

Environmental Priorities 2019

Protecting Your Family, Creating Jobs, and Building a New Economy for Connecticut

PROTECT OUR CLIMATE AND AIR

Wildfires, droughts, intense storms, and threatened coastlines are part of nearly every news cycle. Climate change is real and it is happening right before our eyes. The same pollution threatening our global climate brings smog across our state, impacting the health of your family and neighbors. The good news is there are solutions that protect your health while strengthening our economy, like creating thousands of good paying jobs, and attracting and keeping young people in Connecticut.

Action Needed

Build a 40% renewable energy future by 2030 and creating new, high quality jobs.

- Implement a comprehensive net metering program, creating fair solar compensation for ratepayers.
- Expand Shared Solar access.
- Invest in offshore wind and energy storage.

Slash greenhouse gas emissions 10% by 2020 and 45% by 2030.

- Electrify the transportation sector and accelerate adoption of clean cars.
- Fight new fossil fuel expansion (gas plants, pipelines, and offshore drilling).

Protect energy efficiency programs that cut pollution and save residents and businesses money.

- Restore clean energy efficiency funds that were raided in 2017.
- Continue sustained investment in our Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Funds.

For more information on climate issues:

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PROTECT THE SOUND AND RIVERS

Long Island Sound is the ecological and cultural heart of our region—a livelihood for fishermen and oyster farmers, rich nursery for fish and birds, and source of joy for generations of families. But it's also vulnerable to pollution, habitat loss, and the effects of climate change.

The Sound is an economic engine, producing at least \$17 billion in economic activity that is dependent on clean water all around its shores.

Action Needed to Create Jobs and Clean Water

Stop raw sewage leaks and stormwater impacts while protecting public health.

- Invest in clean water infrastructure at the state (Clean Water Fund), and municipal levels (local bonding).
- Create a Green Infrastructure vision to absorb polluted stormwater, restore our rivers, reduce local flooding and employ our youth.

Build resilient shorelines and communities.

- Invest in nature-based solutions to manage flooding and limit sea level rise impacts (Federal: LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act; State: LIS Stewardship and Resiliency Fund).
- Improve permitting for these solutions and protect natural floodways to keep people safe.

For more information about Long Island Sound:

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Connecticut Fund
for the Environment
Save the Sound

Be a hero for Connecticut and protect our land, air, and water.

CONSERVE PUBLIC LANDS

Protecting Connecticut's mountain landscapes, wetlands, forests that filter your drinking water, and the special coastal places that surround Long Island Sound keep your air and water clean, provide critical habitat for wildlife, draw leaf-peepers and tourism dollars to Connecticut, and provide open spaces for relaxation, adventure, and a connection to nature. But in our highly populated region, important lands are increasingly at risk of being lost forever.

Action Needed

Protect critical lands from private development.

- **Plum Island:** Slated to be sold by the federal government to the highest bidder, this precious island in Long Island Sound is home to threatened and endangered species, a complex tapestry of unique habitats, and significant military and cultural history.
- **Oswegatchie:** In East Lyme, 236 acres of coastal woodland is threatened with a giant development scheme. We would lose a mile of shoreline. It would flush pollutants into our water, and destroy the homes of wildlife.
- **Constitutional Amendment:** Every public park and forest in Connecticut is at risk of being sold to the highest bidder for lack of legal protection. A constitutional amendment on the ballot this year will add important triggers to prevent disposal of important public land.
- **Seaside State Park:** Connecticut's newest state park is under threat of being sold to the highest bidder. It's directly on Long Island Sound and would set a horrible precedent if sold.

Protect lands and forests that filter our drinking water.

- **Tilcon:** New Britain wants a deal that would allow Tilcon to mine the forests that purify our public drinking water, by overturning public health law. The legislature must be strong and reject this deal for future protection of all Connecticut drinking water lands.
- **State Water Plan:** The legislature failed to pass a State Water Plan last session, but Gov. Malloy instituted the plan by executive order. Now work must begin to implement this important legislation to protect water for residents and businesses.

For more information on climate issues:

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STOP ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS

The federal government is rolling back touchstone environmental regulation—Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Paris Climate Accord, Endangered Species Act, Fisheries Protections, to name a few—and in Connecticut, new, brazen efforts to limit polluter enforcement and weaken state laws that protect drinking water, open space, and healthy air abound. Pollution does not respect state lines.

State

We must remain vigilant that Connecticut's environmental protections do not get swept away by bad legislation as efforts continue to weaken them.

Consent Order Legislation: Bad proposals to prevent DEEP's commissioner from modifying or revoking a consent order without the full agreement of the other party as well as allowing a party to seek declaratory and injunctive relief in the Superior Court regarding any dispute over an existing consent order.

Open Space Rule: Bad proposal to limit the amount of land a town requires for dedication as open space to not more than 20% of a subdivision. This encourages sprawl and limits open space protection.

Federal

Clean Water: The Trump administration suspended the Clean Water Rule in 2018 which protects the waters that feed drinking water for one in three Americans. Designed to limit pollution in 60 percent of the nation's water bodies, it intended to extend existing protections of large water bodies to the waters that flow into them, like rivers and wetlands.

Clean Air: In 2018, the EPA rejected a petition from Connecticut to cut smog pollution from a coal-fired power plant in Pennsylvania that's been one of the largest sources of East Coast smog. Over the past two years, the federal government has taken actions to delay, weaken, or repeal clean air protections.

Clean Cars: The federal government is expected to eliminate the Clean Car Standards, weakening greenhouse gas emissions and fuel standards for automobiles. With nearly 40% of toxic greenhouse gas emissions coming from the transportation sector, rollbacks will mean more gas-guzzling vehicles and a significant increase in poisonous CO2 emissions.