

CT Green Energy News

News and events for advocates of clean energy, energy efficiency, and climate action at the state and local levels, focusing on Connecticut. Brought to you by People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE).

Is CT's electric grid ready to handle more power?

- *CT Mirror.* "...the move to widespread electrification is underway and we're already adjusting without specific policies in many cases. "That doesn't mean we don't need policy signals, but I think that policy signals right now in the short run are not ... necessary...In the short run, we can accommodate a lot more renewables on the grid; we can accommodate more electric vehicles, we can accommodate more heat pumps, and we should not have too much of a problem...Stating that the grid is not ready as a reason for not moving forward is a cop out."..."It's not a binary thing. It's not a 'the grid is not ready/the grid is ready...We certainly have lots of investments we need to continue to make on both the transmission and distribution side, and we need to do it in a coordinated fashion...We're putting the pieces in place, but we've got to do it better and we've got to do it faster.'...All of this leads to bigger questions. If the grid isn't ready to handle more power, how do you get it ready; and if it's already moving to get ready, how do you get it to move faster? Turns out there are a lot of different answers."

CT town is first in state to go all in on electric school buses. And its app shows location.

- *Hartford Courant.* "Starting in July, some Connecticut students will be boarding quiet school buses that emit no pollutants. The school district is the first in the state to go to an all-electric fleet, which it will accomplish in five years. "There was a really comprehensive referendum for our request for proposal that we put in Branford...The 2024-25 school year will have all new buses and vans, though just 13 of the 60 will be electrified this year. The rest will still be diesel-powered...The buses are coming from Zūm, a San Francisco company founded in 2018 by CEO Ritu Narayan. The company's buses bring students to and from 4,000 schools from California to Massachusetts..."It's expensive, but it's better than anything else we had on the table...The overall impact on our transportation budget from this school year to next school year, it's an 8% increase in our transportation line. But after a few years, that's going to level out, and in public education budgets when you have high predictability what your budget is going to be for any predictable line, that's helpful.' "

Opinion: Solar is CT's path to lower energy costs

- *CT Mirror.* "You might have heard the argument that Connecticut can't afford more solar. That we already have some of the highest electricity costs in the nation, and more solar will further burden ratepayers. It's time to bust that myth. What we can't afford is continuing to burn fossil

fuels for our energy. Renewable energy, and solar in particular, is actually the path to lower, more stable electric rates. And while the shift to renewables will require some up-front investment, we face a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take advantage of generous federal funding to make these investments at no extra cost. We can correct a litany of historical environmental injustices in the process. Today, the Connecticut General Assembly has a chance to help make this happen."

Transmission study reaches some hopeful conclusions

- *CommonWealth Beacon.* "For the first time, New England has a detailed analysis of the investment needed in our region's energy infrastructure to ensure that clean energy will be able to reliably move around the region to power our homes and charge our vehicles....the study estimates the region will need to invest between \$16 billion and \$26 billion on transmission infrastructure over the next 26 years to ensure a reliable clean energy transition. These numbers may sound daunting, but they'd be spread out over multiple decades and are actually in line with annual averages for reliability investments over the past 20 years...There are paths for New England to achieve its goal of a future power system that use much more renewable energy and reduces carbon emissions. Not only can we get there, but we can do so with a transmission system that doesn't look too different from the one we have today—and at a price that's in line with our spending over the past two decades."

Eversource announces shutoffs for nonpayment will resume. It encourages customers to sign up for assistance

- *Hartford Courant.* "Starting May 2, the utility company announced it will resort back to its pre-pandemic process if customers do not pay their bills. "Service shutoffs are a last resort, and the energy company encourages anyone who needs help paying their bill to take advantage of assistance programs," the company said in a statement. "Eversource is ready to work with all customers one-on-one to connect them with payment options and programs to avoid service disconnection." Customers that meet state income eligibility requirements are eligible for financial hardship programs and bill assistance."

What happened to electric scooter programs in CT?

