



CONNECTICUT LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION VOTERS

2022

YEAR

IN

REVIEW



This past year has been perhaps the most transformative in CTLCV's history, with wins for climate, democracy and the environment. Without the support of our community and advocates these successes would not have been possible.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Many environmental groups worked collaboratively to unite around key bills and bring public pressure and expertise to help support the legislators championing these bills. CTLCV was proud to be part of this movement working to protect our state's land, air, water, wildlife and climate.

Among the environmental priorities that advanced were:

Connecticut Clean Air Act: Public Act 22-25, the Connecticut Clean Air Act, is a landmark air quality initiative to reduce pollution from transportation with a strong focus on equity and environmental justice. A major component of this law allows Connecticut to adopt stronger emissions standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles, such as trucks and buses.

Climate Change Mitigation: Public Act 22-5 requires Connecticut to supply 100% of its electricity from zero-carbon sources by 2040. The 100% requirement signals that Connecticut is serious about reducing carbon emissions and committed to working with our neighboring states to reduce air pollution in the region.

Tree Removal on Properties Under Control of DEEP: DEEP's aggressive cutting of old growth trees has caused huge public outcry. Legislation was passed that calls for changes to the agency's policy on "hazard trees" and requires a restoration pilot project at Housatonic Meadows.



2022 ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD



The Use of Chlorpyrifos on Golf Courses and Neonicotinoids for Non-Agricultural Use:

90% of the pesticide chlorpyrifos used in CT is on golf courses for cosmetic purposes and poses a major health threat to humans and wildlife. Public Act 22-142 bans non-agricultural uses of chlorpyrifos, including golf courses. The section restricting Neonicotinoids was removed, but is a priority for the 2023 legislative session.

Shared Clean Energy Facilities: Solar energy production is critical to reaching our clean energy goals under the Global Warming Solutions Act. Success hinges on removing the barriers to both commercial rooftop and community shared solar. Public Act 22-14 will expand the amount of electricity that can be generated by these two programs, lowering electric costs and reducing the need to damage forests and farmland.

The Use of Sodium Chloride to Mitigate Snow and Ice Accumulations:

Improper application and excess road salt can contaminate our drinking water, poison creeks, mobilize toxins, and destroy our cars and bridges. The State Budget includes funding to support education, training, and certification programs to reduce the use of road salt.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices:

The State Budget provides \$14 million to support the CT Farmland Restoration and Climate Resiliency Program. New funding will support technical assistance, improve water quality, support healthy soil practices, help farmers better manage stormwater, and build resilience against a changing climate.

Wildlife Damage to Crops and Livestock:

Science shows that wildlife conflicts are best managed through public education, removing food attractants, protective measures for agriculture, and aversive

conditioning. CTLCV joined advocates to defeat a bill that would have expanded unregulated hunting of bears, and is working to promote non-lethal solutions to human-bear conflicts.

Conveyance of a Parcel of State Property in the Town of Sharon:

CTLCV successfully opposed selling a parcel of Housatonic Meadows State Park to a private entity with no conditions on how the land should be used, no limitation on the re-sale or re-use of the property and no clear public benefit from this transaction.

Establish an Office of Aquatic Invasive Species:

Controlling invasive species requires early detection and rapid response. The new office of Aquatic Invasive Species will coordinate research efforts, compile statewide data, survey the health of state waterways, conduct public education to reduce impact of aquatic invasive plants, advise municipalities and coordinate with local, state and federal agencies.

Revising Certain Absentee Ballot Eligibility Statutes:

Voting and election administration reforms made during COVID-19 were temporary. Public Act 22-2 will allow qualified voters to vote by absentee ballot if they are unable to appear because of sickness or physical disability (other than their own) during the hours of voting.

CTLCV worked hard for these victories by speaking directly with state legislators at the Capitol, collaborating with our environmental partners, and activating an exceptionally strong showing by our membership.

While not every priority advanced through the legislature, CTLCV believes we can build on these wins to see additional progress in 2023.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

This year, CTLCV dramatically increased outreach to our membership and the public through e-mails, social media channels, and print and digital advertising. As a result, we saw a significant uptick in member engagement, letters and phone calls to lawmakers, events, and more.

