

WEBVTT

1 00:00:05.009 --> 00:00:10.620 Robert Dubrow: Okay, so we have a small group, so I think this could be informal you know.

2 00:00:11.670 --> 00:00:17.250 Robert Dubrow: I think, Sam said that would be fine too so but it's a pleasure to introduce.

3 00:00:18.270 --> 00:00:21.870 Robert Dubrow: Sam die now ski from the director of the Connecticut chapter.

4 00:00:31.410 --> 00:00:32.010 Robert Dubrow: What was that.

5 00:00:32.610 --> 00:00:33.060 Brian.

6 00:00:35.190 --> 00:00:49.440 Robert Dubrow: i'm director of the Connecticut chapter of the Sierra Club to talk about legislative priorities for this session with regards to climate change legislation, in particular so thanks Sam.

7 00:00:51.600 --> 00:00:54.420 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah happy to be here good to see y'all um.

8 00:00:55.680 --> 00:01:01.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I have a slide deck i'm going to share I can do that give it a try.

9 00:01:07.440 --> 00:01:17.430 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And let me put it in present Can you see my backup slide 120 21 Connecticut General Assembly climate legislation can everyone see that.

10 00:01:18.570 --> 00:01:20.730 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah right um.

11 00:01:22.590 --> 00:01:30.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So the Connecticut General Assembly will meet this year from January through June 9.

12 00:01:32.100 --> 00:01:38.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And it's entirely virtual this year so it's kind of like a brand new world for everybody, trying to figure this out.

13 00:01:41.040 --> 00:01:45.090 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But they have a you know, a process in which.

14 00:01:46.590 --> 00:01:53.850 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: legislators and committees introduced legislation they have hearings that are open to the public for comment.

15 00:01:54.960 --> 00:02:11.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: committees, then vote on bills under their purview and before they move through the process that could include being voted on by other committees, but then ultimately if they make it through the to the House and Senate.

16 00:02:13.050 --> 00:02:14.160 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And and get.

17 00:02:15.360 --> 00:02:19.110 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Votes of approval, they will become law and.

18 00:02:20.280 --> 00:02:28.320 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We are in sort of the tail end of the public hearing phase right now, so we have a good sense of what bills.

19 00:02:29.640 --> 00:02:48.090 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: have been raised, what bills have now had a public hearing some have even been voted out of committee so we're winnowing down from thousands of bills to a much more manageable number so i'm glad to be able to share with you kind of a list of bills that are on the move.

20 00:02:49.170 --> 00:02:51.420 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And, and that we think are.

21 00:02:52.710 --> 00:03:09.060 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: A possibility to end up in the final passage phase, and I just thought i'd put that into the context kind of the universe of bills, I thought about sharing with you today and the context, I wanted to put it in was.

22 00:03:11.070 --> 00:03:14.280 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Climate and our our connecticut's.

23 00:03:16.320 --> 00:03:24.030 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: main climate law, which is the global warming solution Act, which requires that requires mandates that the state.

24 00:03:25.290 --> 00:03:36.000 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Economy wide reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below levels by 2030 and 80%.

25 00:03:37.050 --> 00:03:59.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: By 2050, and so what you see here on this slide is a graphic from the State Department of energy and environmental protections greenhouse gas inventory their latest greenhouse gas inventory is 2017 they're always kind of a few years behind because the way the data comes in.

26 00:04:01.440 --> 00:04:06.180 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: which gives you a sense if you can kind of eyeball what looks like.

27 00:04:07.350 --> 00:04:13.560 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And then use your imagination to project out to 2030 and then.

28 00:04:15.000 --> 00:04:30.690 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: um we have some serious work to do there is going to there needs to be a massive decrease in greenhouse gases here in the state if we're going to meet these goals, and it is State law and it is a mandate.

29 00:04:33.030 --> 00:04:36.360 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: On the left, you can see how what the breakdown is right now.

30 00:04:37.620 --> 00:04:50.100 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The the three biggest sources of greenhouse gases in Connecticut our transportation represented 38% electricity generation which 21% and buildings, which is commercial.

31 00:04:51.180 --> 00:04:52.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and residential.

32 00:04:53.970 --> 00:04:55.140 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: residential buildings.

33 00:04:56.340 --> 00:04:59.370 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So in that context and.

34 00:05:02.010 --> 00:05:05.490 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: i'm going to talk a little bit about bills in the legislature, but in that context.

35 00:05:06.990 --> 00:05:28.080 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We have nine years right before 2030 that we have to make this massive decrease and we're just really not seeing kind of the urgent action and the bold action that's going to be needed to meet these targets, we are seeing some action, and it has some real possibility.

36 00:05:29.130 --> 00:05:30.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But it's concerning.

37 00:05:32.280 --> 00:05:42.540 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Because we really have a lot of work to do, but i'm going to cover some bills, I like to slides on these that cover these major areas and then some other areas.

38 00:05:44.580 --> 00:05:48.450 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: of bills, I see that have been introduced that are.

39 00:05:51.750 --> 00:05:59.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Most of them moving through the process and i've highlighted a few that either, are you might have heard about, or that I think, have the most.

40 00:06:00.840 --> 00:06:13.740 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: greenhouse gas reduction possibility and so in transportation we're seeing a number of bills that will either directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

41 00:06:15.120 --> 00:06:15.840 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Or will.

42 00:06:17.670 --> 00:06:21.480 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: promote more walking biking.

43 00:06:23.190 --> 00:06:28.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Non vehicle and alternatives to reducing greenhouse gas.

44 00:06:30.750 --> 00:06:44.640 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Emissions So the first one, you see here an act concerning emission standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles California last year adopted something called the advanced clean truck rule which will.

45 00:06:45.780 --> 00:06:54.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: over a very short period of time require all trucks to be zero emission and that includes you know.

46 00:06:55.470 --> 00:07:14.850 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Buses garbage trucks and pretty much anything you can name and kind of that medium and

heavy duty category, and so this bill, I think, is a huge step in the right direction, it would allow the Connecticut deep the Department of energy and environmental protection to.

47 00:07:15.870 --> 00:07:19.260 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: analyze the the California advanced clean truck roll.

48 00:07:21.000 --> 00:07:25.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Its and decide whether to adopted as a regulation in Connecticut.

49 00:07:27.570 --> 00:07:34.620 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We have as a state signed up to a multi state commitment for medium and heavy duty vehicles so it's really a step.

50 00:07:36.240 --> 00:07:45.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That our state can take to fulfill that mo you and hopefully the other states that have also signed on will also be moving in this direction so.

51 00:07:46.260 --> 00:07:55.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: While California is clearly leading, we hope that there will be many states that that follow and can have real a real impact on this um.

52 00:07:56.970 --> 00:08:07.830 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: i'm not going to go through each one but maybe we can take questions at the end is to what they are, but the other one I highlighted you've probably heard a lot about an act, this is a governor's bill.

