



Spring 2020



Save the Sound®
Action for our region's environment.

SoundBites

Shorter Name, Same Mission

**Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound is now known as Save the Sound.
It's the same organization with the same mission—just a simpler name.**

Connecticut Fund for the Environment and Save the Sound joined forces 15 years ago. We've accomplished a lot in that time, but found that using two different names for one organization can lead to unnecessary complexity and confusion. That's why Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound will now be known more simply as Save the Sound.

Our mission, our team, and our goals haven't changed: thanks to your support, we're still the leading force for environmental action across Connecticut, Westchester County, NYC, and Long Island.

“Through the years, as I became involved with Save the Sound and then joined the board, the staff and board's commitment to our environment has never waived.”

- Leslie Lee, board chair

A Name YOU Chose

In spring 2019 we surveyed our members, activists, and the public throughout Connecticut and New York and asked what name they thought was the best fit for our organization. The answer was clear: **Save the Sound ranked twice as successful as any other name.** Save the Sound has the strongest brand recognition and more people said they were likely to get involved with an organization named Save the Sound.

“Save the Sound is a name we're going to grow with—it calls people to action and makes them feel empowered.”

- Curt Johnson, president

“For over four decades Save the Sound has been winning victories for a healthy climate and clean water, saving landscapes, and restoring wildlife habitat—and that won't change.”

- Laura McMillan, director of communications

What can you expect to see?

The core of the organization—our mission and our team—have not changed. Some things will just look a little different:

- We have a new tagline—“Action for our region's environment.”
- Our homepage has been redesigned. Visit at www.savethesound.org
- We'll soon be retiring CFE social media accounts, so follow Save the Sound on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay connected.

If you'd like to make a donation (thank you!) checks can be made out to Save the Sound. But don't worry if you make a check out to CFE—we'll always be able to cash it.

“We're putting all of our energies behind one name to work more efficiently on the programs that create real environmental change in your backyard.”

- Dawn Henry, board member

Plum Island: An Ecosystem Teeming with Life

The first phase of a two-part marine survey in the waters surrounding Plum Island revealed a sea-floor teeming with life.

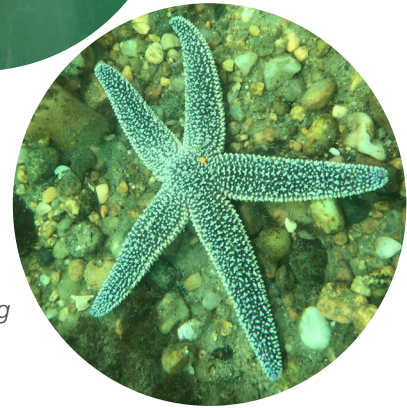


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“What I saw in the waters surrounding Plum Island took my breath away. Life around the island is dynamic and a true reflection of everything Long Island Sound has to offer.”

