

# *CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs*

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## **“Not Yet Bold Enough”**

### **Coalition of Labor, Religious, and Environmental Groups Responds to Draft Comprehensive Energy Strategy**

On Wednesday, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) released its draft Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES), which provides an update to the first CES issued in 2013.

The CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs will undertake a more thorough review of the draft document in the coming days, but Roundtable leaders had this initial reaction to the draft strategy:

“This year’s revision of the CES coincides with the development of a climate action strategy by the Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3). The confluence of these two planning processes provides a unique opportunity to ensure explicit alignment of the state’s energy strategies with its mandated climate goals,” **said the Roundtable’s organizer, John Humphries, who also serves as a member of the GC3.** “We are pleased with many of the measures outlined in the new CES, including phasing down biomass in the mix of Class I renewables, but we are disappointed that the document does not clearly evaluate the overall impact on projected greenhouse gas emissions and whether the proposed strategies will be sufficient to achieve the state’s climate goals. We need to know whether this CES puts us squarely on the path to achieving even the 2020 goal of a 10% reduction in emissions, not to mention the broader vision of a clean energy future.”

**John Harranty, President of the CT State Council of Machinists and a member of the Roundtable’s steering committee, addressed the potential economic impacts of the proposed strategies:** “Connecticut can and must provide leadership in fighting climate change. We need to build a sustainable economy with well-paid local jobs while reducing the threat of climate disruption here and around the world. This draft CES helps move us in that direction, but it is not yet bold enough. A robust climate protection program – one that rapidly accelerates energy efficiency programs and the development of renewable energy resources – will create thousands of new jobs in Connecticut, providing an opportunity to ensure that workers making a challenging transition to alternative jobs in the clean energy economy will receive the support and training needed to protect their families’ livelihoods.”

In June 2016, the Roundtable gathered more than 150 endorsements from people all across the state on its statement submitted as part of the CES “scoping” process: <http://bit.ly/RTstatement6-16prn>

“Governor Malloy’s recent announcement that CT would join other states in a commitment to the Paris climate accords was just the latest example of our state providing national leadership on climate. Now we need to ensure that the actual policies outlined in the CES live up to the public statements. We look forward to engaging our constituencies in communities across the state in reviewing the

details of the CES and helping to strengthen the final product through active participation in the public comment process,” **continued Roundtable organizer John Humphries**. “We have an opportunity to shape the way Connecticut addresses both the economic crisis and the climate crisis: we can put thousands of people to work protecting the climate. A stronger commitment to procuring offshore wind energy is just one example that could bring enhanced economic development and jobs to our communities and their working families.”

*Launched in June 2012, the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs ([www.CTClimateandJobs.org](http://www.CTClimateandJobs.org)) is an innovative partnership between the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) and the CT AFL-CIO that seeks to strengthen collaboration among Connecticut’s labor, environmental, and religious groups in advocating for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs for Connecticut’s workers.*

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