53 00:08:08.700 --> 00:08:21.330 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: introduced and is moving through the Environment Committee enact reducing transportation related carbon emissions it's to implement a program called the transportation and climate initiative, otherwise known as gci.

54 00:08:23.160 --> 00:08:24.720 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And you can see what the right what.

55 00:08:25.740 --> 00:08:32.760 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I put the Sierra club's position on these bills and we are watching that bill, there is, it has very.

56 00:08:34.680 --> 00:08:40.680 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: One of the main threads of this program is to reduce emissions in.

57 00:08:42.570 --> 00:08:51.180 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In communities that are already overburdened by pollution and underserved by the transportation system, and so we have asked legislators to really.

58 00:08:52.050 --> 00:09:04.020 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Do the appropriate outreach and hear from those communities as to how they want to see this bill framed so it has a lot of potential to reduce carbon emissions and to do.

59 00:09:05.820 --> 00:09:13.080 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And to prioritize vulnerable communities and, and so we want those vulnerable can use to be at the Center of this decision making.

60 00:09:14.190 --> 00:09:15.240 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In buildings.

61 00:09:16.260 --> 00:09:20.310 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: There are, as you can see a couple of bills that.

62 00:09:21.690 --> 00:09:42.060 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That fall into this category of helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the one we think really is the most exciting and would have the greatest impact on reducing emissions is senate bill 356 to establish an energy efficiency rhetoric bit grant program for affordable housing.

63 00:09:44.220 --> 00:09:53.370 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And this bill is still in the works, it has that there's a draft introduced it's been approved by the housing committee.

64 00:09:54.300 --> 00:10:12.270 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But is very much still a work in progress, but the goal is to create a comprehensive program that not only does energy efficiency, which we have these great energy efficiency programs in our state, but that builds in things that the energy efficiency program doesn't have it would address.

65 00:10:13.560 --> 00:10:18.960 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Some of the health and safety hazards that prevent ratepayers from fully.

66 00:10:20.550 --> 00:10:31.170 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: utilizing the energy efficiency program oftentimes energy efficiency auditors will go into homes and find things like gas leaks mold asbestos vermiculite.

67 00:10:33.360 --> 00:10:39.030 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: knob and tube wiring things that prevent them from really like sealing a home.

68 00:10:40.350 --> 00:10:40.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and

69 00:10:42.330 --> 00:10:49.590 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Making the building envelope as as efficient as possible, because it becomes a safety hazard to do that.

70 00:10:51.690 --> 00:11:14.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, for the first time, there would be a program that would, if this is found would address those issues and the other way that it's a comprehensive program is it also includes adding solar and energy efficient heat pumps when doing energy efficient energy efficiency retrofits.

71 00:11:16.320 --> 00:11:18.720 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And, and it sets targets of.

72 00:11:19.740 --> 00:11:30.390 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Doing this work in overtime, beginning with 5% of all affordable housing units and moving up with to eventually be a program that's available for all.

73 00:11:31.890 --> 00:11:49.020 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Low to moderate income residents, it could be huge it's something that Massachusetts is also

looking at in their legislature their bill aims to retrofit a million homes over 10 years, so it is ambitious and really meets the.

74 00:11:50.190 --> 00:11:58.320 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The scale that we're talking about early your of what we need to do to really decarbonize these sectors um.

75 00:12:00.180 --> 00:12:01.530 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Let me move to the next slide.

76 00:12:03.480 --> 00:12:17.190 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: There we go i'm on electricity generation and utilities, the most exciting bill of the session is the one i've highlighted on the top and this bill is effectively dead right now.

77 00:12:17.640 --> 00:12:32.580 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: um it was introduced by state Senator Christine Cohen, who is the Chair of the Environment Committee to establish a moratorium on the construction of new fossil fuel power plants, and right now Connecticut is.

78 00:12:34.350 --> 00:12:39.600 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Looking at the possible construction of two brand new fossil fuel power plants that.

79 00:12:40.980 --> 00:12:58.140 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We don't need we produce more energy and can I get then we use back, we only use 73% of the electricity regenerate the region doesn't need by independent analysis and in even by ISIS new england's own.

80 00:13:00.270 --> 00:13:12.330 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: own calculations and yet our State Department of environmental of energy, environmental protection, has issued permits for these two plants to move forward and so.

81 00:13:14.940 --> 00:13:24.780 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: With nothing in place to stop this we could continue to see fossil fuel power plants be cited and built in Connecticut and so Center Cohen introduced this bill.

82 00:13:25.200 --> 00:13:35.160 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And even though she's the Chair of the Environment Committee, because it's about power plants it got moved to the energy and Technology Committee, where the committee chose not to raise it or hear it.

83 00:13:36.900 --> 00:13:37.710 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So, probably.

84 00:13:38.850 --> 00:13:52.140 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In our view, one of the most important bills to to ensure that we don't continue adding greenhouse gases in the electricity sector was was killed by the Energy Committee i'm.

85 00:13:52.440 --> 00:13:52.980 Robert Dubrow: question.

86 00:13:53.040 --> 00:13:59.250 Robert Dubrow: quick question, yes, so what what there's the killingly power plants that's been planned and what's the second one.

87 00:13:59.700 --> 00:14:06.450 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So there is a proposal for 375 megawatts of.

88 00:14:06.960 --> 00:14:08.250 Robert Dubrow: electricity generation should.

89 00:14:08.250 --> 00:14:10.260 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: be built in middletown.

90 00:14:10.650 --> 00:14:11.280 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: It would.

91 00:14:11.760 --> 00:14:29.010 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: replace two old turbines 60 year old turbines that are used only as speakers, a few days of year and be allowed to run I believe 187 days a year, producing a million tons of carbon, which is over 100,000.

92 00:14:29.040 --> 00:14:32.460 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: More than the plant currently produces.

93 00:14:34.290 --> 00:14:43.050 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and deep tentatively approved the air permits for that plant it's right now in a public comment phase back public comments are do today on that.

94 00:14:44.190 --> 00:14:51.270 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Which Sierra club and others others in middletown especially there's a really robust group of advocates.

95 00:14:53.010 --> 00:14:58.890 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: opposing this proposal, it was not cleared by ISO New England, so the regional.

96 00:15:00.360 --> 00:15:06.000 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: grid has decided we don't need it, yet Connecticut Steve continues to move forward with this.

97 00:15:08.910 --> 00:15:21.690 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And I, you can see here, there are some bills, we oppose there's actually bill, so it will increase the use of fossil fuels and increased subsidies for the use of fossil fuels, which is really in the wrong direction.

98 00:15:22.830 --> 00:15:40.740 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And then I just want to say a few things about the SP add to that is the governor's bill and other governors bill, which has several three key provisions, but the one that we're focusing on and what changes with is you know the governor in.

99 00:15:42.150 --> 00:15:58.440 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: set a goal, he actually signed an executive order that the state would have 100% zero carbon electricity by 2040 and so that's very exciting and we support that the bill, however.