- Dan Marelli, marine diver

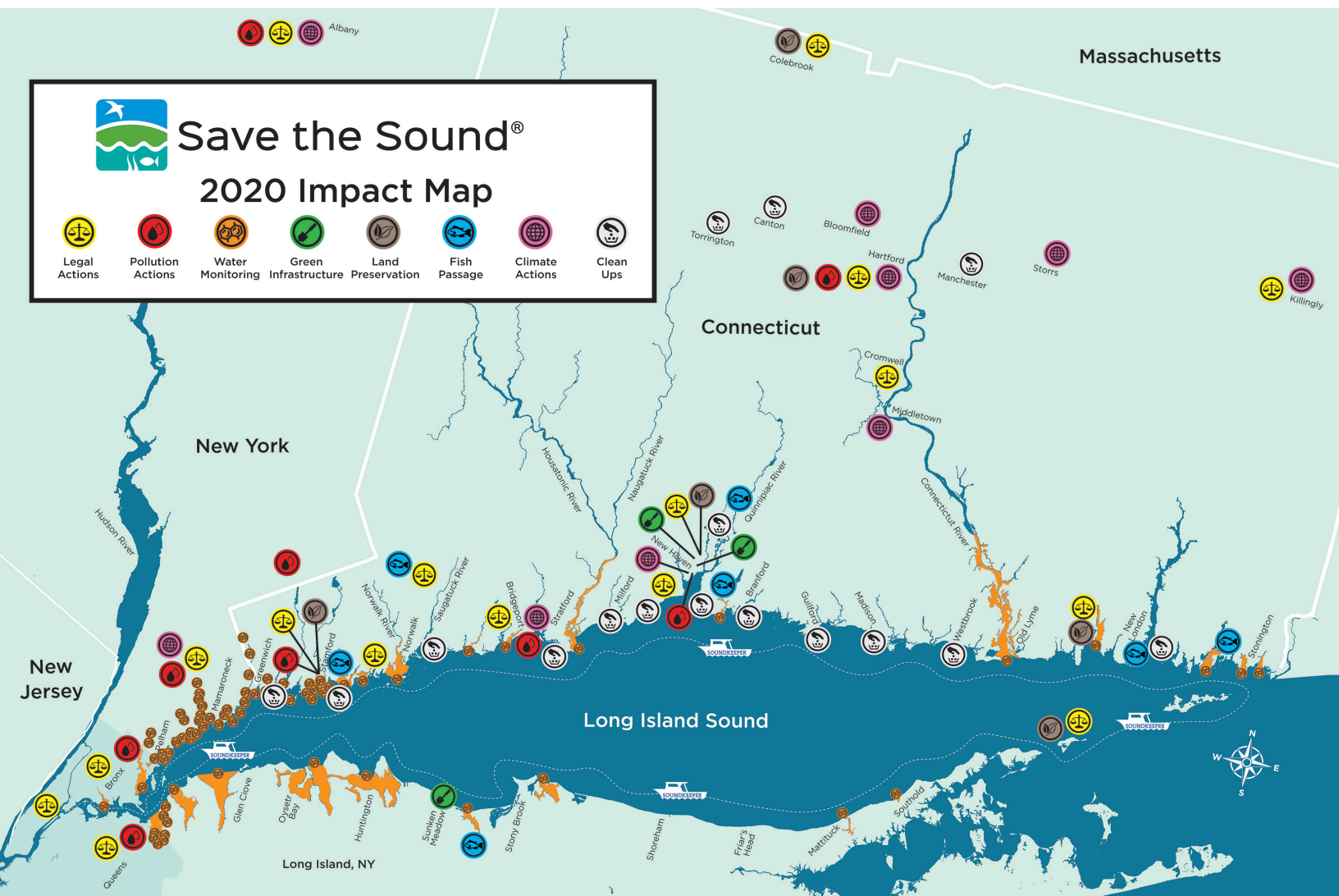


*Photos:
Scientific Diving
International*

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Fighting Environmental Battles in YOUR Backyard

From advocating for stronger legislation to combat climate change and fighting rollbacks to environmental law, to monitoring water quality and using nature to restore ecosystems, we're leading on crucial environmental battles all around the Long Island Sound region—including in your backyard.



STAY ENGAGED FROM HOME

We're living in unprecedented times, and it's hard to stay connected and engaged in the communities around us. That's why we're bringing you virtual events, including webinars, Q&A's, and environmental trivia, so we can come together while staying apart. Visit www.savethesound.org/StayEngaged for a complete list of events.

LEAVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGACY

You've cherished and protected a healthy, vibrant environment your entire life. By including Save the Sound in your estate plans, you'll protect the land, air, and water of Connecticut and the Long Island Sound region for generations to come.

Please contact Chief Development Officer Alicia Sullivan at 203-787-0646 Ext. 109 or asullivan@ctenvironment.org to discuss the possibilities. Thank you!

Fulfilling Dreams for Fish and Family

Save the Sound member Lindsay Suter lives with his family along the Farm River in North Branford, CT, adjacent to Pages Millpond Dam. He has long dreamed of restoring access for the migratory fish that traverse the river each spring. This January, Save the Sound, with multiple partner organizations, began construction on a fishway that will help bring abundant fisheries to Long Island Sound.

