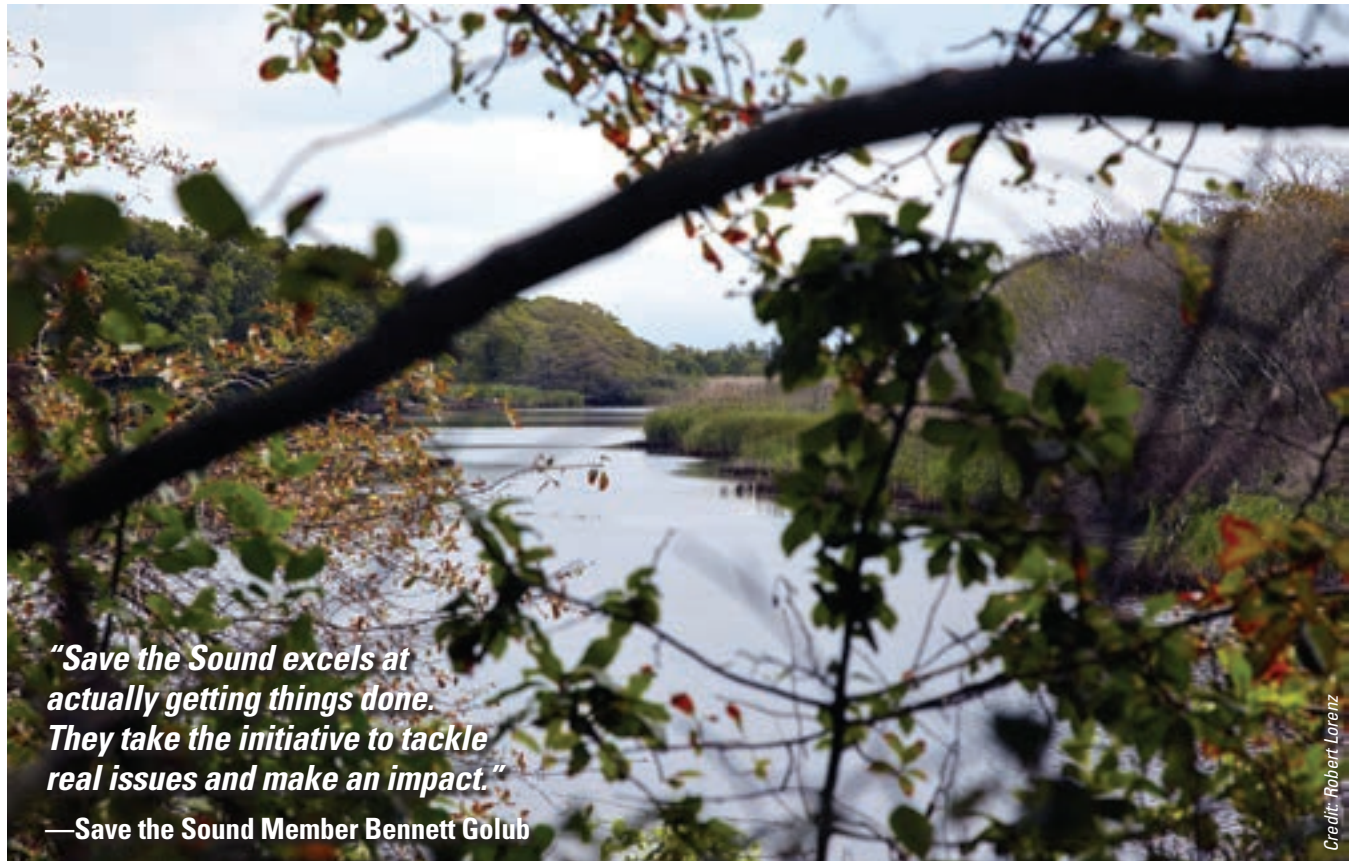




Annual Report 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION THROUGH LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXPERTISE



"Save the Sound excels at actually getting things done. They take the initiative to tackle real issues and make an impact."

—Save the Sound Member Bennett Golub

Credit: Robert Lorenz

Plum Island

About Us

How good is your imagination? Without the legal advocacy resources of Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound, Connecticut and Long Island Sound would be much different.