100 00:16:00.060 --> 00:16:12.030 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: really is missing a key component, the way the bill is written, is that we will have 100% zero carbon electricity supply to customers in the state by 2040.

101 00:16:12.810 --> 00:16:32.280 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, like I said reproduce way more energy Ray more electricity here in Connecticut that

we use and it ignores all that additional electricity that we don't use so, in theory, we could meet this 20 1400 percent zero carbon goal and still have 54 power plants in our state.

102 00:16:33.510 --> 00:16:35.640 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: combusting fossil fuels and.

103 00:16:36.990 --> 00:16:40.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: emitting carbon into the atmosphere um.

104 00:16:42.030 --> 00:16:46.710 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And then, I just wanted to you know those fell into the kind of those three big categories areas where.

105 00:16:49.230 --> 00:16:55.110 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Where we we generate the most greenhouse gases, but I wanted to had a couple other kind of like.

106 00:16:56.130 --> 00:16:59.880 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: loose areas that I wanted to talk about on climate.

107 00:17:01.680 --> 00:17:05.220 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I think this one is highlighted because it's such an exciting bill if.

108 00:17:07.320 --> 00:17:15.090 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know the financial sector has a big role to play in terms of ramping down fossil fuels and.

109 00:17:16.890 --> 00:17:20.040 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, banks asset managers and insurance companies.

110 00:17:21.150 --> 00:17:39.990 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: are investing their assets into fossil fuel companies, and I think the bank's get the most media attention and folks probably know about that, but as a major hub of the insurance industry yeah you know Connecticut has a big role to play in terms of.

111 00:17:42.120 --> 00:17:43.890 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Climate and our insurance companies.

112 00:17:43.950 --> 00:17:50.070 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so ensures and and, unlike banks and asset managers ensures have like a.

113 00:17:51.450 --> 00:17:56.340 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: outsized role in in fossil fuels, because not only do they take.

114 00:17:58.050 --> 00:17:59.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Their policy-holders.

115 00:18:01.590 --> 00:18:12.510 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Funds and invest them in order to pay out premiums later and they invest them pretty heavily in fossil fuels for those that are property and.

116 00:18:13.800 --> 00:18:20.100 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: casualty companies, they are underwriting fossil fuel projects, so they have a double whammy where they're.

117 00:18:21.330 --> 00:18:26.820 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: enabling the fossil fuel industries to continue both with financing and underwriting.

118 00:18:27.180 --> 00:18:38.250 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, this is this bill is the first in the nation that would require the insurance companies to disclose to our state insurance department who's been a real leader on insurance and climate change.

119 00:18:38.880 --> 00:18:45.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: to disclose to them their total premiums written for fossil fuel projects in addition to.

120 00:18:46.890 --> 00:18:52.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Their investments in fossil fuel companies and to.

121 00:18:53.370 --> 00:18:57.300 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Have a better and more uniform way of.

122 00:18:58.890 --> 00:19:03.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: analyzing their climate risk associated with that and.

123 00:19:04.320 --> 00:19:09.930 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: For ensures you know this is pretty important because they can become insolvent pretty quickly.

124 00:19:11.040 --> 00:19:19.050 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: If they have a huge climate rest so understanding that risk is good for the industry, but it's also good for those of us who care about climate.

125 00:19:20.820 --> 00:19:30.780 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: When we know and it's transparent who they're investing in and how much their underwriting and fossil fuels, we as consumers can make decisions.

126 00:19:32.190 --> 00:19:40.050 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Based on that information so it's a really big deal the spill and will have national and I think international implications.

127 00:19:42.330 --> 00:19:45.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And we have two big bills on.

128 00:19:47.160 --> 00:19:55.860 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Environmental justice which are exciting I they're an important I didn't highlight them because i'm not sure how much they're going to drive down.

129 00:19:56.910 --> 00:20:11.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Greenhouse gases in relation to these other bills, but what they the 6551 is intended to ensure that we are not don't continue to site in the way we have been.

130 00:20:13.110 --> 00:20:16.470 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: polluting facilities and environmental justice communities that.

131 00:20:17.610 --> 00:20:18.210 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That.

132 00:20:20.070 --> 00:20:32.370 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Admit local air pollutants that have a disproportionate impact on the health of those communities and then hb i'm sorry that should be sb 999 senate bill nine nine.

133 00:20:33.600 --> 00:20:43.230 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Is a bill regarding the workforce and so ensuring, as we make this transition from a fossil fuel economy to a clean energy economy that.

134 00:20:44.280 --> 00:20:50.160 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The jobs, we are creating are good jobs because fossil fuel jobs are quite honestly good jobs.

135 00:20:50.850 --> 00:21:06.810 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And we want to make sure that this transition that we're trying to make to you know, protect us from climate change and also you know, has a positive impact in terms of our workers and our workforce.

136 00:21:07.500 --> 00:21:14.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: um so I probably I talked way longer than I think my time was a lot of for, but that is in summary.

137 00:21:15.000 --> 00:21:25.770 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: kind of some of the key things I don't think it's everything that's happening probably on this front in the legislature, but and happy to take any questions or just have a discussion about about this.

138 00:21:27.180 --> 00:21:31.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Before I do that, let me just move one slide in advance on things, I think.

139 00:21:34.440 --> 00:21:46.710 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I, like you, and folks that care about these issues to to hear and so it's it's my recommendations on how to move forward one is that you know legislators want to hear from you.

140 00:21:47.550 --> 00:22:03.330 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So be sure to connect with them they're very busy right now, but many of them host 10 calls, you know they have emails and social media accounts and and phone numbers, you can reach them at and just connecting with them and.

141 00:22:04.440 --> 00:22:14.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Asking for their support on or opposition to these things is very helpful, they need to hear from people, but I think you know to my point earlier that.

142 00:22:15.420 --> 00:22:17.220 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I don't think we're doing nearly enough.

143 00:22:18.240 --> 00:22:27.090 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I think legislators many legislators need to have some more climate education and to bust the myth that.

144 00:22:28.140 --> 00:22:37.680 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: special interests that are bound basis because of special interest that the capital, you know we often hear the narrative that you know.

145 00:22:39.210 --> 00:22:45.690 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: say on power plants, well, we need the energy we don't We often hear the narrative on.

146 00:22:48.240 --> 00:23:10.950 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: On fossil gas that it's cleaner and so it's better for the environment it's still a fossil fuel A and B, the the leaks coming out of gas pipelines really double the climate impact and often what the here's the combustion impact and not the not the whole story, we often hear.

147 00:23:12.270 --> 00:23:20.190 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: They often hear things like Oh well, heat pumps won't work here it's too cold here it's just it's these are myths that.

148 00:23:22.260 --> 00:23:26.070 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know that that are not held up when when.