40,000+

Visitors to CTLCV's Website

160,000+

Reached through Facebook

50,000+

Reached through Instagram

3,500+

Emails sent to lawmakers from constituents

500+

Attendees at CTLCV 2022 Summit & Post Legislative Events



BIG ELECTION WINS

CTL CV is thrilled with the number of victories for our endorsed candidates throughout the state this election season. These wins at the local level clearly show that Connecticut residents care about the values our candidates highlighted.

With a large number of open seats this year, CTL CV researched and interviewed many first time candidates. Many candidates we supported—both incumbents and challengers—were in highly competitive races.

CTL CV is the only environmental organization in Connecticut with a Political Action Committee dedicated to electing pro-environment candidates to the Connecticut General Assembly. CTL CV's PAC invested over **\$100,000** in **digital ads, direct mail and newspaper ads** in targeted districts around the state during this year's election. All six of CTL CV's priority candidates for House and Senate won their races and a total of 47 endorsed candidates across the state prevailed.

CTL CV interviewed and proudly endorsed four top leaders in statewide races, including Governor Ned Lamont, Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General William Tong, and Stephanie Thomas for Secretary of State. All four had exceptional environmental records and won office with overwhelming support.

CTL CV's Education Fund conducted a separate non-partisan effort to pass a ballot referendum to allow for Early Voting. Information to flag the referendum was included in **mailings to 62,000 households** and a series of digital ads that

reached more than **500,000 residents**. On election day, our staff went to various polling locations across the state to stand with signs and flyers in support of early voting. Working alongside a strong statewide coalition effort, CTL CV's Education Fund helped secure the passage of the referendum with **60% of the votes in favor**.

At the federal level, Congresswoman Jahanna Hayes was victorious in fending off an anti-environmental challenger. The national **LCV Victory Fund invested \$540,000** to re-elect Representative Hayes in the 5th Congressional District with ads highlighting Hayes' support for clean energy jobs and her focus on the climate crisis through the Inflation Reduction Act.

With election work behind us and a large number of freshman legislators to contact, CTL CV is meeting with advocates and lawmakers to identify major legislative initiatives that we expect to be introduced during the 2023 legislative session.

The Day
TIME FOR EARLY VOTING
It is time for Connecticut to make voting more convenient for its citizens. Voters can help make that possible by answering “yes” to the only proposed state constitutional amendment on the ballot.

ON NOVEMBER 8TH

YES
for
EARLY VOTE

LOOK FOR THE EARLY VOTING QUESTION ON YOUR BALLOT AND VOTE YES.

OPERATIONS REPORT

CTL CV continues to enjoy collaborative relationships with leaders at the Capitol. In 2022, our organization placed a high priority on broadening our reach in communities disproportionately affected by pollution and adverse environmental conditions. Our efforts with our legislative partners have been propelled by a lens of equity and justice. We will be working in the coming months and years to expand that reach as we work towards our mission of fighting for clean air, land, water, and a healthy environment throughout Connecticut.

This year our organization went through some transformative changes. We successfully completed our Strategic Plan. We revamped our bylaws and created hard working subcommittees within our Board of Directors. A critical focus for our Board and organization has been continued focus on equity and racial justice. It is with this nucleus that our Executive leadership team has revamped all of our guiding documents and operations.

Staffing was a priority for CTL CV in 2022 as we added 4 key positions to our team.

CTL CV hired Azya Thornton as our Communications Coordinator. She worked directly with key media to promote our legislative priorities, and highlight our endorsed candidates through election season.

Julianna Larue joined the team as our Climate Policy and Outreach Organizer and has been strategizing with our environmental partners while organizing our volunteer base in towns across our State.

Alyssa Prozzo joined CTL CV as an intern helping to track legislation for our Scorecard and was hired as a Program Assistant this Fall to help coordinate our candidate endorsement program.

Finally, we hired a new Managing Director who will serve as our Chief Executive Officer leading us into the next phases of growth. Mike Urgo joins us having served for two terms as the First Selectman of North Stonington.



Mike Urgo



Alyssa Prozzo



Julianna Larue and Azya Thornton

His experience in government and non-profits along with his work as an entrepreneur will help CTLCV immensely as we build towards the future.

These new additions join our Executive Director, Lori Brown, and our Development Director, Connor Yakaitis. Our staff is the heartbeat of the organization and will help us reach new heights in the years to come.

Like much of the rest of the world, CTLCV had to find its balance coming out of the pandemic. Over the past year we took time to streamline internal processes and adopted a hybrid work schedule for our staff. We worked with our coalition partners both virtually and in person, and found a very effective new “normal” for our organization as evidenced by the many legislative, electoral, and fundraising accomplishments this past year.