“Watching the construction has been a true joy—not merely because we have been working on it for nearly 15 years, but because it is real, tangible progress in a time of forced inaction.”

- Lindsay Suter



*Pages Millpond Dam is the second of three barriers to fish passage along the Farm River. With the installation of this fishway, **over 12 miles** of the river will once again be accessible to migratory fish.*



The new fishway allows migratory fish like Alewife to climb up and over the dam using a series of ramps outfitted with features to slow the velocity of the water and areas that allow the fish to rest.

Your Environmental Protection Continues, Even Now

We are living in unprecedented times. Little seems certain right now, but there's one thing you can be sure of: Save the Sound will continue to safeguard your land, air, and water. Together, we will get through this uncertainty, and come out even stronger.

Your team of advocates, scientists, and engineers is hard at work, adapting rapidly to the new challenges of this pandemic. We're being resilient and resourceful, working to make operations safer while still caring for your environment.

How are we ensuring our Long Island Sound region remains protected?

- Your Ecological Restoration team has incorporated appropriate safety measures while remaining hard at work restoring habitats and Fish Biologist Jon Vander Werff is in the field five days a week, monitoring the health of your fisheries.
- Your advocacy team is going virtual. Climate and Energy Attorney Charles Rothenberger is using technology to connect with decision-makers who have the power to set sensible climate and transportation policy, and Tracy Brown, who leads our Sound programs, is fighting for Long Island Sound through virtual lobbying with D.C. legislators.
- Your Soundkeeper Bill Lucey is continuing his on-the-water patrols, hunting down sewage spills and defending clean water.
- Your water quality monitoring team is mobilizing volunteers via video conferences and delivering equipment in a U-Haul to ensure that our partners can continue testing for harmful bacteria, nitrogen, and other pollutants.

We're working harder than ever to ensure the protection of your region's environment.

ADVOCATING FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT THROUGH UNCERTAIN TIMES

Although the Connecticut and New York legislative sessions have been disrupted by the COVID-19 outbreak, our work has not stopped. We're fighting for your climate, waters, and communities.

Cutting Emissions for a Healthy Climate

Connecticut is legally obligated to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by this year and 45 percent by 2030. Governor Lamont added a goal to transition to a zero carbon energy grid by 2040. We're advocating to further combat climate change by pushing to:

- Set a target of 100% renewable electricity by 2040 and additional interim targets for greenhouse gas reductions
- Hold the state accountable by requiring agencies to consider greenhouse gas targets when making decisions
- Ensure that the state transitions its fleet to electric vehicles and adopts California's emissions standards for medium and heavy-duty vehicles

- Further the right of all residents to shared solar energy

Protecting Your Waters and Communities from Storms and Pollution

Long Island Sound is the ecological and cultural heart of our region—but it's vulnerable to pollution, habitat loss, and climate change. To protect it, we're fighting to:

- Enhance resiliency bonding for nature-based solutions to flood management and sea level rise impacts and pass the Blue Plan to protect Long Island Sound's ecosystems and resources
- Give municipalities the opportunity to create local Stormwater Authorities to fund projects that reduce sewage overflows, clean runoff pollution, and reduce flooding
- Improve public understanding of the risks posed by under-maintained dams, and increase transparency around selling of properties that include dams

- Support efforts to ban use of the "forever chemicals" PFOS/PFAS that have polluted Connecticut rivers and contaminated fish

- Continue efforts from last session to ban single-use Styrofoam containers

Stopping Environmental Rollbacks and Protecting Public Health

Brazen efforts to weaken accountability and state laws that protect drinking water, open space, and healthy air abound each year in Connecticut. We're working to:

- Remain vigilant to ensure environmental protections aren't swept away
- Defend drinking watershed lands, forests, and wetlands threatened by development
- Ensure our vulnerable and urban communities don't suffer disproportionate environmental impact

Bright and Equal Future Ahead for Shared Solar

The future is bright for Connecticut's shared solar program. We're working to open the door for people who would otherwise be unable to take advantage of solar energy. Shared solar lets any electric customer utilize solar power from a solar array located elsewhere.

