



Energy Data Bill of Rights

BACKGROUND

Connecticut's transition to a renewable energy future will require action by individual residents, businesses, and municipalities. Utilities will be called upon to support new technologies.

To facilitate this transition, stakeholders will need detailed, publicly available data on energy usage, sources, and electrification of transportation and heating. This document outlines what data is required, why, and who can provide it.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Connecticut has a Chief Data Officer (CDO) whose responsibilities include operating the Open Data Portal. As such, the CDO is best suited to manage implementation of the Energy Data Bill of Rights. The CDO's responsibilities should include assuring privacy protections, with possibly different access levels for different user groups (e.g., government agencies, research institutions, and the public).

The state's two electric distribution companies (EDCs), Eversource and United Illuminating, already have data pertaining to many energy programs. These include Class I renewable and storage interconnections, Home Energy Solutions (HES), Home Energy Solutions-Income Eligible (HES-IE), Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (RRES), Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES), Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF), and Energy Storage Solutions (ESS). This data should be easily accessible in a centralized, publicly available database.

Other entities, such as municipal electric utilities, natural gas distribution companies, and companies that provide delivered fuels (such as heating oil and propane), also have important energy data that should be publicly available.

Recently, the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has issued decisions related to public access to EDC data. While PURA can improve accurate, timely, and accessible reporting of energy data, gaps exist that must be addressed by legislation. For example, PURA does not regulate municipal utilities or delivered fuels like heating oil.

POLICY SOLUTIONS

The state should establish a Connecticut Energy Data Bill of Rights guaranteeing public access to the data needed to meet the state's climate targets and accurately monitor progress. Relevant data includes:

- Inventory of registered vehicles (from the Department of Motor Vehicles)
- Building stock (from town Grand Lists)
- Class I renewable deployment (list of all interconnected resources from electric distributions companies)
- Other distributed energy resources (DERs)
- Energy storage
- Electric vehicle service equipment (EVSE)
- Electricity and natural gas consumption
- Delivered fuels (e.g., propane, heating oil)
- Energy efficiency program participation
- Federal weatherization program participation
- Efficiency barrier remediation program participation

MORE INFORMATION

Mark Scully, People's Action for Clean Energy
mwscully29@gmail.com

Shannon Laun, Conservation Law Foundation
slaun@clf.org

Barry Kresch, EV Club of Connecticut
barry.kresch@gmail.com