We are so thankful to all of our volunteers, members, donors, staff, and Board of Directors. While 2022 was a very successful year for climate, we still have much important work on the horizon.



Lori Brown and Rep. Christine Palm at the State Capitol



Connor Yakaitis



2022 MILESTONES

Throughout the year, CTLCV's work led to crucial progress at the legislature, executive branch, and our local communities.

In January, CTLCV began the year with our annual **Environmental Summit**. Hosted virtually, there was an incredible turnout from lawmakers, advocates and community leaders to discuss the top environmental issues of the year. This event set the stage for a banner legislative session.

CTLCV Education Fund produces **Briefing Papers** on a broad array of environmental issues. These papers serve as a foundation of environmental information for state legislators, policy makers, media, and the general public. We produce the briefing papers in collaboration with policy experts to provide quick insights into critical issues and help our members prepare public hearing testimony on issues they care about.

Immediately following the legislative session, we hosted our first **legislative debrief**, where lawmakers and advocates once again met virtually to highlight the wins from the previous months as well as the next steps to address unfinished business. This event was tremendously successful and demonstrated the need for continuous advocacy, organizing and educational programming to address key issues.



This year following the passing of CTLCV's co-founder Julie Belaga, the **Julie Belaga Scholarship Fund** was created. This fund helps advance the mission and goals of CTLCV's Education Fund. It established a paid internship program in her name to advance the next generations of environmental advocates. CTLCV welcomed Alyssa Prozzo under this internship program, which led to her hire as our new program assistant. To quote Alyssa, "Being an intern at CTLCV has truly been an honorable and exciting experience. CTLCV leaders, board members, and my co-workers have made the work environment feel safe, comfortable, and welcoming to new ideas and possibilities."

This year, CTLCV introduced our **Environmental Ambassador Program**. We are recruiting volunteers throughout the state to help us communicate and participate in environmental action. Environmental Ambassadors inform their community about opportunities to get involved and influence important environmental policies in our state. They can help spread awareness about key issues, and provide the tools and resources to help others get involved. Our Ambassadors have engaged in community events and attended CTLCV's events and meetings.

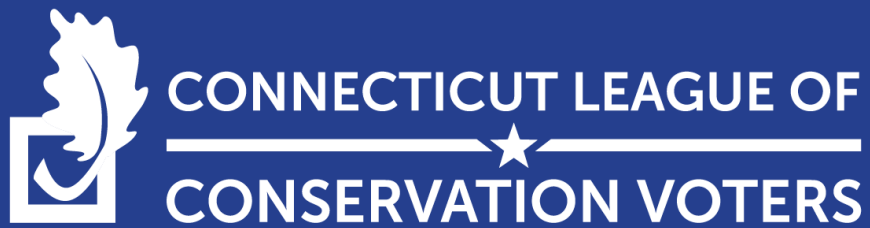
The Clean Energy for All (CEFA) program has grown exponentially across the Conservation Voters Movement since we helped to launch it in 2018. Our CEFA goals are to enact bold policies at the state and regional levels that drive the transition to 100% clean energy and phase out fossil fuels in electricity, transportation and buildings. This movement of state Leagues worked for two years to pass the largest US investment ever made in climate, the Inflation Reduction Act. We appreciate the work of the national League of Conservation Voters in coordinating this effort and providing logistical and financial

support. We are also proud that LCV recognized Connecticut as a leading state for clean energy across the nation.

The annual **Environmental Achievement Awards** marked our final event of the year. We presented the 2022 Environmental Awards at the newly opened Hotel Marcel in New Haven. As the first "net-zero" carbon hotel in the country, it was the perfect venue to honor the environmental champions that helped make it a banner year for our climate, including Connecticut's commitment to a 100% zero-carbon electric grid by 2040! CTLCV recognized former Secretary of State Denise Merrill for her lifelong work in democracy and environmental issues, as well as RiseUP For Arts CT, who use the power of artistic murals to bring focus to equity and community issues. Finally, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection was honored for 50 years of service to our State. A special thank you to the award event sponsors: Park City Wind, Regional Water Authority, Cohen and Wolf, League of Conservation Voters, and City and State Public Affairs.



Former Secretary of State, Denise Merrill accepts CTLCV's Lifetime Achievement Award



Our Environment Is Worth Fighting For

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