

# climate challenge

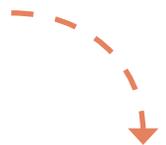
Choose the actions you will take to be part of the climate solution.

THEME	ORGANIZATION	TAKEAWAY ACTIONS		
Make an Impact in Your Community	Sustainable CT Community Match Fund	Start a <a href="#">sustainability project</a> in your community and get a 50% funding match	Donate to support a local sustainability project	Register for <a href="#">Sustainable CT</a> . Over half of CT towns already have.
Reduce Your Carbon Footprint	People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)	Buy a Heat Pump – stop burning fossil fuels!	Sign up for our <a href="#">Green Calendar</a> and have CT events sent to your e-calendar!	Read the PACE <a href="#">100PercentCT Guidebook</a> and start it in your town
	CT Rides	Carpool or take the bus once/week for a month – give it a try!	Visit <a href="#">CTrides.com</a> for commuter info	Download the CT rides app and get rewards for your green commute
	Energize CT & Eversource	Stop home heat loss with <a href="#">Home Energy Solutions</a>	Go to <a href="#">EnergizeCT.com</a> and buy green electricity	Fill out an <a href="#">Energy Savings Plan</a> for your home or business
	CT Green Bank	Go solar with Solar for All at <a href="#">gosolarct.com</a>	Switch to an <a href="#">electric vehicle</a>	Finance energy efficiency for your <a href="#">home</a> or <a href="#">business</a>
	CT Science Center	Sign up for the <a href="#">#21DayEarthChallenge</a>	Tour the Climate Change exhibit at the <a href="#">CT Science Center</a>	
Invest for Climate Impact	CT Green Bank	Sign up for info about upcoming <a href="#">investment opportunities</a>		
Speak Up! Impact Public Policy	CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs	Take CT's Transportation Future <a href="#">survey</a> to shape state policy	<a href="#">Support</a> Gov. Lamont's goal of 100% clean energy by 2040	<a href="#">Force</a> gas companies to repair and replace leaking pipes
	CT Sunrise Movement	<a href="#">Strike</a> with us on November 29 at the Capitol in Hartford!	Attend training for Lobby Day	Participate in Lobby Day
	CT Land Conservation Council	Save land! Get involved with your local land trust	Sign up for action alerts at <a href="#">ctconservation.org</a>	Plant a pollinator garden

CLICK ON LINKS IN CHART ABOVE TO GO TO SPECIFIC WEBPAGES



Click on the yellow forward arrow to access even more helpful information!



THE ACTIONS  
WE TAKE TODAY  
CAN LEAD TO  
A HEALTHIER,  
MORE  
SUSTAINABLE  
AND  
PROSPEROUS  
FUTURE.



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# reduce your carbon footprint

## WHAT'S A CARBON FOOTPRINT?

Your **carbon footprint** is the total amount of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced to directly and indirectly support your activities in a given time frame – e.g., when you drive your car, heat your home, buy food and goods, and all the emissions related to the production of the food and goods you purchase. To calculate your carbon footprint, visit Carbon Footprint or use the [UN calculator](#).



- Sign up for [weekly tips](#) to lessen your footprint at [CarbonFootprint.com](#)
- Schedule a Home Energy Assessment at [EnergizeCT.com](#) and get [rebates and incentives](#) to make your home more energy efficient
- Explore [low-cost financing options](#) such as E-Loan at [EnergizeCT.com](#)

**Energy Assessments** are currently just \$75 for a limited time, and are free for income eligible customers. The average household receives approximately \$1,000 of services, and realizes between \$250 and \$300 in annual energy bill savings. EnergizeCT is truly the one-stop-shop for all home energy resources. From solutions, to contractors, to financing, the website makes energy efficiency accessible and affordable for all Connecticut residents.



- Visit [Go Solar CT](#) to learn more about installing solar panels at your home

**Going solar is easier than ever!** Similar to EnergizeCT, [Go Solar CT](#) is a resource designed to help homeowners learn more about solar options, low-cost financing, and the solar process from start to finish.



- Drive less and commute, bike, and walk more
- Visit [CT Rides](#) to learn more about your commuting and carpooling options
- Visit [cooleffect.org](#) or the [United Nations Carbon offset platform](#) to buy credible and transparent Carbon offsets for air travel

“

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

”

DR. SEUSS



**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Electric vehicles consume 33% of the total energy of a traditional vehicle.**

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Industrial animal production for food is inefficient and often harms the environment due to animal waste, chemical runoff, and bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Livestock methane emissions have an enormous impact on global warming, as methane is 25x as potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.



- Consider buying an electric or plug-in-Hybrid car with the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate ([CHEAPR](#))
- Eat a more plant-based diet
- Commit to eating one additional meat-free meal per week
- Plan meals and use shopping lists to prevent food waste and save money
- Shop local to support local businesses and help reduce total “food miles” traveled
- Buy minimally packaged foods and products
- Grow food in your own garden and compost food waste to create a more circular food system
- Donate items you don’t use or no longer need to local charities, [Freecycle](#) and others
- Recycle paper, plastic, glass & aluminum to keep landfills from growing
- Print the “What’s in? What’s out?” recycling list from [RecycleCT.com](#) and make it a habit to check the bottom of containers after use
- Stop paper bank statements and pay bills online
- Always use a refillable water bottle and coffee cup to cut down on waste. Use reusable shopping bags
- Cancel catalogs with [catalogchoice.org](#)
- Shop vintage and see what you can repurpose from second-hand shops
- Shop smart by buying less and thinking before you buy

# get informed

- Visit [UN Climate Action Global Goals](#) and read the IPCC Report that details the urgency of acting now to reduce the threats of global warming
- Go to [Project Drawdown](#) for an explanation of 100 of the most substantive solutions to reverse climate warming. [Register for Project Drawdown’s EcoChallenge](#)
- Subscribe to [Inside Climate News](#) as your go-to for News, Reports On Climate, Energy And The Environment
- Subscribe to the [New York Times’ weekly “Climate Fwd:” newsletter](#)



## HOT, HOT, HOT

In the U.S., average annual temperatures have warmed about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit since the beginning of the 20th century.

