



State C&D Plan Survey of Municipalities and COGs

Welcome!

OPM is seeking local input through regional workshops and this survey on ways to improve the content and effectiveness of the Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan (State C&D Plan), as it prepares for the next five-year revision cycle covering the period 2018-2023. This survey is divided into two parts:

- Part I relates to the *written principles and policies* of the State C&D Plan

The State C&D Plan is organized around six Growth Management Principles (GMPs) and related policies that are intended to guide state agency plans and capital investments. The statutory reference for the State C&D Plan is Chapter 297 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). In particular, Section 16a-31 mandates state agencies to be consistent with the State C&D Plan whenever they expend more than \$200,000 to acquire, develop, or improve real property, acquire public transportation equipment or facilities, or provide funding for such purposes.

- Part II relates to the *priority funding areas* delineated on the Locational Guide Map (LGM)

The LGM is a component of the State C&D Plan that serves to delineate the boundaries of priority funding areas (PFAs), so that state agencies can comply with the requirements of CGS Chapter 297a. In particular, Section 16a-35d requires “growth-related projects” sponsored by state agencies to be located in a PFA, although exceptions are allowable when a proposed project is consistent with the municipal POCD. Beyond these statutory PFA requirements, state agencies and others may also consider the LGM’s mapped data layers for their own planning purposes.

Feel free to skip any questions on the survey that you believe are not applicable to your municipality or region. You may preview the survey questions before responding by clicking the "Next" button at the bottom of each page, and then using the "Previous" button to return. Please allow yourself sufficient time (approximately 20 - 30 minutes) to complete the survey.

This survey will close at 11:59 PM on Friday, February 17th. Your time is much appreciated.

Note: The responses you provide to this survey will be collected and stored by OPM. Responses will only be reported in the aggregate and individual responses will not be made publicly available. All survey responses may be subject to any applicable Freedom of Information (FOI) laws.



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Required Information

Before you begin, tell us who you are and what organization you represent. This information is critical for OPM to validate and analyze the survey responses. Please provide the following information.

* 1. First and last name:

* 2. Job title or other capacity in which you are completing this survey:

* 3. Name of the municipality, council of governments, or other organization you are representing:

* 4. Please enter your e-mail address:

Continue to the next page to begin Part I: Written Principles and Policies of the State C&D Plan.



State C&D Plan Survey of Municipalities and COGs

Growth Management Principle #1

Redevelop and Revitalize Regional Centers and Areas with Existing or Currently Planned Physical Infrastructure

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #1 in your municipality and region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion

Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #1 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

- ENSURE the safety and integrity of existing infrastructure over its useful life through the timely budgeting for maintenance, repairs and necessary upgrades
- FOCUS on infill development and redevelopment opportunities in areas with existing infrastructure, such as in city or town centers, which are at an appropriate scale and density for the particular area
- ENCOURAGE multi-disciplinary approaches to infrastructure planning and design. For example, for transportation projects in areas with combined sewers, seek to preserve the functional capacity of wastewater treatment plants by designing projects that enhance the infiltration of stormwater generated by the existing street network and other impermeable surfaces through “green infrastructure” measures such as pervious pavement material and the incorporation of urban green spaces
- COORDINATE the timing of any planned expansion of existing infrastructure to meet state and regional growth objectives
- PERFORM a life-cycle cost analysis to identify potential cost burdens beyond the initial capital investment for any proposed action involving the expansion of infrastructure beyond the current limits of the existing or planned service area for the particular form(s) of infrastructure, except when necessary to address immediate public health or safety concerns
- PROMOTE the continued use or adaptive reuse of existing facilities and developed property, including brownfields in strategic locations
- PROACTIVELY IDENTIFY AND MARKET available properties that are currently served by infrastructure and that could meet the needs of new or expanding businesses, especially those within close proximity to existing industry clusters
- PROMOTE supportive land uses around rail stations, airports and sea ports, and discourage uses that are not dependent upon, or complimentary to, the available infrastructure
- UTILIZE the state’s strategic location and infrastructure to promote expansion of markets for Connecticut grown and manufactured products
- ENCOURAGE local zoning that allows for a mix of uses “as-of-right” to create vibrant central places where residents can live, work, and meet their daily needs without having to rely on automobiles as the sole means of transport
- PROMOTE urban areas as centers for arts, entertainment and culture, while also supporting community-based agriculture, historic preservation, and access to urban green spaces and waterways
- CAPITALIZE on opportunities to develop and deploy innovative energy technologies, and promote distributed generation and microgrids where practical to provide reliable electrical power during outages and peak demand periods
- MINIMIZE the potential risks and impacts from natural hazards, such as flooding, high winds and wildfires, when siting infrastructure and developing property. Consider potential impacts of climate change on existing and future development

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #1 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.

We will now repeat this same series of questions for five (5) more growth management principles on the following pages. Each page will cover a different growth management principle.



