



Fall Report

Keep Connecticut safe from fracking waste

Fighting for a ban on toxic fracking waste

This fall, Environment Connecticut is confronting the latest threat to clean water by working to ban the dumping of toxic fracking waste in our state. The oil and gas drilling practice known as “fracking” is moving closer to our borders, with drillers chomping at the bit to start fracking in New York. If that happens, there is a big risk that frackers will try to dump their toxic wastewater in Connecticut.

So we are working with other environmental advocates, citizens and elected officials around the state to build support for a law banning the dumping of toxic fracking waste here.

Fracking moving closer to Connecticut

Fracking operations have expanded enormously nationwide in recent years. Now, the industry is pushing for permission to start fracking just over our border in New York. Each new fracking site produces millions of gallons of toxic wastewater. In Pennsylvania, frackers have produced more than 1 billion gallons of toxic fracking waste so far. As they expand operations, the industry is desperately trying to find new places to dump all that waste—and if they start fracking in New York, they could soon be eyeing Connecticut as a convenient and nearby dumping ground.

We’ve worked hard to clean up our water by cutting pollution flowing into our rivers, streams and Long Island Sound. Now is no time to step back from Connecticut’s commitment to clean water by letting



▲ Toxic fracking waste in rural Pennsylvania

frackers dump their toxic waste here.

Right now, there is no law to stop fracking companies from dumping their toxic waste in Connecticut. That’s a problem, because frackers are producing so much toxic wastewater in states like Pennsylvania that they ship some of it to neighboring states. If they start fracking just over our border in New York, they’re likely to look to Connecticut and other New Eng-

land states for places to dump their waste.

That’s why Vermont has already banned toxic fracking waste. Massachusetts is considering a similar ban. Connecticut should join our neighbors and act now to prevent toxic fracking waste from flowing over the border and threatening our waterways.



Flickr user: Putneypics

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Learn more about our work to keep fracking out of Connecticut and take action at www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org

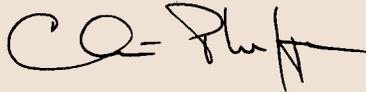
To our members

You don't need me to tell you why you should care about the environment. Each of us has a special place we love, whether it's going for a swim in Long Island Sound, or canoeing on the Farmington River or going for a hike in any one of our state parks, Connecticut's natural wonders enrich our lives in countless ways. Each of us wants to leave future generations a cleaner, greener, and healthier Connecticut.

Yet our environment faces threats too big for you or I to tackle alone. In order to protect our air, our water and the places we love, we need like-minded people joining in a spirit of shared purpose and determination—especially when powerful politicians or corporations stand in the way.

That's where Environment Connecticut comes in, and why your membership is so important.

Sincerely,



Chris Phelps
Campaign Director

Recent action

Senate confirms EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

Connecticut Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy led the support that resulted in former Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Gina McCarthy being confirmed as administrator of the EPA.

While she was Connecticut's DEP commissioner, McCarthy led the effort to create the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) program that caps carbon pollution from power plants in Connecticut and other Northeastern states.

Her confirmation as EPA administrator came just weeks after President Obama instructed the EPA to cut carbon pollution from power plants nationwide as part of his plan to fight global warming. Her track record in Connecticut shows that she has what it takes to accomplish this critical task.

Critical protections for the Connecticut river stalled

This summer, Congress moved to eviscerate the cornerstone program that's helped to protect many of Connecticut's most important outdoor treasures, including habitat for wildlife along the banks of the Connecticut River.

The program is called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and it has provided more than \$200 million dollars in funding over the last 40 years to state and national parks and other precious places.

This summer, Environment Connecticut spoke to citizens across the state about the need to maintain the LWCF, building the support we'll need for Congress to fully fund the LWCF and make sure it has sustainable funding for decades to come.

The climate is changing –
are your investments?



GREEN CENTURY FUNDS
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President Obama's climate plan a victory for Connecticut

Plan will address global warming, extreme weather

This summer, President Obama announced a climate plan that sets limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advances energy efficiency, and increases the nation's commitment to renewable energy.

In the aftermath of recent severe droughts and extreme storms, the president's plan to tackle global warming is an important step toward confronting climate change.

Left unchecked, global warming will bring more extreme storms, unhealthy air days and economic harm to Connecticut.

Scientists warn that the window to make the carbon pollution cuts necessary to avoid the worst consequences of climate change is rapidly closing.

To respond to this threat, the president's plan contains several important actions.

Specifically, the president's plan will:

- **Invest in energy efficiency.** New efficiency measures for buildings and new appliances will cut carbon pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.
- **Build more renewable energy.** The plan focuses on expanding production of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar, especially on public lands.
- **Support affected communities.** The president's plan will help ensure that communities are better equipped to prepare for and recover from the impacts of global warming.
- **Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally.** The president's plan calls for the U.S. to actively engage in international efforts to address global warming.

Focus on carbon pollution

Environment Connecticut and our allies around the country worked hard to achieve this victory.

In the last year, more than 3.2 million Americans submitted public comments in support of the president setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Carbon pollution from power plants is a huge part of the global warming problem. President Obama's action acknowledges this and maps out a plan for beginning to do what it takes to stop global warming before it's too late.

We know this plan is just one important step in a long-term effort, and we plan to keep up our effort to ensure that we do what is necessary to stop global warming.



Daniel Borman

more online

To learn more about our work to curb global warming, visit:
www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org

▲ *President Obama speaks about the need for alternative energies.*



sxc.hu

Connecticut poised to strengthen carbon cap

This summer, the Malloy administration joined eight other states in proposing to significantly strengthen Connecticut's cap on carbon pollution from power plants.

Connecticut is one of nine states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a pioneering agreement that limits carbon pollution from power plants in the Northeast. In February, the states announced an agreement to make deep cuts in pollution allowed under the RGGI rules. If implemented, the new, strengthened RGGI program could cut power plant emissions in the region by 20 percent over the course of the next decade.

In August, Environment Connecticut Campaign Director Chris Phelps joined activists and other allies at a public hearing to urge the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to swiftly finalize the new RGGI program rules, saying, "This is what leadership on climate change looks like." If implemented, the strengthened RGGI program will be a big step toward showing other states and the federal government the way forward to cut the carbon pollution that fuels global warming.

As this newsletter went to print, the final RGGI rules were awaiting approval by the Legislature. This fall, Environment Connecticut's staff and supporters are urging the Legislature to approve the strengthened RGGI program to continue Connecticut's climate leadership.

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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.

Conn. senators crucial to historic climate plan

Connecticut's Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy played a crucial roll in urging President Obama to set the carbon pollution limits that were central to his new plan to tackle global warming. Along with senators from New York and New Jersey, they sent a letter to the president describing the devastation that Hurricane Sandy caused in Connecticut to urge him to set limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Sens. Blumenthal and Murphy are demonstrating what leadership in tackling global warming looks like. Hurricane Sandy was a tragic example of how devastating extreme weather events can be for Connecticut's families. By urging the president to clean up the largest sources of the carbon pollution that fuels global warming and climate change, they stood up for future generations.



Dave S/Creative Commons

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Keep Connecticut safe from fracking waste; President Obama's climate plan a victory for Connecticut; and more.

◀ *Aftermath of Hurricane Sandy in East Haven*