

The Carbon-Free and Healthy Schools Act

The Carbon-Free and Healthy Schools Act aims to address common barriers to investment in energy improvements that create energy cost savings. It creates a new financing program within the Connecticut Green Bank for school solar and energy efficiency projects. The Connecticut Green Bank will also provide technical assistance to school districts and fund solar feasibility studies. Additionally, it funds energy efficiency studies to be performed by a district's energy utilities through existing programs or by third-party contractors with grant funding.

How will it work?

A one-time appropriation of \$25 million from the state will cover program administration, feasibility studies, and technical assistance. The Connecticut Green Bank will provide \$400 million in financing through federal funding, CTGB bonds, or other revenue sources. The program will take advantage of the federal funding available to public school districts via tax credits and grant opportunities, which will help non-profit districts front the cost. Additionally, the availability of feasibility studies and financing will make grant applications more competitive.

It does not create any new mandates for public school districts since participation is completely voluntary. It also does not create costs for school districts, since participating districts will only move forward with projects that will save the district money.



Benefits

- ❖ It will reduce energy costs, which are second only to salaries for public school districts.
- ❖ Allows school districts to invest more in things like educational programming or student support services.
- ❖ Mitigates climate change, since public school facilities are huge consumers of energy.
- ❖ Helps Connecticut move towards its decarbonization goals.
- ❖ Addressing energy improvements on a sector-wide basis creates sustainable careers and opportunities for workforce development.
- ❖ Increases the flow of federal money to Connecticut, taking advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

MORE INFORMATION

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