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Growth Management Principle #2

Expand Housing Opportunities and Design Choices to Accommodate a Variety of Household Types and Needs

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #2 in your municipality and region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion

Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #2 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

- ENHANCE housing mobility and choice across income levels and promote vibrant, mixed-income neighborhoods through both ownership and rental opportunities
- SUPPORT adaptive reuse of historic and other existing structures for use as residential housing
- PROVIDE favorable loan terms for multi-family housing and mixed-use properties in targeted areas
- MARKET urban communities to people most likely attracted to working and/or living in urban environments, such as young people and “empty nesters”
- SUPPORT local efforts to develop appropriate urban infill housing and neighborhood amenities to make better use of limited urban land
- PROMOTE housing and/or affordable housing as part of mixed use and transit-oriented developments within walking distance to public transportation facilities
- IDENTIFY innovative mechanisms, utilizing decentralized or small-scale water and sewage systems, to support increased housing density in village centers and conservation subdivisions that lack supporting infrastructure
- ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE access to parks and recreational opportunities, including trails, greenways, community gardens and waterways, for affordable and mixed-income housing

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #2 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.



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Growth Management Principle #3

Concentrate Development Around Transportation Nodes and Along Major Transportation Corridors to Support the Viability of Transportation Options

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #3 in your municipality and region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion

Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #3 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

- PROMOTE compact, pedestrian-oriented, mixed use development patterns around existing and planned public transportation stations and other viable locations within transportation corridors and village centers
- ENCOURAGE a network of pedestrian and bicycle paths and greenways that provide convenient inter- and intra-town access, including access to the regional public transportation network
- ENSURE that the planning, design, construction, and operation of state and local highways accommodates municipal plans and the needs of all users, to the extent possible
- IMPROVE transit service and linkages to attract more customers through better integration of all transportation options and advances in technology, while providing convenience, reliability, safety and competitive modal choices
- COORDINATE with host municipalities on supportive land use regulations, such as transit-oriented development zones and freight villages where practical, to make the most effective use of transportation facilities for the movement of people and/or goods
- IDENTIFY brownfields and other strategic sites that are (1) within one-half mile or walking distance of public transportation facilities and/or (2) near other inter-modal transportation nodes and facilities, and consider them for designation as pre-approved development areas
- RESTORE strategic shipping channels and pier areas to their authorized depths when dredging as recommended in Connecticut's Deep Water Port Strategy Study

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #3 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.



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Growth Management Principle #4

Conserve and Restore the Natural Environment, Cultural and Historical Resources, and Traditional Rural Lands

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #4 in your municipality and region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion



Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #4 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

CONTINUE TO PROTECT permanently preserved open space areas and facilitate the expansion of the state's open space and greenway network through continued state funding and public-private partnerships for the acquisition and maintenance of important multi-functional land and other priorities identified in the State's Open Space Plan (i.e., Green Plan)

- LIMIT improvements to permanently protected open space areas to those that are consistent with the long-term preservation and appropriate public enjoyment of the natural resource and open space values of the site
- PROTECT AND PRESERVE Connecticut Heritage Areas, archaeological areas of regional and statewide significance, and natural areas, including habitats of endangered, threatened and special concern species, other critical wildlife habitats, river and stream corridors, aquifers, ridgelines, large forest areas, highland areas, and Long Island Sound
- ENCOURAGE collaborative ventures with municipalities, private non-profit land conservation organizations and other entities to provide a system of appropriately preserved and managed natural areas and resources that allow for a diversity of well-functioning habitats and the sustainable use of resources
- SEEK TO ACHIEVE no-net-loss of wetlands through development planning that: 1) avoids wetlands, whenever possible; 2) minimizes intrusions into wetlands when impacts are unavoidable; 3) mitigates any resulting impacts through wetland enhancement or creation; and 4) encourages ongoing maintenance of functional wetlands and buffer areas
- REVITALIZE rural villages and main streets by promoting the rehabilitation and appropriate reuse of historic facilities, such as former mills, to allow a concentration of higher density or multiple use development where practical and consistent with historic character
- UTILIZE the state's renewable power generation potential to the extent that is compatible with state goals for environmental protection, and minimize potential impacts to rural character and scenic resources when siting new power generation facilities and/or transmission infrastructure
- ENCOURAGE municipalities to build capacity and commitment for agricultural lands preservation
- DEVELOP, through the Governor's Council on Agricultural Development, a comprehensive Strategic Plan for Agriculture in Connecticut
- PROMOTE agricultural businesses and supportive industries that are vital to the local and regional economy, while simultaneously preserving prime farmland through the acquisition of development rights and, to the extent practical, the avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation of the loss or conversion of agricultural lands associated with state-sponsored development actions
- PROMOTE Connecticut's commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture industries consistent with marine productive capacities and environmental protections
- UTILIZE the landscape to the extent practical and incorporate sound stormwater management design, such as low impact development techniques, in existing and new development to maintain or restore natural hydrologic processes and to help meet or exceed state and federal water quality standards, so that the state's waters can support their myriad functions and uses
- MANAGE water resource conflicts by balancing the competing needs of water for human consumption, waste assimilation, habitat sustainability, recreation, power production, agriculture and transporting people and goods
- RELY upon the capacity of the land, to the extent possible, to provide drinking water and wastewater disposal needs beyond the limits of the existing service area. Support the introduction or expansion of public water and/or sewer services or advanced on-site wastewater treatment systems only when there is a demonstrated environmental, public health, public safety, economic, social, or general welfare concern, and then introduce such services only at a scale which responds to the existing need without serving as an attraction to more extensive development
- MINIMIZE the siting of new infrastructure and development in coastal areas prone to erosion and inundation from sea level rise or storms, encourage the preservation of undeveloped areas into which coastal wetlands can migrate, and undertake any development activities within coastal areas in an environmentally sensitive manner consistent with statutory goals and policies set forth in the Connecticut Coastal Management Act
- PROTECT the ecological, scenic and recreational values of lakes, rivers and streams by promoting compatible land uses and management practices in the vicinity of these resources
- PROTECT, MAINTAIN AND RESTORE the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of surface waters to ensure that existing and designated uses are maintained

