

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



At a Glance

ROBERT J. KLEE, Commissioner

Katie Scharf Dykes, Deputy Commissioner of Energy (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Energy and Technology Policy)

Macky McCleary, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Quality (Air Management, Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, and Water Protection and Land Reuse)

Susan Whalen, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation (Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources)

Established – 2011

Statutory authority – CGS Public Act 11-80, 2011

Central Office – 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Average Full-Time Employees: 1060

Operating Expenses: \$216,391,629.28

Organizational structure –

Office of the Commissioner – Chief of Staff, Offices of Affirmative Action, Legal Counsel, Adjudications; and the Bureau of Central Services.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Energy (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Energy and Technology Policy) – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA): Divisions of Utility Regulation, Administration, and Procurement. **Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy:** Offices of Climate Change, Technology and Research; Energy Supply; and Energy Demand.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Quality (Air, Waste and Water) – Bureau of Air Management: Divisions of Engineering & Enforcement; Planning & Standards;

and Radiation. **Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance:** Divisions of Waste Engineering & Enforcement; Emergency Response and Spill Prevention; and Permitting and Enforcement (permitted discharges). **Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse:** Divisions of Inland Water Resources; Remediation; Planning & Standards; and the Office of Long Island Sound Programs.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation (Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources) – Bureau of Natural Resources: Divisions of Forestry; Inland Fisheries; Marine Fisheries; and Wildlife. **Bureau of Outdoor Recreation:** Divisions of Boating; Environmental Conservation Police; and State Parks & Public Outreach.

Mission

It is the mission of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to fulfill the intent of the General Assembly, which declared that it is the policy of the state of Connecticut to:

“...conserve, improve and protect the air, water and other natural resources and environment of the State of Connecticut while fostering sustainable development. The agency’s mission includes the goals of reducing electrical rates and decreasing costs for Connecticut ratepayers, ensuring the reliability of the state’s energy supply, increasing the use of clean energy and developing the state’s energy-related economy...”

Statutory Responsibility

Public Act 11-80, effective July 1, 2011, facilitated the establishment of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The majority of the Commissioner’s statutory responsibilities are found in the following titles of the Connecticut General Statutes: 15, 16, 16a, 22a, 23, 25, and 26.

Public Service

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) was created by Public Act 11-80. Effective July 1, 2011, DEEP brought together the former Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Public Utility Control (DPUC) – now called the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) – along with the energy policy group from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

During 2013-2014, DEEP continued to focus on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the department while advancing the state’s agenda to provide cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy to Connecticut’s residents and businesses, and to protect the environment and natural resources of Connecticut.

Improvements/Achievements for fiscal year 2013-2014

Transformation

The Department continues to focus on transforming the way it does business to better serve the public and meet the regulatory and policy challenges of the 21st century – while upholding important environmental standards. The transformation agenda includes: investments in technology to speed work and create more e-government opportunities for those doing business with the agency; streamlining and modernizing permitting and enforcement processes through the continuation of LEAN initiatives; permitting reform that allows the agency to effectively allocate resources to the most risky and high impact applications; and development of metrics to provide the public and decision makers with key indicators that track the progress being made in addressing energy and environmental issues. DEEP has now held approximately 70 LEAN team events and more than 400 staff members have been involved in changing the culture at DEEP.

Environmental Quality Challenges

Seeking to apply new approaches to major environmental challenges facing our state, the agency launched major initiatives to revamp the state’s system for handling solid waste and to develop a more results-oriented approach to the cleanup of contaminated lands. The Waste Management for the 21st century initiative – working closely with the Governor’s Modernizing Recycling Working Group – is developing plans to divert a higher percentage of materials from the waste stream and allow our state to benefit from their value. Building on Connecticut’s leadership role in solid waste management dating back almost 40 years, the state legislature passed in 2013, Public Act 14-94, “An Act Concerning Connecticut’s Recycling And Materials Management Strategy.” Among other things, the Act:

- Sets a 60% target rate for reducing solid waste disposal by increasing source reduction, recycling, and reuse. The current reported recycling rate is under 30%.
- Reshapes the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) – a quasi-public entity that owns and operates the waste-to-energy plant in Hartford – into a leaner organization focused on promoting innovation in materials management. The former CRRA is now the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (“MIRA”).
- Creates “RecycleCT” – a statewide education initiative to promote recycling, much the way “EnergizeCT” is promoting energy efficiency and renewables.

