



Fall Report

A renewed call to protect our waterways

Closing polluter loopholes with grassroots action

Late this spring, the EPA proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than half the streams and wetlands that feed Long Island Sound and the drinking water for six in 10 people in Connecticut at risk for more than a decade.

On the heels of the EPA's announcement, this summer, Environment Connecticut joined with colleagues across the country to launch a grassroots campaign to build the public support necessary to get the rule across the finish line, talking to more than 400,000 people nationwide and collecting 100,000 public comments to the EPA.

224,000 pounds of chemicals

Shortly after the EPA's announcement, big polluters ramped up their efforts to block the rule, lobbying in Congress, spreading misinformation, and threatening "legal warfare."

But we debunked their claims when we released the report, "Wasting Our Waterways," which found that 224,000 pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped in Connecticut's waterways in 2012 alone.

Alongside our national federation, we also launched our own educational efforts, a blog, iheartcleanwater.org, to bolster support for closing the loopholes and protecting clean water nationwide.

"America's waterways shouldn't be a polluter's dumping ground," said Ally Fields, our federal clean water advocate. "If we



Sharon Kennedy/Shutterstock.com

▲ *Tod's Point, Old Greenwich, CT.*

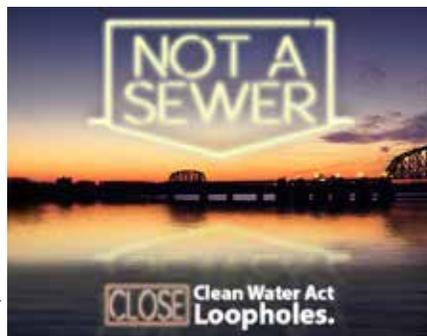
want our waterways to be clean for future generations to enjoy, we must restore Clean Water Act protections to our waterways now."

Businesses, farmers joined us

And when polluters launched a misinformation campaign targeting farmers and lobbied in Congress saying the rule would negatively impact small businesses, we hit the streets, and together with Environ-

ment Connecticut's national federation, gathered the signatures of 300 small business owners and collected comments from more than 200 farmers to call on the EPA to restore protections.

The fight is far from over, but we're closing in on the finish line. With the public comment period coming to a close soon, we're ramping up our efforts to show Congress widespread support for clean water.



Harvey Barrison

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We can win the biggest victory for our waterways—but only if enough of us speak out. Visit our website to take action: www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org

◀ Our online campaign generated petitions to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act.



Photo: Staff

To our members

This past summer was a whirlwind. Our citizen outreach staff talked to people across the state and collected thousands of petition signatures to protect Connecticut's waters. We've made so much progress, and we owe that success to members like you.

Now, as fall gets underway, it's important to remember another important aspect of the movement for a cleaner, greener Connecticut: Electing leaders who will do the right thing for our environment. Elections can have huge implications, and if our elected officials are willing to stand up for clean air, clean water and open spaces, we stand a far better chance of winning lasting improvements.

So, if you haven't already, I encourage you to make plans to vote, and to bring family and friends with you to the polls. It's our environment and our future—let's get out there and vote!

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Campaign Director

Recent action

Electric cars to prevent 314,000 tons of pollution

More than 190,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are on America's roads today, delivering real benefits for our health and our environment, according to a new report released by Environment Connecticut. The report, "Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution," shows that electric vehicles could prevent more than 314,000 metric tons of climate-changing carbon pollution annually in Connecticut by 2025—the equivalent saving more than 35 million gallons of gas per year. This spring, Connecticut and eight other states unveiled an action plan to put more than 3 million electric cars on the road within 12 years.

"Connecticut is out front in the race to get cleaner electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on the road," said Environment Connecticut Campaign Director Chris Phelps. "This is a crucial strategy to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of global warming."

Toxic releases to local waters put health at risk

Industrial facilities discharged 224,029 pounds of chemicals into Connecticut's waters in 2012, according to our report, "Wasting Our Waterways." The report named Cytec Industries as one of the biggest culprits, discharging nearly 90,000 pounds of chemicals into the Quinnipiac River. Of the chemicals released into Connecticut's waters, 2,404 pounds are known to be cancer-causing, 505 pounds can cause developmental harm, and 1,567 pounds can damage reproductive health.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule this spring to close the loopholes in the Clean Water Act that leave more than 3,000 miles of streams in Connecticut at risk, but the rule is being vigorously opposed by a wide range of polluting industries. We're calling on the EPA to close these loopholes and for Connecticut to implement strong policies to regulate the use of toxics in industrial processes in Connecticut. And we will continue working to educate decision-makers and the public on the threats of opening more of our country to this dangerous drilling.