Just think of it: a massive 20-story liquefied natural gas plant towering over the middle of Long Island Sound with boats prevented from ever coming near. Or, picture the last large coastal forest in southern New England as a luxury golf course and 200 housing units. Just imagine Fairfield County's water quality with thousands of acres of forested lands around reservoirs sold for development.

Without Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound, your air would be more polluted, your water less clean and safe. There would be far less open space statewide and the Long Island Sound ecosystem would be even more at risk from leaking sewage and excess nitrogen.

For more than forty years, we've tackled issues that require legal and scientific expertise that sometimes take decades, not

months, to resolve. We also inform, engage and empower the public, working together to achieve solutions to the region's most difficult environmental challenges. When government and private interests fail to put public health before private gain, we're there making sure environmental laws are upheld and calling for sound environmental policy. We are your legal, environmental watchdog.

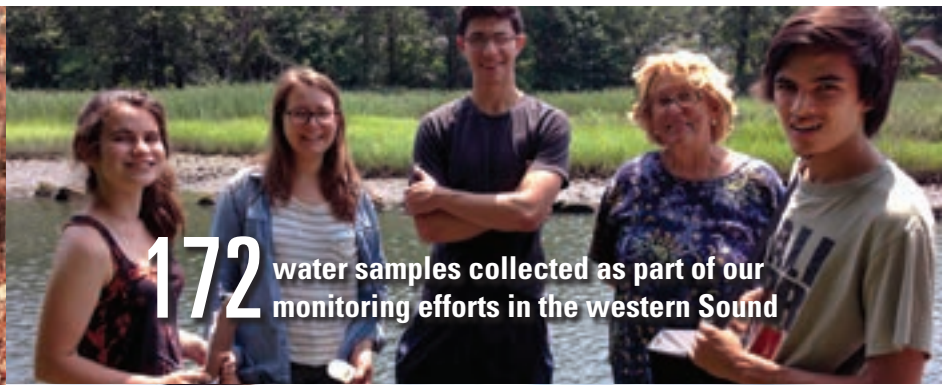


Monarch butterfly/ CC-BY-SA-3.0



1,000

acres of open space protected at Old Saybrook's Preserve after 10 years of legal interventions



172

water samples collected as part of our monitoring efforts in the western Sound



760,000

gallons of stormwater that will be captured by our two porous pavement (Green Infrastructure) projects in the Quinnipiac River Watershed annually



13,699

pounds of trash cleaned from beaches and waterways in our Coastal Cleanup effort for International Coastal Cleanup Day



218

bird species documented as breeding or foraging on Plum Island and adjacent coastal waters



265,969

fish recorded at Bride Lake following our Bride Brook restoration project, up from 74,839 in 2009 before the project was finished



6 million

square feet committed to the Stamford 2030 District performance goals

2014 – OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2014 was an extremely successful year for Connecticut Fund for the Environment and its bi-state program Save the Sound in which we achieved permanent protection for Old Saybrook's Preserve, opened Save the Sound's Western Long Island Sound office with its new director, and launched our exciting Stamford 2030 District, along with achievements in our many other program areas.

The Preserve

2014 marked the end of a decade-long legal battle led by CFE's legal team to protect southern New England's last large coastal forest: The Preserve. Once slated to become a luxury housing development and golf course, this remarkable property was successfully protected through the efforts of an amazing partnership of local advocates, conservation organizations like CFE and The Trust for Public Land, several towns, and the state. CFE led the way, providing the legal expertise that made it possible for a conservation purchase to take place.



lected in 2013. Reducing bacterial contamination in the western Sound remained a priority as we documented elevated levels of bacteria at locations in and around Mamaroneck Harbor, the Hutchinson River, and Eastchester Bay, confirming the presence of fecal contamination. We also documented several illicit sewage overflows that were fixed and began work on our online map, the Sound Data Explorer, to help residents check the health of their local beaches.

