



2010 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT
CONNECTICUT

Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Space.



From our staff



Christopher Phelps
Program Director



Nancy Pyne
Program Associate



Rob Sargent
Senior Energy Policy Analyst



Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative Director

Dear Environment Connecticut supporter,

People in Connecticut know a good idea when they hear one, whether it's restoring Long Island Sound or investing in Connecticut's clean energy future. With your support, we are making a real difference—good idea by good idea, victory by victory.

The problems facing our environment can be daunting. Runoff pollution creates a dead zone in Long Island Sound that can extend up to 180 square miles each summer; Connecticut lags behind our Northeastern neighbors in the race to lead on clean energy; big polluters and their cronies in the Legislature attack our most critical environmental protections. The forces arrayed against us are equally daunting: utilities, Big Oil, chemical companies and their ilk.

But in the face of these challenges, our staff and members continue to make a difference. In this past year alone we helped get cleaner cars on the road that will reduce our oil consumption, save families money and limit global warming pollution. We defended our key environmental laws against rollback attempts in the Legislature. And we pressed the Senate to move on legislation to protect and restore Long Island Sound and other waterways across the country.

In each of these cases, good ideas ultimately prevailed—but it took hard work. Our staff researched solutions, released reports to the media, reached out to thousands of citizens across the state, and built broad coalitions with groups ranging from Connecticut Fund for the Environment to small business owners to AARP. And that work was only possible because of your support.

We've made real progress this past year, but we need to keep chipping away at the problems plaguing our environment. Your long-term support gives me the confidence that together we at Environment Connecticut will continue to be successful in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Stopping Global Warming

Connecticut paves the way for clean cars victory

In 2010, Environment Connecticut and our allies helped win historic clean cars rules—and defend them against attack.

President Obama announced new fuel efficiency standards in May that require cars to go farther on a tank of gas, mirroring a state law that Connecticut passed in 2004. By 2016, the new rules could cut U.S. gasoline consumption by more than 11 billion gallons and reduce global warming pollution by 108 million tons annually.

Those rules came under attack when Sen. Lisa Murkowski introduced a measure, dubbed the "Dirty Air Act," to prevent the federal government from regulating global warming pollution. We encouraged our online activists to call the offices of Sens. Joe Lieberman and Chris Dodd in protest. Both senators voted against the measure, helping to ensure its 47-to-53 defeat.



Clean cars could prevent as much global warming pollution as 28 coal-fired power plants emit every year.



Our Great Waters

Congress targeted to protect Long Island Sound

Environment Connecticut helped win a victory for Long Island Sound this June, when a key Senate committee approved a bill to inject new funds and energy into efforts to restore the Sound.

From swimming at Hammonasset Beach to sailing along the coast, Long Island Sound is part of our natural heritage, and part of the legacy that we want our kids to enjoy. But the health of the Sound is at risk, and lately, efforts to protect it have fallen short.

Fortunately, this year we had a unique opportunity to protect the Sound, as Congress considered legislation that would give Long Island Sound restoration efforts a much-needed shot in the arm. In March 2010, senators from Connecticut and New York joined together in sponsoring the Long Island Sound Restoration and Stew-

ardship Act, which would provide the structure and funding necessary to restore the Sound's ecosystem after decades of pollution.

Dead zones, sewage, pollution—and a plan to fix it

Too much sewage is dumped into the Sound every year, too many beaches close down each summer, too much pollution runs off from overdevelopment, and too much of the Sound's natural habitat is threatened. With a dead zone extending across as much as 180 square miles of the Sound during the summer, we could not wait another year to restore Long Island Sound.

Environment Connecticut applauded our senators for spearheading this effort to protect and restore Long Island Sound—and launched a campaign to bring this critical legislation to the public's attention.

Community support built for the Sound

In an effort to mobilize support for the bill, our citizen outreach team went door to door this summer and spoke to more than 41,000 people in communities across Connecticut. We gathered nearly 4,000 petition signatures urging members of Congress to support efforts to restore Long Island Sound.

In the days running up to a key Senate committee vote on the bill, our staff wrote and released "America's Great Waters," a report highlighting the steps needed to restore the Sound. We won the attention of local media when we released the report in Branford with state Sen. Edward Meyer, who joined us to push for congressional action to protect the Sound. On June 30, the committee advanced the bill, bringing the promise of Long Island Sound restoration within reach.



Fishing in Long Island Sound.

Repower Connecticut

Repower Connecticut

Rell veto delivered setback to clean energy law

An Environment Connecticut-backed clean energy bill came within an arm's reach of victory, passing through both houses of the Legislature before Gov. M. Jodi Rell vetoed it.

2010 opened with great expectations for clean energy legislation in Hartford. In February, Gov. Rell told the Legislature, "Kermit the Frog had it wrong all these years, I'm afraid. It is easy to be green. Solar, fuel cells, wind turbines and geothermal—all hold the keys to economic and energy prosperity."

