

# Department of Energy and 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)**

**Michael J. Sullivan, 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 – 1,045***

***Operating Expenses - \$237,943.315***

***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 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 the state.

## **Highlights and Achievements 2014/2015**

### **Energy**

- Energy Efficiency – Doubled funding for popular and cost effective efficiency programs. 2014 energy savings topped 4.2 billion kilowatt hours.

- Renewables – 10 fold increase in amount of power from in-state renewables and first contracts ever with regional grid scale projects
- Natural Gas Expansion – on track to meet goal of making this cheaper and cleaner energy choice available to 280,000 new customers in 10 years.
- Transportation Sector: Alternative Fuels/Alternative Vehicles – EVConnecticut grant program for build out Electric Vehicle charging station infrastructure and rebate program to encourage sales of EV.
- Reliability: More than \$23 million in grants for 10 local microgrid projects – and \$30 million now available for a third round of funding. Microgrids provide power for critical government services – and amenities for the public – when the power is down.

### **Green Bank**

- CT Clean Energy Fund reconstituted into first-in-the-nation Green Bank - provided a new financing model – built on reducing reliance on scarce taxpayer and ratepayer dollars for efficiency and renewable programs and increasing reliance on private capital.
- Over 15,000 Connecticut homeowners have now gone solar (approved in the residential solar investment program "RSIP") since 2004; 10,917 since 2014 alone.
- In 2011, the legislature tasked the Green Bank (then CEFIA) with supporting 30 MW of residential solar by 2022. Many doubted that this target could ever be reached. We hit the target in summer of 2014 -8 years ahead of schedule. The new target is 300 MW by 2020 - and we are already at one-third - 100 MW - of that goal.
- The Green Bank decreased government spending on solar projects by 70 percent while increasing solar-array demand by 2000 percent
- By the end of this fiscal year, the Connecticut Green Bank expects to attract \$500 million in private investment for clean energy projects, doubling last year's total and matching the amount of private capital injected into Connecticut's clean energy economy over the last 10 years.

### **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 2014-2015, PURA adjudicated several major proceedings including Iberdrola's proposed acquisition of the UL companies (United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Connecticut Natural Gas). PURA issued a ruling concerning the October 1, 2015 ban on competitive electric supplier variable rates. In addition, PURA advanced its cybersecurity plan for Connecticut's utilities to help strengthen defense against possible future threats, such as a cyberattack. PURA also participated in multiple regional utility issues, and concluded numerous licensing and renewable energy credit matters.

### **Climate Change**

- CT is a national model for both mitigation – reduction of carbon emissions – and adaptation – strategies to protect communities from changes we are already seeing.
- Established Governor's Council on Climate Change to develop strategy for meeting aggressive goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.
- Through energy efficiency, participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and other efforts have already reduced emissions 10% below 1990 levels – well ahead of 2020 target for this interim goal
- Formed CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) with UConn Avery Point to offer solutions to climate challenges to communities, residents, businesses, institutions

### **Protecting Water Resources**

- More than \$700 million in funding committed to Clean Water Fund projects – construction of new or upgrading of existing wastewater treatment plant and sanitary sewer systems. State grants and loans for projects across the state – separating out storm and sanitary sewers in cities like Hartford and New Haven, bringing plants up to new standards for nutrient removal – are helping to clean rivers, streams, Long Island Sound.
- Passed legislation to protect the future of Long island Sound with a Blue Plan – a water-based, marine spatial planning process

## **Materials Management**

Transforming the way we dispose of solid waste to give CT a more sustainable and economically beneficial 21<sup>st</sup> century materials management strategy. We passed legislation: doubling the recycling rate to 60%; creating CT Recycles Foundation to educate public on recycling; repurposing the former CRRA facilities in Hartford to recapture more materials of value and reduce the volume of trash that is incinerated.

## **The Great Outdoors**

- In partnership with the Town of Old Saybrook, The Trust for Public Land and others, permanently protected The Preserve. This 1,000 acre coastal forest was the largest remaining unprotected coastal forest between New York and Boston.
- Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities provided by state parks:
  - Added Auer Farm as State Park in Bloomfield
  - Planning for new state park at Seaside in Waterford
  - Plans for build out to offer full state park services at Silver Sands in Milford
- Purchased Beverly's Marina – providing improved public access to Bantam Lake, largest natural lake in the state, for boaters and fishermen
- Since 2011, DEEP has provided over \$21,402,096 in grants to provide financial support to over 130 towns, land trusts and water companies to permanently protect over 6,167 acres of Connecticut's most important and critical conservation and recreation areas.
- CT now has 500, 697 acres designated as state or local open space lands, 74.3 percent of the total open space goal.
- An unprecedented commitment of capital resources has been provided to reinvest in our state parks infrastructure to coincide with the Centennial of our Park System, with \$85 million dollars authorized between 2011 and this currently adopted biennial budget
  - ❖ Major, important projects underway or in design to support the public's enjoyment of our parks as we enter the second hundred years:
    - Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison -
      - ❖ West Beach bathhouse complex, parking and access improvements, necessitated by storm damage from Tropical Storm Irene. (under construction)

- ❖ New Meigs Point Nature Center to continue the popular programming that takes place there (under construction)
- ❖ Major utility upgrades coinciding with the creation of a major recreation trail throughout the park, which will support the large scale public events held at the park (final design completed, Spring 2016 construction)
  
- Sherwood Island State Park, Westport -
  - ❖ Major rehabilitation of the main pavilion at the park (completed, Spring 2015)
  - ❖ Replacement of aging park maintenance complex buildings (in design)
  
- Rocky Neck State Park, East Lyme -
  - ❖ Major rehabilitation of the historic Ellie Mitchell Pavilion, built in 1935 by the Works Progress Administration, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places (in design)

Dozens of smaller, but critical projects across the state park system to replace or rehabilitate bathrooms, picnic shelters, roadways, etc.