149 00:23:27.180 --> 00:23:36.420 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: folks that actually have heat pumps are putting in brand new heat pumps are are doing this work know to be true, and then lastly.

150 00:23:37.590 --> 00:23:45.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: build power, and what that means is you know we can each reach out as individuals and it's important that we do and it's important that we.

151 00:23:46.080 --> 00:23:50.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: share what we know and make sure that legislators are up to speed on these issues.

152 00:23:51.360 --> 00:23:59.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: but also that we work together and the more we work together, the more we show that there is a groundswell of support there's no question in the polling.

153 00:24:00.030 --> 00:24:10.860 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: about these issues that people care and want these things to happen, but in order to get legislators to move on it, you know polling is not enough facts are not enough, we need.

154 00:24:11.940 --> 00:24:13.470 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: People to show up.

155 00:24:14.580 --> 00:24:21.210 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: in droves, that are their constituents from their district to band together and to be.

156 00:24:22.770 --> 00:24:27.450 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: be pushing them to do more to be pushing them harder and to do more.

157 00:24:28.620 --> 00:24:28.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So.

158 00:24:30.000 --> 00:24:32.940 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I promised i'd stop talking and then so now i'll stop.

159 00:24:39.540 --> 00:24:40.470 Robert Dubrow: Well, thanks, Sam.

160 00:24:42.450 --> 00:24:50.310 Robert Dubrow: question and then with one question, and maybe they started, and so my question is, do you understand.

161 00:24:50.940 --> 00:25:00.690 Robert Dubrow: Like what's behind the support for these two power plants killing in middletown you know what I mean the arguments are pretty obvious if there's a goal.

162 00:25:01.350 --> 00:25:17.880 Robert Dubrow: of zero carbon electricity by 2040 you don't build new power plants, so there must be kind of you know power issues or you know corporate power, etc, that i'm guessing that's that that's driving this do you have an understanding it.

163 00:25:20.250 --> 00:25:24.990 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: um I think there's probably some degree about that, but I also think.

164 00:25:25.230 --> 00:25:25.980 um.

165 00:25:27.210 --> 00:25:49.500 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: What I see a sort of a culture in our State Agency to apply a very narrow set of criteria to permits and so you know there's some checkboxes and they check the boxes and it moves along the permits are not being looked at in the wider.

166 00:25:52.380 --> 00:26:03.960 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know the wider context which is it will this comply with our global warming solution Act does this meet that are you know the goals for zero carbon electricity by.

167 00:26:05.280 --> 00:26:12.570 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Because those aren't explicitly named as things that the permit reviewers have to look at they don't.

168 00:26:13.890 --> 00:26:14.610 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and

169 00:26:18.540 --> 00:26:24.750 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know it's it's a it's really incredibly deep flaw that needs to be corrected.

170 00:26:28.290 --> 00:26:31.440 Heidi Richard: And Sam Thank you and how would that happen.

171 00:26:32.850 --> 00:26:43.890 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So there's a number of ways, it could happen, one could just be that moratorium on fossil fuel power plants, it would just make it impossible for them to approve anymore, so that would be one way.

172 00:26:44.370 --> 00:26:56.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Another way, and this was done in New York and their landmark climate law that they passed in 2019 was to require that all permitting and agency decision making things like contracts and grants.

173 00:26:57.030 --> 00:27:09.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: comply with the global warming solution act and if it didn't you know if there was some public need that they had to approve something they'd have to you know, have an explanation for that that was supplied.

174 00:27:12.450 --> 00:27:19.650 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And that I share the environmental justice bill 6551.

175 00:27:19.680 --> 00:27:20.760 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That is a place.

176 00:27:20.760 --> 00:27:26.340 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Where advocates are asking for that kind of measure to be put in place it's been done in New York.

177 00:27:27.720 --> 00:27:32.040 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so we think it's necessary for Connecticut to be able to do it here.

178 00:27:33.420 --> 00:27:47.610 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And then the other place that legislators have an opportunity to do it in this 2020 session is in the bill, I was describing senate bill a day to the governor's fill that would qualify the hundred percent executive order is to.

179 00:27:49.050 --> 00:28:01.710 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Have that covered, not just electricity supplied to electric customers in the state, but have it apply to electricity supply to customers and generated here in the state, and while that wouldn't happen until.

180 00:28:02.400 --> 00:28:10.950 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I think it would be a strong signal to the industry that we're going to be done with fossil fuel power plants by 2040 and gives them plenty of time to plan.

181 00:28:11.640 --> 00:28:20.820 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: For alternatives, and I think it would you know new folks considering power plants and Connecticut with though that their time is limited.

182 00:28:24.210 --> 00:28:35.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And all of those could be enacted and they wouldn't be counter to you know they wouldn't conflict with one another and or any one of them would help all three of them together.

183 00:28:37.050 --> 00:28:38.850 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: would be would be the way to go.

184 00:28:47.790 --> 00:28:48.990 Robert Dubrow: Any other questions.

185 00:28:49.740 --> 00:28:53.730 Heidi Richard: Yes, I had, I had a question when you are sad when you were discussing the.

186 00:28:56.220 --> 00:28:57.150 Heidi Richard: buildings.

187 00:28:58.380 --> 00:28:58.800 Heidi Richard: At.

188 00:29:00.060 --> 00:29:01.860 Heidi Richard: In terms of retrofitting and.

189 00:29:02.910 --> 00:29:03.870 Heidi Richard: You know all the measures that.

190 00:29:05.820 --> 00:29:10.770 Heidi Richard: That you know that we could aspire to do you know if there are or will be.

191 00:29:11.790 --> 00:29:18.600 Heidi Richard: Additional resources dedicated find the State to do this and does that come from the federal government from state and federal.

192 00:29:19.590 --> 00:29:30.690 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah, as I mentioned there's still a lot it's still a work in progress, because when you, you know this volume and, as I said, Massachusetts looking as retrofitting a million homes.

193 00:29:31.500 --> 00:29:44.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: it's huge it's huge and so right now there is a small funding mechanism that's really kind of a drop in the bucket and the bill, which would be I think it's a fee new building permits.

194 00:29:46.920 --> 00:30:07.230 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We expect so every bill that goes to the legislature gets a fiscal note on the cost of the program so that they know how to appropriate funds for it, so now that it's out of the first has to pass the committee then it moves on to that stage where the bill, yes, both the fiscal note and.

195 00:30:08.310 --> 00:30:18.990 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The office of legislative research puts together a summary of the bill so folks can quickly understand what it's doing that has not happened yet.

196 00:30:20.130 --> 00:30:25.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But I would expect this kind of program is gonna is going to cost money, we have because it's.

197 00:30:26.190 --> 00:30:36.240 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Part of it as energy efficiency, we already have an energy efficiency program so you could tie into that but those other pieces, that are the comprehensive pieces that we don't do right now the.

198 00:30:38.160 --> 00:30:44.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: mitigating the health and safety barriers, the solar and heat pumps would need to be funded, and I think.