In 2018, the Connecticut legislature approved an expanded shared solar program, and it's looking like you'll be able to reap the benefits of clean, solar energy soon.

It's been a long-fought battle—one that you've been a part of since the beginning. And, thanks to your advocacy, the current shared solar program is an improved version of its predecessor.

It streamlines the subscription process to take the burden of enrolling customers off of project developers, enticing them to submit proposals for projects in Connecticut. We're making it easier to bring clean energy to our region.

Those enrolled in the program will see cheaper electricity bills, and more eco-friendly households, by July 2021.

Twenty percent of the enrollment will be through an opt-in system. This option is available for all eligible customers, including homeowners who can't take advantage of a rooftop solar installation.

Eighty percent will be through an opt-out system which guarantees access for customers who will benefit most: small businesses, low- and moderate-income customers, landlords and affordable housing facilities, and low-income service organizations.

Shared solar is coming to your neighborhood, and we're fighting for your right to utilize it through a fair and equitable system.



CURT'S CORNER: A QUARTERLY NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Earth Day 2070—A Dream for a Greener Future



Dream with me for a minute. A dream of hope for the world that my two boys will wake up to when Earth Day turns 100.

A dream of the future we're fighting for right now.

There's a TV channel dedicated to nature footage from angles impossible to see with the human eye. My sons ask for a drone's eye view of their favorite section of the local shore. Everything has changed: fewer houses, larger beaches, bigger tidal wetland areas. And today—a giant kayak flotilla for Earth Day. People are wisely moving homes back from the shore, and nature-based projects are bringing back hundreds of acres of wetlands. *Nature matters.*

The morning sky is azure blue. No more smog from polluted air. Suddenly, a new image pops up on the TV. A bird's eye view of hundreds of windmills off the Atlantic coast, with whales frolicking in between. Wind and solar are now everywhere. No more coal. No more asthma worsened by pollution. *Wind and sun, they matter.*

Walking into my sons' town, 50 years from now, rain gardens filled with spring flowers and butterflies line every street. Stormwater from over half of all parking lots and streets across the state is captured by gardens and filtered back into the ground. Their rivers now run clear. Dreams became reality, because that very town followed its 2022 state regulations. *Regulations matter.*

Their grandchildren call to report on a school canoe trip down their favorite river. They passed a city center park with wetlands weaved in, where they found

the wood duck's magic colors flashing in the sun. Two weeks before the trip, those same wetlands captured giant pulses of flood waters, protecting downtown. It was constructed when the Green New Deal was passed back in the 2020s. *Funding matters.*

Everywhere they look, life looks different—better. Gasoline cars are few, replaced with bicycles, trains, and electric buses and cars. Families can be found spending time outside—together. Once-polluting industrial buildings have been replaced by electric battery storage factories and wind mill construction sites.

"Wow, if we hadn't figured out how to make everyone prosper, think how hard it would be now," said one brother to the other.

"Aren't we the lucky ones," the other whispers, smiling.

HAPPY EARTH DAY 100!

GETTING GLOBAL: LOCAL ISSUES ON A LARGER SCALE

Earlier this year, we were lucky enough to host several interns in our office from Belgium, Germany, and Peru. We sat down with them to get a global perspective on environmental issues. Here's what they had to say:

On environmental justice: "It's all connected: a sustainable policy must consider social and ecological dimensions. Global and social inequality affect which people are hurt most by climate change; environmental policy affects so many other rights we have." – Lea Nesselhauf, Essen, Germany

On environmental issues in the Belgian media: "Anything being shared about environmental issues is mostly coming from our youth. Our media and politicians don't really speak up about it because they're not really concerned." – Sahar Najafabady, Brussels, Belgium



On the youth climate movement in Germany: "The movement didn't come from university students, it was much younger. There were school classes on the streets, thousands of students. Last year it was every Friday." – Philipp Kroll, Münster, Germany



On why she became involved with environmental work: "I wanted to save the world. I wanted to do something for animals, and for the forests and rivers that cannot speak for themselves." – Yliani Garcia Monroy, Ica, Peru

