



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

JOHN G. ROWLAND
GOVERNOR

A CONNECTICUT REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE
LEADING BY EXAMPLE: CONNECTICUT COLLABORATES
TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Dear Reader:

The State of Connecticut is embarking on one of the most important initiatives in its history, and I hope you will be a part of it.

We are committed to developing a comprehensive plan to significantly reduce Connecticut's emission of greenhouse gases that are contributing to global climate change. This effort is being spearheaded by my office and by the Governor's Steering Committee. The committee is made up of leaders from key state agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection, Public Utility Control, Transportation, Administrative Services, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

In October 2002, the Steering Committee convened a watershed event: the Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan Summit. This three-day conference featured presentations and discussions about climate change and how Connecticut could most effectively address this vital issue. Participants decided that the process of developing a greenhouse-gas reduction plan for Connecticut must involve all sectors-- government, industry, non-governmental organizations, academia and the public.

I urge you to support this important, collaborative effort, which I believe is essential to Connecticut's current and future economy and quality of life.

To give you a better understanding of the background and goals of this initiative, I am enclosing a report entitled, "Leading by Example: Connecticut Collaborates to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions." Based on the October Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan Summit, this report:

- **Provides important regional facts about climate change and the greenhouse gases that cause it.**

NERA- The report discusses the current potential impact of climate change on New England, as reported in the New England Regional Assessment (NERA). NERA is one of 16 regional assessments completed as a result of a congressional act passed in 1990.

Connecticut's Greenhouse Gas Inventory- You will find in this report an analysis of Connecticut's 1990 and 1995 Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Conducted using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's methodologies, these studies measured Connecticut's emission of greenhouse gases and identified the sources of those emissions. Another study is currently being conducted to obtain up-to-date data.

- **Describes the cross-border activities that give rise to Connecticut's initiative**

New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Action Plan--In March 2001, a NEG/ECP climate change workshop reviewed information showing that climate change was occurring in the region and that it was linked to human activity. This led to the development of a NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan, which members signed at an August 2001 meeting held in Westbrook, Connecticut, which I co-chaired. We then created committees that developed a set of action steps. We agreed to those action steps the following August. Recognizing the importance of the issue and Connecticut's unique ability to take a leadership role in addressing it, I am initiating a greenhouse-gas reduction effort here in Connecticut.

- **Highlights climate change initiatives currently underway in Connecticut**

State and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations and industry have already taken steps toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Reports on Connecticut's Inter-Agency Summit**

Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan Summit--Held at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, New York, this event was sponsored by the State of Connecticut, the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The Governor's Steering Committee organized and led the event, which resulted in a framework for developing the Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan. The framework emphasizes extensive collaboration throughout the planning process.


- **Explains why Connecticut has what it takes to succeed**

Connecticut is uniquely positioned to achieve ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals and become a model for the nation. We have a vast intellectual capital and a boundless capacity for technological innovation. We have public and private leaders with vision and determination. And we have the proven ability to bring representatives from all sectors together to work for the common good.

Please take the time to review the enclosed report. If you are called on to be a part of the process for developing Connecticut's plan, please take part. Initiate efforts in your own workplace, organization or community to support renewable energy, conserve power and reduce our use of fossil fuels.

Together, we can build a cleaner, healthier, and more prosperous Connecticut.

Sincerely,


JOHN G. ROWLAND
Governor

Enclosure