Those words came at a critical time. Connecticut is falling behind in its efforts to invest in wind, solar, energy efficiency and other clean energy technologies that create jobs, break our dependence on oil, and cut pollution. While states like Massachusetts and New Jersey are reaping the economic and envi-

ronmental benefits of their clean energy programs, Connecticut has pulled the plug on much of its support for energy efficiency, solar and other clean energy investments.

Clean energy bill succeeded at State Capitol

That's why Environment Connecticut worked hard to push a strong clean energy bill through the state Legislature.

The legislation would have streamlined and modernized the different state energy agencies, making them better equipped to move Connecticut toward a clean energy future. It also would have spurred the creation of enough solar and renewable energy systems to power the equivalent of almost 100,000 homes, and made it easier for families and businesses to afford clean energy and energy efficiency retrofits for buildings statewide.

Gov. Rell sided with lobbyists to kill bill

After the bill made it through the Legislature, we worked to persuade Gov. Rell to sign it into law. Unfortunately, despite support from our staff, members, and a broad coalition of small businesses, environmental organizations and other partners, the governor chose to side with polluters and power company lobbyists by vetoing the bill.

With the help of Environment Connecticut members who donated to our efforts, we ran an ad in Rell's hometown newspaper, the Danbury News-Times, taking her to task for vetoing the bill. Our staff looks forward to picking up where we left off with a new governor and new legislature, and taking clean energy legislation across the finish line in 2011.



Program Director Christopher Phelps speaks to NBC about Gov. M. Jodi Rell's veto (left); our ad in the Danbury News-Times (right).



Environmental Protections

Environmental laws defended against polluters

When polluters launched a full-scale legislative assault on Connecticut's clean water and clean air protections, Environment Connecticut fought back—and, thanks to the timely action of our members, helped defeat the most egregious attacks.

In February, state lawmakers took up bills written by industry lobbyists that would have rolled back clean air and clean water protections, threatening decades of progress toward cleaning up Connecticut's rivers, streams and Long Island Sound, as well as hard-won restrictions on smog and toxic air pollution. Environment Connecticut's staff sprang into action.

Environment Connecticut organized our allies to speak out against the environmental rollbacks during public hearings, where we went toe-to-toe with the polluters' lobbyists and urged legislators



Sharon, Conn.

to stand up for clean water and clean air. We mobilized our members across the state to contact their legislators and urge them to stop the rollbacks. In just one week, hundreds of our members flooded their representatives' inboxes.

In newspapers, on the radio, and on the Internet we shone a light on the most outrageous rollback proposals and exposed the polluters' attempts to capitalize on the recession as an excuse to gut environmental protections. A supportive editorial in the Hartford Courant said, "Blaming environmental laws for the state's economic woes is scape-goating."

Worst environmental rollbacks defeated

Initially, lawmakers rejected many of the most outrageous rollbacks. But the issue was revived after a task force convened by Gov. M. Jodi Rell and led by representatives of polluting industries endorsed many of the polluters' proposals.

Finally, a compromise proposal was approved that rejected the most sweeping attempts to tie the DEP's hands and allow open season for polluters on Connecticut's environment. Instead, the new law focused on giving state agencies the tools to streamline the process for issuing environmental permits.

Environment Connecticut applauded legislators for rejecting the shameless efforts of polluters to gut clean air and clean water protections. "This legislation recognizes that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand-in-hand," said Program Director Christopher Phelps. "It contains some reasonable steps to help improve the permitting process while maintaining the integrity of Connecticut's environmental protections."



Foundation support

The Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Christopher Phelps at (860) 231-8842.

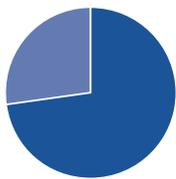
The Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center would like to thank the following foundations for supporting our work in 2010:

- Mertz Gilmore Foundation
- John Merck Fund
- Energy Foundation

Financial Information

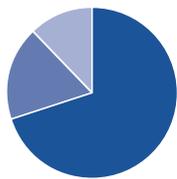
Charts reflect combined financial information for the environmental work conducted by Environment Connecticut, the Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center and Environment Connecticut's citizen outreach programs.

FY10 Income



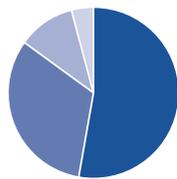
- ◆ Citizen Contributions **73%**
- ◆ Foundation Grants **27%**

FY10 Expenses



- ◆ Program **70%**
- ◆ Fundraising **18%**
- ◆ Administrative **12%**

FY10 Programs



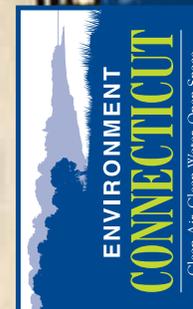
- ◆ Repower Connecticut **53%**
- ◆ Our Rivers, Lakes and Streams **32%**
- ◆ Stopping Global Warming **11%**
- ◆ Environmental Protections **4%**

Building a greener future

Environment Connecticut and Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Connecticut's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an e-mail to plannedgiving@EnvironmentConnecticut.org.



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Environment Connecticut
198 Park Rd., 2nd Fl.
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 231-8842

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