199 00:30:45.720 --> 00:30:47.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: One of the things that sets us up for.

200 00:30:49.470 --> 00:30:58.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: is to be able to receive federal funds, and we know the the kind of the build bath better proposal we're expecting to see from the Biden administration.

201 00:31:00.210 --> 00:31:05.340 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Is in is going to be driven towards things that you know, reduce.

202 00:31:08.010 --> 00:31:11.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: prepare us, you know, in terms of climate change, so reduce.

203 00:31:12.180 --> 00:31:22.230 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And, and the

greenhouse gases, the build back better is about like good jobs it's about vulnerable communities.

204 00:31:23.340 --> 00:31:28.830 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, this program because it incorporates those things as well, I think, is.

205 00:31:29.940 --> 00:31:42.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: makes us shovel ready for some of those funds and where we weren't I think in the last stimulus that came out of the federal government Connecticut was not did not have a lot of shovel ready projects and really missed a big opportunity.

206 00:31:47.040 --> 00:31:47.490 Heidi Richard: Thank you.

207 00:31:50.190 --> 00:32:03.990 Brian Weiss: I have a question i'm sorry I had to duck out for one minute and I may have missed this, but so what like what can the average person like myself do to kind of help these things a lot make try and make some kind of difference.

208 00:32:05.070 --> 00:32:07.050 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah, so I think like.

209 00:32:07.080 --> 00:32:08.070 Brian Weiss: To the extent you.

210 00:32:09.210 --> 00:32:11.280 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: can connect with your own legislator.

211 00:32:13.260 --> 00:32:18.000 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: so that they know that these things are happening, so the way the legislature works is that.

212 00:32:19.320 --> 00:32:28.680 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: legislators are assigned committees and so these things have just made the themselves through the committee process, so if a legislator is not on the housing committee they're not going to know about this housing bill.

213 00:32:28.890 --> 00:32:36.780 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so to hear from a constituent that it's a bill that you care about they should be paying attention to will elevate it in there.

214 00:32:38.100 --> 00:32:38.970 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, for them.

215 00:32:41.220 --> 00:32:43.410 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And you know legislators have.

216 00:32:45.750 --> 00:32:56.850 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Open houses virtual open houses, right now, you know town halls advocacy hours that sort of thing, so you know you can email them, you can call them, you can show up at these things um.

217 00:32:58.020 --> 00:33:04.650 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And then you know groups like Sierra club and others we send out action alerts to say like okay it's a critical time.

218 00:33:05.670 --> 00:33:09.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: call them now on this bill and so watch out for those things because.

219 00:33:10.320 --> 00:33:19.740 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, we send we don't just send them because we love the bill we we're actually thinking about like when do we need to send this and when who needs to hear from.

220 00:33:20.970 --> 00:33:21.540 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: folks.

221 00:33:22.770 --> 00:33:38.970 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, those are those are timed, in a way that should flag for you, that something's happening and and check in with folks and then we you know I think all of us, usually have some pretty specific instructions and some easy one click ways of.

222 00:33:40.290 --> 00:33:42.600 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Getting in touch with legislators.

223 00:33:45.750 --> 00:33:48.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I will say, like their email boxes are.

224 00:33:50.820 --> 00:34:01.200 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: bonkers so it's always good to follow up with a phone call or so, you know if you connected with them on social media to Ping them there.

225 00:34:01.980 --> 00:34:12.030 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To say hey just sent you an email, this is an issue I care about you know, the more you can elevate with them, the more you can show up in there and spaces there at the better and.

226 00:34:12.510 --> 00:34:18.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I think that also helps for her relationship so that, over time, you are, you know they they know who you are and they they.

227 00:34:20.280 --> 00:34:25.410 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: come to know what you care about and and learn from you.

228 00:34:25.440 --> 00:34:28.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: If you're a resource for them that they can learn.

229 00:34:30.330 --> 00:34:31.260 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: that's really helpful.

230 00:34:35.430 --> 00:34:39.930 Heidi Richard: Can I follow up on that with another question, do you know if there's like a one stop shop where.

231 00:34:41.040 --> 00:34:44.970 Heidi Richard: there's an you know description of all of these bills.

232 00:34:46.080 --> 00:34:54.510 Heidi Richard: geared towards the lay audience that they can help understand you know what they are and what impact positive or negative, they could have, as well as you know.

233 00:34:55.590 --> 00:34:56.820 Heidi Richard: Pointing folks to.

234 00:35:01.230 --> 00:35:03.990 Heidi Richard: You know just assuming you know, maybe the most uninformed.

235 00:35:05.280 --> 00:35:12.330 Heidi Richard: who may not might not even know who their legislators offer so going to the two in that direction, so they know how to contact them.

236 00:35:13.140 --> 00:35:22.770 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Yes, so we have on our website and and you all know, there's so many really powerful and great environmental groups here in our state.

237 00:35:22.770 --> 00:35:23.220 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Since we.

238 00:35:23.250 --> 00:35:38.430 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: are a state that really cares about climate and environment, and so we aren't the only ones with something on our website about about these things but i'll put the link into the chat where you can find kind of our legislative trapper i'm.

239 00:35:40.770 --> 00:35:47.610 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Admittedly, it doesn't have like a basic explainer of everything, because things move really fast and.

240 00:35:50.280 --> 00:35:53.040 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And there's only so many of us um but.

241 00:35:54.270 --> 00:35:59.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Let me drop that in the chat for you and I will also drop in the chat.

242 00:36:04.530 --> 00:36:10.770 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The legislative website, which is cga ct.gov where you can look up any.

243 00:36:11.790 --> 00:36:18.600 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: bill that you see i'm like I said once it goes to the process, there is an explainer.

244 00:36:19.680 --> 00:36:22.830 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: From the office of legislative research about what the bill is.

245 00:36:24.960 --> 00:36:27.060 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And the legislative website has.

246 00:36:28.410 --> 00:36:38.580 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, every legislator, they have a lookup tool and they tell you how to contact them, so a lot of those resources are there and.

247 00:36:41.520 --> 00:36:57.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I think that's that's probably the best way to start in terms of trying to track and follow in and learn what's going on on our site, we do try and drop in our testimony on these bills, as well as any action alerts or fact sheets that we have.

248 00:36:59.550 --> 00:37:00.870 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: A lot of clicking, though.

249 00:37:05.640 --> 00:37:08.010 Heidi Richard: So I don't want to monopolize discussion, but.

250 00:37:09.540 --> 00:37:11.280 Heidi Richard: I was wondering earlier.

251 00:37:12.780 --> 00:37:19.710 Heidi Richard: And you just mentioned the fact that there are so many other powerful and you know passionate governmental organizations in the state.

252 00:37:20.460 --> 00:37:34.590 Heidi Richard: into your point about building power, is there any kind of coalition partnership, amongst them or even just a few of them, so that there is more more strength behind what we're all trying to do.