DEEP continues to fund local and regional wastewater treatment projects throughout the state. In February 2014, the state Bond Commission approved nearly \$277 million to provide grants and loans for wastewater treatment projects in Hartford, Rocky Hill, Norwich, Middletown, New Haven, and Bristol. As a result of the state’s strong financial support for municipal wastewater treatment projects, Connecticut’s rivers and streams and Long Island Sound are cleaner and more appealing than ever.

DEEP is also working through the Water Planning Council on the development and implementation of a meaningful water resources plan. Public Act 14-163, updated the charge of the Water Planning Council, which has the vital and ambitious task of drafting a state water plan. The Act charges DEEP, DPH and OPM with establishing a state-wide long-range plan for the management of the water resources of the state. The Plan will ensure the state's water usage take into account:

- Sustainable development patterns that are in harmony with available water
- Sustainable and healthily rivers and streams
- High quality water available for drinking – protecting our existing sources
- Holding water in trust for all generations

Connecticut has joined with seven other states petitioning the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to require upwind states to the south and west to reduce pollution that is carried here by prevailing winds. The petition asks EPA to require the nine upwind states to join the “Ozone Transport Region” (OTR). Under the federal Clean Air Act, states added to the OTR would have to take actions consistent with the air pollution efforts of the downwind states through use of readily available control technologies and reliance on cleaner fuels to generate power. Reducing pollution in these upwind states will not only result in better health for Connecticut's citizens but will also significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Another significant task being met by DEEP is the remediation and redevelopment of Brownfields sites in the state. Connecticut was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution with factories and mills located throughout the state – in urban, as well as, rural areas. With the decline of heavy manufacturing here we have a legacy of abandoned industrial sites with pollution from chemicals still in the ground. Our challenge is to get those sites cleaned up, eliminating public health and environmental risks and putting the land back to productive reuse.

Economic development of these sites is the key to cleanup so we must have rules and processes that make it feasible and profitable for this to happen – while maintaining high environmental standards. We are working to stream line our process for review and approval of cleanup plans and to make certain the standards we set are reasonable

Energy Agenda

The agency continues to intently focus on implementing Governor Malloy's Comprehensive Energy Strategy to bring cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy to the residents and businesses of the state. Key components of the plan include making a lower-cost natural gas option available to more residents and businesses; expanding efficiency programs to help residents and businesses reduce energy use; increasing the availability and use of renewable and alternative sources of energy; promoting alternative fuel vehicles in the transportation sector

through the build out of charging station infrastructure and participation in an 8-state agreement to put 3.3 million zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025.

When it comes to energy efficiency programs, the state is setting the example with the first of its kind “Lead by Example Program,” which seeks to reduce energy use in state and municipal buildings through targeted energy equipment retrofits in state buildings and large-scale, multi-faceted, energy efficiency overhauls in state and municipal buildings through the State’s standardized Energy Savings Performance Contracting Program. As a result of these and other new initiatives – including the doubling of energy efficiency funding – energy efficiency programs are expanding across the state. Additionally, DEEP continues to focus on the expansion of renewable energy, seeing a 10-fold increase in the use of in-state renewable energy at competitive prices.

Also in 2013/2014, DEEP entered into a partnership with Fraunhofer USA that established the Fraunhofer Center for Energy Innovation (CEI) at the University of Connecticut. The Center focuses on critical issues of energy production, storage, and distribution. CEI’s mission is to develop highly efficient and cost-effective energy conversion and storage systems.

