



Fall Report

Summer of support for Long Island Sound

But Congress continues to block crucial protections

This summer, thousands of Connecticut residents traveled to Long Island Sound to enjoy swimming at Hammonasset Beach, relaxing at Rocky Neck State Park and sailing on the Sound's waters. New clean water protections are incredibly important for the safety and preservation of our beloved Sound.

Streams that feed the Sound at risk

In April 2011, President Obama proposed much-needed clean water guidelines to protect the rivers and streams that feed and clean Long Island Sound. More than half of these vital waterways are vulnerable to toxic pollution and development—thanks to two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions.

Unfortunately, the long-overdue protections have yet to be finalized. Recently, they have fallen victim to partisan politics and face heavy blowback from polluters like ExxonMobil and the American Farm Bureau, which in July launched a major campaign to stop the proposed guidelines.

Connecticut stands up for the Sound

To counter their efforts and push these protections past the finish line, this summer Environment Connecticut staff pounded the pavement across the state, talking to more than 16,000 concerned citizens about the issue and encouraging them to contact their legislators in support of the Sound. And polluter-friendly members of Congress have already moved to block the long-overdue



Hari Meoni, Creative Commons

▲ Hammonasset Beach, Long Island Sound

protections and any efforts from the Environmental Protection Agency to move forward.

Despite three separate attempts to block the Obama administration's efforts in Congress, our persistent efforts are beginning to pay off. Our work helped demonstrate enough public support this summer to help convince leadership in

the U.S. Senate to stop one of the dirty water bills from even coming up.

In the coming months, Environment Connecticut will continue to stand up to big polluters and keep up the fight to ensure Long Island Sound is protected for generations to come.



Flickr User: Benep

more online

Visit our website to tell your senators you want the Sound protected.
www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org

◀ Long Island Sound



To our members

Hammonasset Beach, Mystic and other destinations on our shore help make summer in Connecticut great.

But with more than 2 billion gallons of untreated sewage pouring into Long Island Sound and creating massive dead zones every year, and more than half of Connecticut's streams vulnerable to toxic pollution, the Sound desperately needs our help.

That's why this summer Environment Connecticut worked to prevent polluters and their allies in Congress from weakening clean water protections. It will take a serious push for us to organize enough citizen support to stand up to big developers and polluters, but we made great progress this summer. Environment Connecticut will continue the fight throughout the year to protect one of our country's most beautiful bodies of water.

Thanks again for your generous support.

Johanna Neumann
Regional Director

Recent action

Our ocean, Connecticut's natural heritage

The threats facing our oceans—including over fishing, oil and gas drilling, sand and gravel mining, underwater pipelines and utility cables, commercial shipping, and more—have never been greater.

Complicating matters, our oceans are governed by dozens of agencies and more than 100 laws, resulting in confusion and conflicts that threaten both ecosystem protection and economic development efforts.

In 2010, President Obama signed an Executive Order that formed the first-ever National Ocean Policy, which creates a process for agencies, ocean users, industries and coastal communities to work together to develop ocean use plans for each coastal region of the country. These regional plans will guide ocean use in federal waters, which extend from three miles out to 200 miles offshore.

This summer, Environment Connecticut delivered more than 6,000 public comments in support of the National Ocean Policy to urge our members of Congress to support President Obama's proposal.

RGGI continues to benefit Connecticut

An Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center report underscored the role that clean energy and environmental policies have played in moving states toward meeting targets for reducing global warming emissions, while challenging claims that actions to reduce emissions undermine economic growth.

Connecticut and the nine other states that participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative have cut per capita carbon dioxide emissions 20 percent faster than the rest of the nation, even as the region's gross product per capita grew 87 percent faster than the rest of the United States. "Those figures challenge the claim that reducing emissions undermines economic growth," Regional Director Johanna Neumann said in the Hartford Courant.



A sweltering summer for Connecticut

Stopping Global Warming

Global warming is happening now, but the steps we take in the coming decade will determine how severe it will be.

We're already seeing the effects of global warming in the growing frequency of violent storms that have torn across Connecticut and other parts of the nation. In our recent report, "When It Rains, It Pours," we showed that extreme downpours across the country are happening 20 percent more often today than in 1948 and are delivering about 30 percent more rain.