253 00:37:35.250 --> 00:37:44.760 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah I think we're really fortunate we we do have some spaces, where we meet together to talk and so.

254 00:37:48.120 --> 00:37:58.530 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know I think we avoid a lot of competition and duplication and instead are doing a lot of work together, I mean there's plenty of room in this space for everyone.

255 00:37:59.820 --> 00:38:01.080 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To have a role.

256 00:38:03.000 --> 00:38:17.610 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And like just a couple examples of that is that you know some organizations kind of specialize in some issue areas where others don't, and I say like for Sierra club our space has largely been.

257 00:38:18.900 --> 00:38:36.570 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: On fossil gas and trying to end fossil fuel expansion in the state and we work with partners on that, but others some others don't work on it as much, and they rely on us and our partners in that space to share information and tell them what's happening.

258 00:38:37.890 --> 00:38:48.540 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: so that they can be an ally for that and we do the same with them, you know I didn't talk a lot I dropped into that list some climate adaptation.

259 00:38:49.650 --> 00:38:58.530 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: climate adaptation bill, and there are some of our partners that work more in that space, and so we we lean on them for information about that.

260 00:38:59.190 --> 00:39:09.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I didn't mention things like P false and plastics, which we work as an ally on but others are leaders in that space and are the knowledge experts me turn to them.

261 00:39:12.390 --> 00:39:23.460 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So in that way you know we we work together and avoid duplication, but in other ways we do to you know, some are more focused on.

262 00:39:26.010 --> 00:39:28.710 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The legal the dockets.

263 00:39:30.000 --> 00:39:32.040 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That happened at the regulatory level.

264 00:39:33.240 --> 00:39:42.300 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and others like Sierra club we we have legal and we engage in the dockets But our main focus is mobilizing our grassroots face and having.

265 00:39:42.810 --> 00:39:54.810 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: volunteer leaders work on these issues, you know, so in that way, our organizations also have you know some differences in the way we work, in the end the strength we bring to the table for.

266 00:39:56.100 --> 00:39:58.530 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: For the whole the betterment of the whole.

267 00:40:01.470 --> 00:40:05.610 Heidi Richard: sounds like a very complimentary partnership, whether intentional or not.

268 00:40:06.360 --> 00:40:10.920 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We tried to be an eye it's very intentional, because I, you know i've only been.

269 00:40:10.980 --> 00:40:12.480 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: With Sierra club here.

270 00:40:12.510 --> 00:40:18.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In Connecticut since 2018 and I do think it hasn't always been.

271 00:40:19.800 --> 00:40:27.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know quite as collaborative and it's important because we're going to do better together.

272 00:40:30.180 --> 00:40:32.520 Robert Dubrow: I have a question about electric vehicles.

273 00:40:33.840 --> 00:40:36.210 Robert Dubrow: I didn't know too much about electric vehicles.

274 00:40:37.710 --> 00:40:38.550 Robert Dubrow: One bill but.

275 00:40:40.380 --> 00:40:49.800 Robert Dubrow: I would have thought there'd be more of an emphasis on you know thinking through how to promote electric vehicles, which you know, obviously, is one part of the solution.

276 00:40:50.970 --> 00:41:07.350 Robert Dubrow: You know, so I just wonder is there activity in terms of like expanding charging stations thinking about how to make electric vehicle vehicles and the infrastructure available to lower income communities of those sorts of issues.

277 00:41:08.250 --> 00:41:13.650 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah so that conversation is largely right now in the regulatory space.

278 00:41:15.090 --> 00:41:31.980 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: State Department of Energy environmental protection put together a ev electric vehicle roadmap and the public utility regulatory authority PURA has an open docket working with the utilities.

279 00:41:33.240 --> 00:41:44.250 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Because that's their role is regulating the utilities, but around how utilities are going to move forward with electric charging, so there is some pretty robust conversation happening.

280 00:41:44.760 --> 00:42:00.990 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: On kind of that side the regulatory side of things on the legislative side of things, you did see there was the one bill about direct sale, so that would allow electric vehicles manufacturers to sell directly to customers in the state.

281 00:42:02.340 --> 00:42:05.220 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: there's also a bill about.

282 00:42:07.890 --> 00:42:17.160 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: about the cheaper program, which is the Connecticut i'm going to get it wrong is that it's the electric vehicle and hydrogen vehicle rebate Program.

283 00:42:18.270 --> 00:42:29.580 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So there's a number of bills about ensuring that all the funding we collect for greenhouse gas reduction in the transportation like for motor vehicles actually goes to programs like that.

284 00:42:31.080 --> 00:42:32.910 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And the.

285 00:42:34.230 --> 00:42:48.060 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Cheaper board itself has is brand new has convened is developing the program and adding a lot of has has changed the program since it got established to.

286 00:42:49.200 --> 00:42:52.620 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To add a used vehicle rebate and to add.

287 00:42:53.640 --> 00:43:01.650 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To have an adder and add a rebate for low income residents so there's really been some thinking around that, but a lot more to be done.

288 00:43:03.630 --> 00:43:10.860 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: One of the things that happened in 2019 was a.

289 00:43:11.940 --> 00:43:15.300 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: lead by example mandate that the State purchase.

290 00:43:17.280 --> 00:43:19.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: At least 50% by 2030.

291 00:43:21.600 --> 00:43:28.200 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Light duty vehicles had to be all the purchases from the departments had to be electric vehicles and that.

292 00:43:29.610 --> 00:43:30.840 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The state.

293 00:43:32.430 --> 00:43:34.020 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Transit buses so.

294 00:43:35.370 --> 00:43:43.260 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Connecticut the Department of Transportation is the agency that runs Connecticut transit, which is our largest transit agency.

295 00:43:43.860 --> 00:43:56.640 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: That all transit buses by 2030 30% of our transit buses would have to be electric purchases and I think there's a real opportunity to up those numbers when when that was passed in 2019 it it.

296 00:43:57.300 --> 00:44:09.120 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: felt right and ambitious, but now what we know from the departments, is that they think they can do this faster, and so we see an opportunity to bump that up to 100% very quickly.

297 00:44:24.240 --> 00:44:30.900 Robert Dubrow: Any other questions comments I could ask another one, no one else has, but when I opened it up to other people.

298 00:44:34.260 --> 00:44:36.450 Robert Dubrow: Okay, so another question.

299 00:44:37.530 --> 00:44:45.900 Robert Dubrow: Who would you say, are the biggest allies for for Climate Action in the House and Senate Connecticut.

300 00:44:49.470 --> 00:45:03.150 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So there's there's some the two committees that are really primarily focused on these issues and that oversees the Department of energy and environmental protection or the Environment Committee and the.

301 00:45:03.450 --> 00:45:04.980 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Energy and Technology Committee.

302 00:45:05.310 --> 00:45:20.310 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So, most of the action is there in those two committees and so there's some key leaders on on both of those committees that are that i'll name in a minute, but um, but we also see leadership happening.

