

Environment Northeast

A Strategic & Bioregional Approach to Environmental Problem Solving

Help Protect the Conservation & Load Management Fund and the Clean Energy Fund!

Governor Rowland and Legislative Leadership are proposing to wipe out Connecticut Electric Utility Ratepayers' money dedicated to conservation, efficiency and renewable energy!

The Conservation & Load Management Fund and Clean Energy Fund were created as part of CT's Electric Utility Restructuring Act. These funds are invested in cost-effective energy conservation and clean energy programs available to all consumers. Governor Rowland's budget proposal would raid the money from these funds in a misguided attempt to fix CT's budget deficit.

These funds provide large environmental benefits. Pollution is reduced by reducing electrical demand and demand for fossil fuels.

What Will Happen Without These Funds?

- Customers will pay higher energy bills and lose access to programs that help consumers reduce their energy bills.
- The programs help CT businesses to lower their energy bills, increase productivity, and retain or expand employment – which will all be lost, yet businesses and homeowners must still pay the charge.
- CT's congested electricity system will lose its best tool for avoiding higher charges by the regional power pool.
- The reliability of CT's electricity will suffer.
- Other states will entice CT companies to relocate.

- The state and towns will lose at least \$45 million in tax revenue – nearly the amount the state will gain by raiding the funds.
- Over 1000 jobs may be lost.

Inform your legislator that this budget strategy is fiscally irresponsible, deceptive, and a breach of the public trust!!

It is **fiscally irresponsible** to support an action that will increase electric bills and economically damage city and state government. It is nonsensical to attack state programs that have proven over time to be wise investments—Conservation funds, reinvested in homes and businesses throughout CT will provide a lifetime savings of over \$370 million in lower bills and other benefits – a 430% return on investment in 2002 alone.

These funds are not tax dollars. Both funds are paid into by CL&P and UI customers who believe they are supporting conservation and clean energy investments by paying an added charge on their electricity bill each month.

It is **deceptive and a breach of the public trust**. In fact, ratepayers will continue to pay these charges labeled the “Conservation and Load Management Charge” and the “Renewable Energy Investment Charge” on their electric bills. But, notwithstanding the names of these charges, the money will be used to meet the generic needs of the budget and will support neither conservation nor clean energy. Siphoning funds that were designated and labeled for a particular purpose and using it for another lacks in trustworthiness. The result is an Electricity Tax (with no designated purpose) squeezed through the legislative process without the debate such a tax would normally generate.