Unfortunately, this past July and August also gave a bitter taste of the sweltering summers Connecticut can expect more frequently in the future, due to global warming.

Fortunately, there is a path to rein in global warming.

The solutions: cut carbon pollution and promote clean energy

Scientists have said the U.S. and other developed countries need to cut our carbon emissions so that by 2050 we're emitting 25-40 percent less carbon into the air than we were in 1990.

That's a steep goal, but we're starting to move in the right direction. Here in Connecticut we have enacted the first statewide cap on carbon emissions, reduced power plant emissions through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, reduced emissions from cars and trucks, striven to improve the efficiency of our homes and businesses to the point where we are now the 8th most energy-efficient state in the country, and set aggressive goals for the development of renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Cleaner Cars

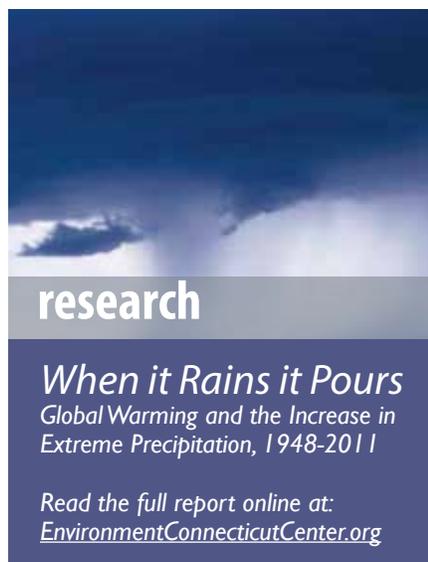
Over the summer, the Obama administration was on track to finalize new fuel efficiency standards for cars and light

trucks that will achieve an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. Environment Connecticut was part of a strong national coalition that supported the president's efforts to establish these new standards.

The standards yield astonishing benefits:

- Connecticut will cut carbon pollution from vehicles by nearly 2.8 million metric tons and save more than 235 million gallons of fuel.
- Once the standards are in place, residents of Connecticut will save about \$580 million per year.
- America will decrease its gas consumption by 23 billion gallons—that's how much crude oil we imported from Saudi Arabia and Iraq in 2010.

We can build on Connecticut's history of leadership on clean cars by adopting policies like the Zero Emissions Vehicle Standard and other programs to put more plug-in electric cars on the road.



research

When it Rains it Pours

Global Warming and the Increase in Extreme Precipitation, 1948-2011

Read the full report online at:
EnvironmentConnecticutCenter.org



Green Future Fund

A new way to honor supporters

Environment Connecticut is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment Connecticut or our sister group, Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment Connecticut will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. "We appreciate all of our supporters," said Environment Connecticut's Johanna Neumann. "I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state's environment beyond their own lifetimes."

Establishing a Legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more but can't right now. Including Environment Connecticut in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. (Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.)

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you'd like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you just have questions, call our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or email plannedgiving@EnvironmentConnecticut.org.

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ENVIRONMENT
CONNECTICUT

Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Space.

Environment Connecticut

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Connecticut. We focus exclusively on protecting Connecticut's air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Silvio O. Conte Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Refuge at risk

This past summer, as they do every year, thousands of Connecticut residents spent time on the Connecticut River, kayaking, hiking, bird watching and enjoying the best of our state's natural heritage. The River's beautiful watershed is kept pristine because much of it is protected by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. But the Refuge could be at risk of development, if Congress doesn't step in.

The wildlife refuge, like too many national parks and open spaces nationwide, is dotted with privately owned land that could be sold and developed. Every year, Congress raids the Land and Water Conservation Fund, established to help expand wildlife refuges without costing taxpayers a dime, and uses the money for unrelated purposes.

Environment Connecticut is fighting to convince Sens. Joe Lieberman and Richard Blumenthal to permanently protect the Refuge by defending the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

◀ *Black Backed Woodpecker at Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Reuge*

To learn more about protecting the wildlife refuge visit us online at www.environmentconnecticut.org