303 00:45:20.430 --> 00:45:21.480 Robert Dubrow: In other committees like.

304 00:45:21.480 --> 00:45:26.670 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The housing committee really working hard this energy retrofit bill.

305 00:45:27.720 --> 00:45:37.410 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: There is a clean energy Caucus in the legislature and so those are legislators, you know committed to the cause of clean energy, which is.

306 00:45:37.410 --> 00:45:39.360 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: super exciting and that is co chaired.

307 00:45:41.160 --> 00:45:51.420 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: By representative rehab le brennan he's a democrat from the Danbury area and representative devin carney who's a republican from the shoreline area.

308 00:45:53.730 --> 00:46:00.270 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And you know so so they are leaders and that whole Caucus as leaders in the space.

309 00:46:00.600 --> 00:46:01.980 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: rehab is also the.

310 00:46:04.200 --> 00:46:06.090 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The vice, Chair of the energy and technology.

311 00:46:06.090 --> 00:46:07.890 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: committee, so a voice for clean energy.

312 00:46:07.890 --> 00:46:08.790 on that committee.

313 00:46:09.990 --> 00:46:15.240 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And represented carney is the ranking member of transportation so voice for.

314 00:46:15.270 --> 00:46:16.980 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: clean energy on the transportation.

315 00:46:16.980 --> 00:46:17.340 Committee.

316 00:46:21.060 --> 00:46:25.380 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In the housing space Senator Senator rick Lopes.

317 00:46:25.590 --> 00:46:27.690 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: is leading the charge on this housing bill.

318 00:46:28.740 --> 00:46:30.360 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: It is his top priority.

319 00:46:30.420 --> 00:46:31.470 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: He in his.

320 00:46:32.100 --> 00:46:34.470 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Non legislative life, he.

321 00:46:35.730 --> 00:46:37.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Does a lot of work in.

322 00:46:37.500 --> 00:46:44.250 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: retrofits for for older housing and he understands it and he knows the benefits of.

323 00:46:45.630 --> 00:46:54.810 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Solar and heat pumps so it's really exciting to have someone who can speak from experience, and also the passion.

324 00:46:54.840 --> 00:46:56.040 That he has for this.

325 00:46:57.420 --> 00:46:58.770 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In the Environment Committee.

326 00:46:58.920 --> 00:46:59.970 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: it's so hard to.

327 00:47:01.530 --> 00:47:15.270 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To pick anyone out because you know, there are some really, really strong and passionate legislators um but you know I mentioned Senator Christine Cohen, who has really been.

328 00:47:17.970 --> 00:47:21.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: been incredibly supportive of.

329 00:47:22.770 --> 00:47:33.540 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The climate movement and trying to make progress, represent St Paul or presenter David Michelle representative Jonathan steinberg um.

330 00:47:36.330 --> 00:47:40.890 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: gosh I don't want to miss anybody anyone's watching this and I forgot to i'm sorry.

331 00:47:45.060 --> 00:47:45.960 Elaine Louden (she/her): I have a question.

332 00:47:46.170 --> 00:47:55.950 Elaine Louden (she/her): Yes, so i'm i'm originally from Ohio and upon moving to Connecticut in August I noticed that there are a lot of solar panels on groups here.

333 00:47:56.370 --> 00:48:07.050 Elaine Louden (she/her): Which is something that I wasn't really used to seeing anywhere at all in the Midwest, and so I was wondering kind of if that process came through through a legislative process, and if there's like.

334 00:48:08.730 --> 00:48:19.590 Elaine Louden (she/her): If there was legislative support towards like subsidizing those and was just wondering about how that how all of these amazing solar panels came about in the state, if you were able to speak on that.

335 00:48:20.670 --> 00:48:21.210 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah.

336 00:48:21.780 --> 00:48:23.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: that's great that is.

337 00:48:23.220 --> 00:48:34.830 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: I love the comparison from Ohio we we see, so the legislature, we do have a program in Connecticut that does subsidize solar.

338 00:48:36.480 --> 00:48:38.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: A residential and commercial solar.

339 00:48:40.800 --> 00:48:41.490 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: and

340 00:48:42.570 --> 00:48:44.520 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: not going to remember the year correctly.

341 00:48:45.750 --> 00:48:51.450 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But there, there was also a major program called solar arise Connecticut that.

342 00:48:52.680 --> 00:49:07.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The department and read bank greenbank I believe kicked off that really brought that program to municipalities and allowed and I participated in it, I live on the starboard.

343 00:49:08.100 --> 00:49:13.380 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: When the solar eyes campaign came to us harford what happened is they, they asked you know.

344 00:49:13.830 --> 00:49:29.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: People said they wanted to get solar panels and basically it was like a group purchase and so, once they signed up you know they signed up 50 customers, the cost would be a certain amount they set up 100 it would be less than 150 it'd be less.

345 00:49:30.660 --> 00:49:46.560 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so, this rolled out in towns all over the state and use that state subsidy in order to do it, although individuals can get solar and get a state subsidy and there were federal subsidies, I at the time as well.

346 00:49:48.810 --> 00:49:55.530 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so that's kind of how that kicked off I, you know as an advocate here in Connecticut.

347 00:49:56.370 --> 00:50:10.440 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We look often to Massachusetts and say why why don't we have as many as them, they have an incredibly robust solar program and they may even say, or you know, have their their directions that they point to.

348 00:50:11.760 --> 00:50:20.100 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, we have not barely scratched the surface about 20% of all rooftops are suitable for solar certainly nowhere near there.

349 00:50:21.270 --> 00:50:23.430 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know, and there is definitely a.

350 00:50:25.050 --> 00:50:25.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: tension.

351 00:50:27.990 --> 00:50:30.360 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In terms of between.

352 00:50:32.490 --> 00:50:47.430 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: The utilities and solar advocates who want to see much more robust rooftop solar the utilities would prefer utility scale solar, so it they own it.

353 00:50:48.720 --> 00:51:04.140 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And so you know from the Sierra club perspective, the more rooftop and distributed solar, we can have the more power in the hands of people and now as battery storage comes down to be pairing that with battery means that will be far more resilient.

354 00:51:05.640 --> 00:51:13.800 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Locally when you know climate driven storms come and another thing we know there's also a tension between.

355 00:51:15.750 --> 00:51:16.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: On.

356 00:51:17.490 --> 00:51:35.940 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Solar and green space and so distributed energy, you know, having as much rooftop solar as possible, you know, will help really if we can prioritize that and make it a priority will help relieve that and i'm really looking forward to i'm expecting very soon from one of our.

357 00:51:37.500 --> 00:51:42.720 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: One of our allies in this space and analysis of.

358 00:51:43.890 --> 00:52:02.040 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: parking lots throughout the state which is a huge opportunity for solar that the state has analyzed and so we're going to see some analysis of that soon from this partner organization so watch out for that it's going to be exciting.