- *CT Insider.* "Fleets of public electric scooters have all but vanished from the public eye in Connecticut. After bursting onto the sidewalk scene in Bridgeport, Hartford, Fairfield, Middletown, Ansonia and Naugatuck between 2019 and 2022, scooter programs have started to fizzle over the past year. The local and global scooter companies that struck partnerships with those cities and towns have struggled to stay afloat, with a few ceasing their programs..."We couldn't get managers to manage..."

FuelCell Energy extends agreement with ExxonMobil; works to develop carbonate fuel cell technology for commercial market

- *Hartford Business Journal.* "Danbury-based FuelCell Energy Inc. is working to develop technology that captures CO2 emissions from industrial sources, which it uses to produce electricity and hydrogen simultaneously, for the commercial market. FuelCell announced Monday that it has updated and extended an agreement with ExxonMobil Technology and Engineering Co. that allows development of the carbonate fuel cell to continue."

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Upcoming Events

Celebrate Earth Day with a Community Action Plan

APR 13, Sat, 11AM-12noon, Avon Library, 281 Country Club Rd, Avon

Join The Avon Clean Energy Commission's Carrie Firestone, PACE's Mark Scully, and special guest Dr. Joseph Baxter from The United Nations Association of Connecticut for an official launch of the newly-updated Avon Clean Energy Plan. Our panel will share details of the plan and discuss the role our community will play in implementation, with time for questions and actionable takeaways. There will be a celebratory announcement of the Avon Library's EV charging station and Avon school roof solar installations. This is a family-friendly event. Co-sponsored by the United Nations CT Chapter, Avon Clean Energy Commission and PACE (People's Action for Clean Energy). [REGISTER](#)

PFAs Update Panel

APR 16, Tues, 6:30-8PM, Windsor Town Hall, 275 Broad St, Windsor

What is PFAS? How does it affect our community? What can we do about it? Discover the answers to the questions and more at the PFAS Panel hosted by Windsor Climate Action Clean Water Task Force and Clean Water Action. Attendees encouraged to ask questions as the organizers aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of PFAS and options for safeguarding our soil, water, and overall well-being. This is free event open to all.

West Hartford Earth Day

APR 20, Sat, 12-4PM, Blue Back Square, 65 Memorial Rd, West Hartford

Attend the first annual Earth Day event in Blue Back Square! Meet Mother Earth: Fun photo op for families and kids. Meet the West Hartford sustainability commission and other nonprofit groups. Local vendors will showcase their environmentally conscious products and services. Live music and performances inspired by the wonders of nature. Treats and refreshments that showcase the flavors of the season, emphasizing sustainable and locally sourced ingredients. Fun Earth Day games. [LEARN MORE](#)

Earth Day Extravaganza

APR 20, Sat, 12-3PM, Harbor Park, Middletown

Celebrate the 3rd annual Earth Day Extravaganza at Harbor Park. Lots of fun activities for the whole family. Brought to you by Reboot Eco, the Jonah Center for Earth & Art, and the City of Middletown

Youth Advocacy Day

APR 22, Mon, 9AM-2PM, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, USA in Hearing Room 2D

Join Sunrise Movement CT for an exciting day of youth empowerment and advocacy at 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT, USA in Hearing Room 2D. This in-person event is a unique opportunity for young individuals to raise their voices and connect. Whether you're passionate about education, climate change, or social justice, this event is for you! Connect with like-minded peers, engage in workshops, and learn from inspiring speakers who have made an impact. Together, we can create a better future. Don't miss out on this incredible chance to be part of the change! [REGISTER](#)

Concert for the Earth, by Kate Callahan and In Trine

APR 27, Sat, 4-6PM, Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford

"A Concert for the Earth" will feature Kate Callahan who served as the 16th CT State Troubadour and her trio, In Trine to 1) Celebrate Earth Week, 2) Celebrate and honor long time Earth Activist Lynn Johnson, and 3) funds will be raised for the Immanuel Church Green Fund so that Heat Pumps can be installed in portions of the historic 125-year-old church, now heated with natural gas. [REGISTER](#)