Western Long Island Sound

Our Western Long Island Sound effort grew exponentially, as we opened our new office in Mamaroneck, New York and hired Director Tracy Brown. Formerly of Riverkeeper, Tracy brought her valuable experience in sewage pollution and water quality monitoring to the table. 2014 marked our second year of water quality monitoring, during which we increased the number of samples collected fourfold over those col-

Stamford 2030

Together with the Business Council of Fairfield County, CFE launched the Stamford 2030 District, an initiative of property



owners and community and professional partners working to reduce energy use, water use, and transportation emissions in the city. Under the leadership of Executive Director Megan Saunders, the district's focus was extended to include resiliency as the city prepares for climate change and more severe storms in the future. The Stamford 2030 District was based on the model established by Architecture

2030 and created to reduce the climate change impacts of buildings, as they are responsible for almost half of all U.S. carbon emissions. As the sixth 2030 district in the country (joining Seattle, Denver, Los Angeles, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh) and the first in New England, the project will make Stamford a sustainability leader as well as a business leader in the years ahead.



Photos: (top right) Aerial view of the Preserve by Robert Lorenz; (lower left) We're monitoring water quality for cleaner beaches; (middle) Founding members celebrate the Stamford 2030 District kickoff in October 2014 (left to right) Chris Bruhl, President and CEO, The Business Council of Fairfield County; George Logan, Director, Environmental Management & Government Relations, Aquarion Water Company; Stamford 2030 District Executive Director Megan Saunders; Bruce Silverstone, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Aquarion Water Company.

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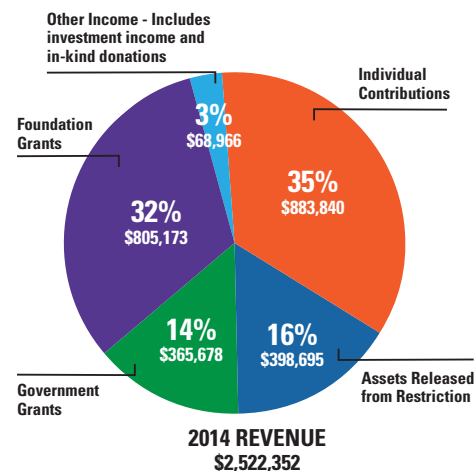
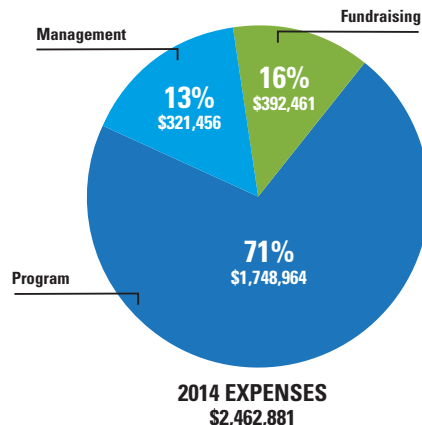
Our Financials

Statement of financials October 1, 2013
to September 30, 2014.

Message from the Treasurer

Fiscal year 2014 was a year of continued expansion for Connecticut Fund for the Environment as indicated elsewhere in this report. We ended the year with a surplus of \$59,000 which added to our operating reserves for the second year in a row. 71% of our resources directly benefited our programs. We opened our new office in Mamaroneck. With this new satellite office, our water quality improvement efforts in the western Sound have grown significantly. In Green Projects, we completed the Quinnipiac River Watershed recharge project, which featured a number of initiatives, including rain garden and pervious pavement installations to increase the amount of groundwater recharge and decrease excessive runoff in the river's watershed. Our climate and energy program also saw significant growth. As part of that program, we launched the Stamford 2030 District, which is recruiting downtown Stamford stakeholders to commit to meeting energy efficiency standards. We look forward to continued growth in these and all our other efforts in the year ahead. For further details, please view our full financial statement at our website www.ctenvironment.org.

Diane Stoner



How You Can Help

- **Join us!** Your membership works for protected lands, cleaner air and water, and a safer, healthier Long Island Sound. Joining or renewing your membership is easy. Just click on the big yellow Join/Renew button at www.ctenvironment.org.
- **Volunteer** and help support our western Sound water quality monitoring work in summer and annual coastal cleanup effort each fall. Help restore habitat through native planting projects.
- **Join the more than 13,300 people** who belong to our citizen network to stay informed about key environmental issues in the state. Let legislators know how you feel about protecting the environment and make your voice heard.

"Over the years, we've seen that CFE is distinguished in its methodical approach and steady commitment to projects that can take years to be brought to fruition."

—CFE Member Tom Stavovy