogen applied to soils is released as a greenhouse gas. Reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers also improves water quality and soil health. Adopt some tips from [organic land care](#) guidelines or use a certified organic landcare professional - <http://www.ctnofa.org/programs/landcare.php>

- **BUY AN ENERGY EFFICIENT VEHICLE**

Hybrid cars rated at 40 miles/gallon or greater are [exempt from CT sales tax](#) until October 1, 2008. From January 1, 2008 – July 1, 2010, any passenger car with an EPA rating of at least 40 mpg will be sales tax exempt in CT.

There are also federal income tax credits of up to \$3,400 for hybrid vehicles.

[http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/tax\\_hybrid\\_new.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/tax_hybrid_new.shtml)

Before you buy your next car, do some research on "[greener](#)" cars. You'll save money on gas and contribute to cleaner air. <http://greencarclub.org/>

- **INSTALL CLEAN ENERGY AT YOUR HOME**

The [Connecticut Clean Energy Fund](#) provides incentives for the installation of solar and other clean energy sources on residences. In addition solar thermal and hot water systems, and geothermal systems are sales and property tax exempt in CT.

[http://www.ctinnovations.com/funding/cccf/solar\\_rebates.php](http://www.ctinnovations.com/funding/cccf/solar_rebates.php)

For more info, contact Lynn Stoddard, CT DEP, 860-424-3236