Energy Efficiency Solutions for Small Businesses

May 2, Thurs, 12-1PM, online webinar

Register for the First Thursday webinar series to learn about Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) program and the incentives available for our Connecticut small business owners. We will be joined by the supervisor of the small business team, Hannah Savage. Hannah and her team will provide a program overview of SBEA and share details on our currently available offerings and incentives for qualifying customers. For reference, small businesses are those utilizing less than 1.25 million kilowatt hours per year at a single Connecticut location. [REGISTER](#)

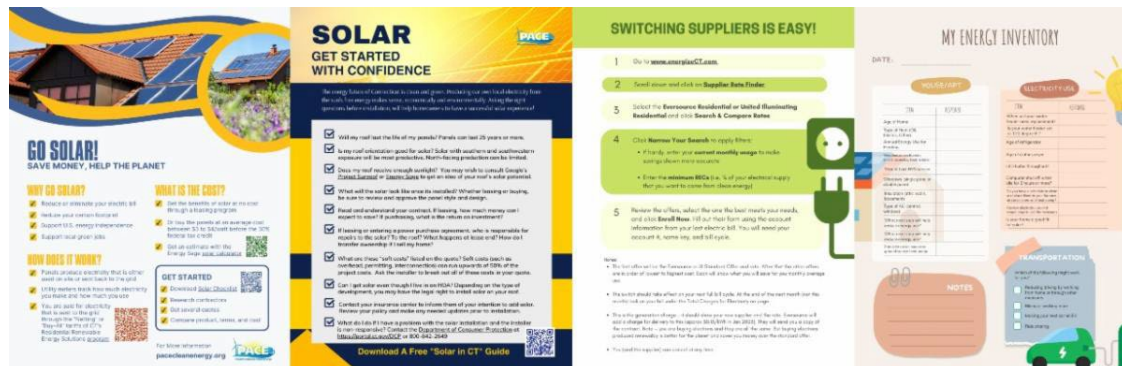
For a more complete listing of clean energy events, visit the [PACE online Calendar](#). You can [submit an event](#) to the PACE Calendar and also [subscribe](#) to it.

Submit a Clean Energy Event

WATT ELSE?

Hosting An Energy Fair? PACE Has Downloadable Flyers

Visit [PACECleanEnergy.org/EnergyFair](https://www.pacecleanenergy.org/EnergyFair) to download helpful flyers for your energy, Earth Day, or sustainability fair. Print out a single copy of the flyers and let fairgoers take a photo.



Battery Storage on the Grid Performed as Expected During Eclipse

Prior to the recent [solar eclipse](#), there were many news stories about how the grid would be impacted. Well, as with the disruption of any energy source (think back to supply disruptions in gas due to the war in Ukraine), utilities look to their other energy sources that are available to make up the difference. In the [case of Green Mountain Power](#) -- a Vermont utility committed to clean, reliable energy -- the company made up for the decreased solar with energy from batteries enrolled in its residential battery storage program. Not only did this battery power make up the difference, but it saved customers money. Battery storage increases grid resiliency and goes hand in hand with renewables. CT has also been building its commercial and residential battery storage programs through the [Energy Storage Solutions](#) program. Learn more, download the [PACE battery storage booklet](#).

More About the Yankee Institute

In today's world, it's important to take a close look at the messaging that you're exposed to and what might be behind it. Recently, the [Yankee Institute](#) indicated that people with low income would be left behind in the transition to clean energy. In fact, clean energy investments made under the Inflation Reduction Act--and from many other sources--are disproportionately targeted to low and moderate income residents of the state. And based on our research, the Yankee Institute does not have a record of looking out for the less fortunate. A [study](#) was released in March 2022 which found that: "[t]he Yankee Institute is

leading the charge on a set of regressive policies in Connecticut that protect the interests of the state's corporations and the ultra-wealthy". This conclusion is not surprising, given that the Yankee Institute is part of the State Policy Network,, which receives support from the Koch Foundation

EV Club of CT

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A place for both the EV curious and EV enthusiast.



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