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

There’s more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today than at any point in the past 800,000 years.



- Visit [Yale Climate Connections](#), a nonpartisan, multimedia service providing daily broadcast radio programming and original web-based reporting and commentary focusing on constructive solutions
- Visit the [Earth Day Network](#) to learn more ways to take action, especially through events and activism
- Subscribe to the mailing list for the [Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#) to get the latest breaking research on public climate change awareness, attitudes, policy support, and behavior
- Visit [Grist](#), described with taglines such as “Working toward a planet that doesn’t burn, a future that doesn’t suck” and “Gloom and doom with a sense of humor”
- Visit [Climate Nexus](#) which works to change the conversation on climate change and clean energy from an argument to a constructive search for solutions
- Sign up for Connecticut’s [GREEN Calendar](#) and have Connecticut-based events and seminars pushed to your electronic calendar
- Visit the Climate Change Exhibit at the [CT Science Center](#)

## ? DID YOU KNOW?

About seven in ten Americans think clean energy should be a “high” or “very high” priority for the president and Congress.

Source: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

# invest in the green economy

- Contact [CT Green Bank](#) to sign up for information about green investment opportunities that will earn financial return and promote green investment in Connecticut



I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is.



GRETA THUNBERG  
WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM  
DAVOS, 24 JANUARY 2019

# lobby your legislators

- Speak up to [impact public policy](#) about climate-related proposals
- [Lobby for a new congressional agenda](#) that addresses climate change with the scale and urgency required
- Write (by regular mail) and/or call your local, state or federal representatives to let them know what you think about specific policy proposals being considered

## INFORMATION IS POWERFUL

Visit the [Connecticut General Assembly \(CGA\)](#) to find your legislators and representatives and learn more about the specific CGA committees such as Energy and Technology, Environment, Transportation and Appropriations.

- Visit [The League of Conservation Voters](#) to see an [environmental scorecard](#) on our local leaders and advocates for sound environmental laws and policies
- Visit the [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) to learn more about nonprofit grassroots advocacy
- Learn more about joining or starting a [climate strike](#) from the [Sunrise Movement](#)
- Visit [CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs](#) to learn more about their work in building alliances among diverse constituencies to combat climate change, create jobs, and promote racial, economic, and environmental justice



# encourage sustainability in your town



## MATCHING FUNDS

[Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund](#) program will provide a dollar-for-dollar match for what you raise, along with coaching and support to help you implement your project.

- [Lead a project](#) to reduce your community's climate impact
- Visit [Sustainable CT](#) to see if your town is currently registered and active. If not, work with your town leaders to register so your community can receive free resources, support, and funding
- Support [sustainable land use](#), forest conservation, and reforestation
- Support the development and proliferation of renewable sources of energy and fuel, particularly wind and solar
- Read about the [PACE 100PercentCT Project](#) and explore how clean and affordable energy can create a more equitable and livable community



## ? DID YOU KNOW?

Even without subsidies, utility scale solar and onshore wind are now the cheapest way to make electricity.

Source: Lazard

# encourage sustainability at work

## ASK YOURSELF:

Can I recycle at my workplace? Is my company buying from merchants engaging in harmful ecological practices? Can I eliminate the use of any single-use items, such as coffee cups, by having co-workers bring their own?

- Make sure your company uses energy efficient heating and cooling technology. The Connecticut Green Bank's **C-PACE** program offers resources and accessible financing for energy efficiency in a business. Lower your triple bottom line with efficient technology.
- Influence your workplace to do better and work toward increased sustainability
- Encourage your company to work with local communities to support **sustainability efforts**



# important contact information

**Sustainable CT  
Community Match Fund**  
[ioby.org/sustainablect](http://ioby.org/sustainablect)

**People's Action  
for Clean Energy (PACE)**  
[pace-cleanenergy.org](http://pace-cleanenergy.org)

**CT Rides**  
[ctrides.com](http://ctrides.com)

**Energize CT & Eversource**  
[energizect.com](http://energizect.com)

**CT Green Bank**  
[ctgreenbank.com](http://ctgreenbank.com)

**CT Science Center**  
[ctsciencecenter.org](http://ctsciencecenter.org)

**CT Roundtable  
on Climate and Jobs**  
[ctclimateandjobs.org](http://ctclimateandjobs.org)

**CT Sunrise Movement**  
[sunrisemovement.org](http://sunrisemovement.org)

**CT Land  
Conservation Council**  
[ctconservation.org](http://ctconservation.org)

**Smart Seed**  
[smartseedfund.org](http://smartseedfund.org)

Our climate is in crisis.

YOU can be part of the  
solution starting now.



To learn more, please visit  
[smartseedfund.org](https://smartseedfund.org)



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