Climate Change and Adaptation

Climate Change is the most significant and challenging issue of our time. It is also the one issue that crosses all three branches of our agency. DEEP is addressing the issue from two perspectives:

- Mitigation – or the reduction of harmful emissions
- Adaptation – putting strategies in place that allow us to deal with changes we are going to see because of high levels of carbon already in our atmosphere.

In Connecticut, we are taking actions to limit carbon emissions which serve as a model for the nation. The state is a charter member of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state program that has reduced carbon emissions from plants that generate electricity – one of largest single sources of carbon emission - by 40% since 2005. DEEP’s efforts on energy efficiency also work to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the amount of energy we use, which directly results in lower emissions.

On the adaptation side, the state adopted a Climate Preparedness Plan, took steps to assist shoreline property owners, put plans in place to protect our shoreline in an environmentally sound manner, and launched the Connecticut Institute for Resiliency and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) at the University of Connecticut’s Avery Point Campus. CIRCA will develop strategies and programs to help Connecticut’s residents and communities reduce the loss of life, property, and natural resources from future high impact weather events as well as from sea level

rise and flooding. In June 2014, the state received nearly \$8 million in federal funding to enhance storm resiliency.

The agency also continues to expand the state's first-in-the-nation microgrid program. The program, designed to find innovative ways to keep facilities such as police, fire, emergency response, medical centers, gas stations, and other critical services powered during electric grid outages, will increase safety and quality of life for Connecticut residents during extreme weather events.

Utility Regulation

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has plenary economic and service quality jurisdiction over the state's investor-owned electric, water, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities, along with other utility regulatory responsibilities. During 2013-2014, PURA adjudicated several major electric and water rate cases, concluded its review of Connecticut's natural gas company expansion plans, and completed investigations of major electric companies' tree trimming and vegetation management practices.

In addition, PURA issued a decision approving a settlement agreement authorizing Frontier Communications to acquire from AT&T the Southern New England Telephone Company's assets, and developed with Governor Malloy a cybersecurity plan for Connecticut's utilities to help strengthen defense against possible future threats, such as a cyberattack.

PURA also concluded complex investigations regarding submetering of electricity and electric supplier marketing practices, participated in multiple regional utility issues, in addition to reviews of water infrastructure plan dockets, licensing matters, and renewable energy credit proceedings.

Great Outdoors

The department continues to focus on its responsibilities to provide first-class outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors: The agency again sponsored the nationally-recognized "No Child Left Inside[®]" Great Park Pursuit encouraging families and other outdoor enthusiasts to explore the state's countless outdoors recreational opportunities. The state's lakes and streams were stocked with more than 700,000 fish to support great public interest in fishing, and new regulations were put into place enhancing opportunities for the state's hunters. Other agency activities included the year-long State Park Centennial Celebration which kicked off in August 2013 and ended in September 2014.

Today, the Connecticut State Parks and Forests system, which sees 8 million visitors annually, consists of:

- 107 state parks

- 32 state forests
- 121 public boat launches

The state continues to work toward its goal of acquiring or permanently protecting 21 percent of Connecticut's land as open space by the year 2023. In 2013/2014, the state acquired 476 acres of open space utilizing \$27,862 in State funding. Private and federal partners contributed approximately \$1,657,138 toward these same acquisitions. The state is now approximately 80% of the way toward meeting its goal. Additionally, the state announced a plan for the state to play a major role in purchasing and protecting as open space a 1,000-acre parcel along Long Island Sound known as The Preserve. The Preserve is considered to be the last, large unprotected coastal forest between New York and Boston. The property is rich in natural resources, wildlife, and habitat areas and will offer hiking and other passive outdoor recreational opportunities. The Preserve, which also provides an important coastal buffer against storm waters, connects to 500 acres of existing parklands in adjoining towns and miles of hiking trails.

DEEP is also working closely with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to combat the invasive Emerald Ash Borer – an insect responsible for the deaths of millions of ash trees throughout the country and discovered for the first time in Connecticut in 2012.