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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN: CLEAN WATER FOR AMERICA

STATES: (13) MA, RI, CT, NJ, MD, GA, FL, TN, IL, MN

▲ This summer, Clean Water Advocate Ally Fields worked to close loopholes in the federal Clean Water Act and restore protections to Connecticut's waterways.

Staff

Connecticut shuts the door on fracking waste

This spring, after years of advocacy from Environment Connecticut, Connecticut lawmakers took a major step to protect public health and the environment by imposing a three-year moratorium on the processing, storage, and dumping of toxic fracking waste in our state.

“This is a proactive step to protect the water, soil and residents of Connecticut,” said Chris Phelps, campaign director at Environment Connecticut. “For us, it makes perfect sense to, for once, close the barn doors while the horses are still inside.”

More waste than they can handle

Fracking operations continue to expand closer to Connecticut. Each new well drilled produces millions of gallons of toxic and radioactive waste, which gas drillers are now struggling to dispose of.

In other states, such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Colorado, fracking waste has been an environmental catastrophe. In the past several years, fracking in neighboring Pennsylvania has generated over 2.5 billion gallons of toxic—even radioactive—waste. That waste has contaminated rivers, streams and water supplies, and threatened the health of families in community after community nationwide. In states where it has been injected deep into the ground, communities have even experienced earthquakes.

In Pennsylvania, after fracking wastewater was discharged from sewage treatment plants into the Monongahela River, the state advised 325,000 people in and around Pittsburgh not to use their tap water for more than a week.

And now, drillers are dealing with more waste than they can handle, and they are looking for somewhere to put it. If we allow frackers to dump here, much of the waste could end up in our rivers and ultimately Long Island Sound.

A strong first step

That’s why Environment Connecticut has been working with public health groups,

environmental activists, and legislators to urge the Connecticut General Assembly to join other states, like Vermont, in banning the dumping of fracking waste.

Working with a bipartisan group of legislators, Environment Connecticut pushed for the passage of legislation that would shut the door on the dumping of toxic fracking waste in Connecticut—despite strong lobbying from the oil and gas industry. Ultimately, with leadership from legislators such as Rep. James Albis of East Haven, the bill passed the General Assembly just 15 minutes before it adjourned for the year.

We’ve worked long and hard to protect Long Island Sound and all our waterways. The moratorium is an important first step toward protecting Connecticut from becoming the industry’s dumping ground.

Now, Environment Connecticut’s advocates in Hartford and Washington, D.C., are continuing our work to stop fracking from threatening our waters and our communities. Building on this year’s victory, our goal is to win a permanent ban on the storage of fracking waste in Connecticut to ensure that our communities don’t become the industry’s dumping ground for toxic waste.



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State Reps. Matt Lesser and Tim Bowles spoke with activists at the lobby day for SB 237 to ban fracking waste in Connecticut.

A HISTORY OF FRACKING IN THE UNITED STATES



1976

Shale fracking begins across the country

2005-2011

Fracking booms, and the industry grows by 45% each year, generating more waste than they can deal with

2011

Fracking dangers exposed: The hazards fracking poses to public health and the environment come to light.

2012

Concerned legislators and environmental advocates in Connecticut meet and agree that fracking waste should be officially disallowed in Connecticut.

2014

Fracking waste moratorium signed into law in Connecticut

Several billion gallons of fracking waste have been generated in Pennsylvania alone.

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Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Space.

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Photo: CJ Buckwelder

Environment Connecticut

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. 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 spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

A groundbreaking step on global warming

On June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a Clean Power Plan that sets targets for states to reduce global warming pollution from dirty power plants by investing in renewable energy, cleaning up existing power plants, and switching to cleaner fuels.

"This announcement is exactly what we've been waiting for," said Chris Phelps, campaign director with Environment Connecticut. "This is America's chance to lead and our best chance to take the action necessary to stop global warming before it is too late."

Connecticut has helped lead the way, by adopting voluntary caps on pollution from power plants as part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a coalition of nine Northeastern states that have committed to enact policies to tackle global warming.



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Take action and join our fight against global warming at:
www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org

◀ EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the Clean Power Plan, an historic step to limit pollution from power plants.