



# *Connecticut Roundtable on Climate & Jobs*



Launched in June 2012, the Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs is an innovative partnership between the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network and the CT AFL-CIO that seeks to strengthen collaboration among Connecticut's labor, environmental, and religious groups in advocating for public policies that address urgent concerns about climate change while creating good-paying jobs right here in our state.

## **POLICY ADVOCACY and DIALOGUE**

By providing opportunities for constituencies that have often disagreed on environmental issues to engage in dialogue, identify areas of common ground and embrace their diversity as a source of power, we have played a constructive role in helping to shape the state's energy policy through influential op-eds and participation in public hearings, press conferences and other advocacy activities. At the same time, we have actively created opportunities for constructive dialogue on issues where we do not have consensus. At our June 2013 forum on the state's planned expansion of natural gas infrastructure, we gathered to learn the facts about natural gas development and to listen to the range of perspectives in the room. The goals were mutual understanding and strengthened relationships, not unanimity.

## **INNOVATION and COLLABORATION**

The November 2013 Roundtable Gathering provided an opportunity for our constituent groups to discuss ways to collaborate in improving the state's existing energy efficiency programs, maximizing the potential for both job creation and energy conservation. The State has recognized the need for further innovation in order to achieve its goal of weatherizing 80% of homes by 2030. In 2014, the Roundtable has helped build relationships among diverse stakeholders, laying the groundwork for creative collaboration to expand participation in lower-income urban neighborhoods in Hartford and other cities, areas with the greatest need for both job creation and energy savings.

## **EDUCATION**

At its annual convention in September 2013, the CT AFL-CIO unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming its leadership in the Roundtable effort and pledging to fight climate change. A key clause in the resolution called for collaboration with the Roundtable "to develop an educational program with presentations to union locals and Central Labor Councils on labor and climate change." In May 2014, we launched this educational program designed to engage union members and their allies in dialogue about the science of climate of change, its impact on workers and communities, and the role of workers in climate protection.

Contact: John Humphries, Convener ([john.humphries1664@gmail.com](mailto:john.humphries1664@gmail.com); 860-216-7972)