359 00:52:03.270 --> 00:52:04.260 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: News on that front.

360 00:52:07.440 --> 00:52:14.160 Robert Dubrow: So do you mean open parking lots where you would have solar canopies above the lot is that what you're doing.

361 00:52:15.330 --> 00:52:25.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah and just to point to Massachusetts again they have you know their incentive program is different than ours in terms of solar canopies, and so it makes it more.

362 00:52:26.820 --> 00:52:27.900 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: financially feasible.

363 00:52:27.900 --> 00:52:28.560 Robert Dubrow: To do.

364 00:52:29.550 --> 00:52:32.190 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Also, know in Massachusetts they have along the.

365 00:52:32.190 --> 00:52:33.180 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: side of highways.

366 00:52:33.210 --> 00:52:35.070 You will see, solar panels.

367 00:52:36.150 --> 00:52:37.770 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We had a bill passed.

368 00:52:37.770 --> 00:52:40.740 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In 2019 that required.

369 00:52:40.830 --> 00:52:45.420 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Our State Department state departments so deep and.

370 00:52:46.320 --> 00:52:49.110 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: department transportation to put together a list.

371 00:52:49.170 --> 00:52:55.320 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: of locations where solar panels along side of the highway or department transportation own properties could go and.

372 00:52:56.190 --> 00:53:03.900 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: there's maybe some things happening in the background, but there's been zero information that i've seen on that, since that bill passed.

373 00:53:05.400 --> 00:53:18.330 Robert Dubrow: yeah that's really interesting one thing for people who don't know about this issue so solar panels could use up a tremendous amount of land so it's a land use problem so that's where these.

374 00:53:19.470 --> 00:53:27.360 Robert Dubrow: You know these innovations like putting them but park parking lots are long roots where it's not really a land use issue.

375 00:53:28.440 --> 00:53:32.520 Robert Dubrow: becomes really important so One example is that in hamden.

376 00:53:33.570 --> 00:53:34.770 Robert Dubrow: There was a proposed.

377 00:53:35.880 --> 00:54:00.000 Robert Dubrow: 15 acre solar farm that would have involved basically cutting down 15 acres of forest and a lot of environmentalist actually opposed of that project, because you know so it's a conflict between losing the forest and hitting up or pedals, so this is this this lens use issues real.

378 00:54:00.960 --> 00:54:09.300 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: yeah there's I mean solar's and the only landry's issue as well, like you know development for housing so there's a lot of threats to.

379 00:54:10.560 --> 00:54:10.830 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To.

380 00:54:10.860 --> 00:54:12.960 Robert Dubrow: For us, and and open spaces.

381 00:54:13.080 --> 00:54:14.880 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: like that, and I think you know.

382 00:54:14.940 --> 00:54:17.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: In a case by case basis it's important.

383 00:54:17.130 --> 00:54:17.400 To.

384 00:54:18.930 --> 00:54:20.310 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: To see what the impact is.

385 00:54:21.600 --> 00:54:36.060 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But if our programs recognize this and instead prioritize rooftop and prioritize impervious surfaces like parking lots we can avoid some of that.

386 00:54:37.410 --> 00:54:49.740 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: But because of the way we're it's set up right now that is it's much more economical to put up a massive solar array than is she put up you know, a single.

387 00:54:51.270 --> 00:54:52.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: array on a rooftop.

388 00:54:53.580 --> 00:54:59.640 Robert Dubrow: yeah so I just to clarify what I what I was saying wasn't meant to be in a solar energy.

389 00:55:00.690 --> 00:55:05.280 Robert Dubrow: hanging out, you know, so what one of the issues that have to be dealt with.

390 00:55:05.730 --> 00:55:07.290 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Absolutely it's a real tension.

391 00:55:09.840 --> 00:55:21.960 Heidi Richard: um so that's reminded me of something that we only have a couple minutes left so might be a longer answer and I have to plead ignorance and I don't know the status of this they know that they were proposals and maybe if we can happen.

392 00:55:23.340 --> 00:55:23.940 Heidi Richard: For.

393 00:55:26.340 --> 00:55:30.120 Heidi Richard: Wind energy and the sound Do you know anything about that.

394 00:55:30.390 --> 00:55:32.340 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: So, not in the sound.

395 00:55:32.520 --> 00:55:34.860 Heidi Richard: um so.

396 00:55:35.310 --> 00:55:51.780 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know the analysis of wind is that i'm like Texas, where the wind apparently blows like crazy we don't have a lot of onshore wind opportunities here in Connecticut and the sound similarly is not a good place to locate turbines.

397 00:55:53.100 --> 00:55:55.440 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: At least for like a utility scale.

398 00:55:56.730 --> 00:56:05.550 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: situation, however, the, off the coast of 15 miles south of.

399 00:56:06.870 --> 00:56:09.750 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: martha's vineyard which would be way off and.

400 00:56:11.520 --> 00:56:17.760 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: People wouldn't see them like you would, if they were in the sound which, which is attention attention um.

401 00:56:18.690 --> 00:56:32.460 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: We have what's described as being the Saudi Arabia of wind, because of the whole stream I guess the JET stream, the Gulf Stream, this is not my area, but the wind is blowing all the time.

402 00:56:33.510 --> 00:56:38.130 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: And because of the continental shelf it doesn't like in the Pacific that.

403 00:56:39.180 --> 00:56:45.990 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You know drops off by precipitously but in this area it's it's easy enough to anchor.

404 00:56:47.280 --> 00:56:58.170 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: wind turbines and so that is where the development is expected to happen Connecticut authorized procurement of 2000 megawatts of offshore wind and actually.

405 00:57:00.180 --> 00:57:03.660 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: accepted our fees for 800 and.

406 00:57:05.550 --> 00:57:18.720 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: Change 803 I know i'm, not forgetting the number megawatts of offshore when that to be constructed, so that is in the in the hopper, I guess, but not yet not yet available.

407 00:57:22.020 --> 00:57:24.450 Robert Dubrow: Right well thanks so it's 10 o'clock.

408 00:57:26.070 --> 00:57:40.620 Robert Dubrow: I realized I forgot to mention that this seminar is being sponsored by the School of Public Health sustainability committee so i'll mention that at the end of this, and thanks very much Sam it was very informative.

409 00:57:42.780 --> 00:57:43.110 talk.

410 00:57:44.370 --> 00:57:46.710 Robert Dubrow: We really appreciate your time to do this.

411 00:57:47.220 --> 00:57:49.500 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: i'm glad to be here Thank you so much for inviting me.

412 00:57:50.010 --> 00:57:52.560 Heidi Richard: Yes, I echo Thank you so much, it was great to meet you.

413 00:57:53.100 --> 00:57:53.610 Sam D she/her Sierra CLub: You too.

414 00:57:54.030 --> 00:57:55.410 Heidi Richard: bye all right.