PROMOTE innovative land conservation and banking practices that further local, regional and state conservation and development objectives, and minimize the need to expand infrastructure to support new development in rural areas

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #4 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.



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Growth Management Principle #5

Protect and Ensure the Integrity of Environmental Assets Critical to Public Health and Safety

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #5 in your municipality and region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion

Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #5 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

- UTILIZE a multiple barrier approach, including source water protection and appropriate treatment, to ensure the availability of safe and adequate public water supplies that meet or exceed state and federal drinking water standards
- IDENTIFY water supply resources sufficient to meet existing demand, to mitigate water shortages during droughts, and to meet projected growth and economic development over at least the next 50 years
- ENSURE that water conservation is a priority consideration in all water supply planning activities and regulatory decisions
- UTILIZE an integrated watershed management approach to ensure that high quality existing and potential sources of public drinking water are maintained for human consumption
- ALLOW redevelopment and rebuilding of coastal areas consistent with coastal area management principles and regulations and prevailing federal rules and requirements
- DISCOURAGE new development activities within floodway and floodplain areas, manage any unavoidable activities in such areas in an environmentally sensitive manner and in compliance with applicable laws, and seek to prevent the loss of life and property by maintaining existing dikes, channels, dams, and other barriers, or removing such structures where removal would be a more cost-effective option for reducing threats to downstream property
- MINIMIZE the impacts of development on drinking water sources by utilizing development forms and densities that limit impervious surface coverage to 10% of the overall area to be developed and which preserves the most amount of land in a natural or undisturbed state
- PRESERVE and maintain traditional working lands for the production of food and fiber, and support niche agricultural operations that enhance community food security throughout Connecticut
- ATTAIN National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with Connecticut's State Implementation Plan, with emphasis on cost-effective strategies and effective enforcement of regulated sources
- REDUCE carbon dioxide emissions in this state consistent with the recommendations of the Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan
- PROMOTE transportation alternatives to the automobile, such as bicycling, walking, and public transportation as a means to reducing energy consumption, air pollution, and obesity-related health care costs
- EMPHASIZE pollution prevention, the efficient use of energy, and recycling of material resources as the primary means of maintaining a clean and healthful environment
- PROACTIVELY ADDRESS climate change adaptation strategies to manage the public health and safety risks associated with the potential increased frequency and/or severity of flooding and drought conditions, including impacts to public water supplies, air quality and agriculture/aquaculture production

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #5 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.



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Growth Management Principle #6

Promote Integrated Planning Across all Levels of Government to Address Issues on a Statewide, Regional and Local Basis

Focusing specifically on the growth management principle written above, answer the questions that follow. Use the comment boxes below each question to provide any additional details or cite specific examples.

1. Use the scale below to rate the state's level of success in implementing Growth Management Principle #6 in your municipality or region.

If you wish to explain your selection or cite any specific examples, including ways in which the State has or has not succeeded in implementing this growth management principle in your municipality or region, please feel free to do so in the comment box below.

No success at all

Little success

Some success

Much success

No opinion

Comments:

2. Click the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #6 that you consider important to your municipality or region. Check all that apply.

- DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT a robust framework for geographic information sharing that will service the common needs of all users and permit the orderly storage, organization, and handling of large amounts of geographic data
- INITIATE a progressive program for the sharing of planning data among state agencies, regional planning organizations, and municipalities
- SUPPORT the creation of an objective and uniform water and sewer need assessment protocol to help municipalities realistically assess their options for addressing community development goals, relative to cost, environmental and public health considerations, and local management capacity
- ENCOURAGE municipalities to incorporate utility service areas from approved wastewater facility plans and water supply plans into the local plan of conservation and development, so that any future state agency-sponsored actions can be coordinated and designed to accommodate locally-desired development forms and/or outcomes that are consistent with growth management principles
- PROVIDE advisory statements to state agencies as required under CGS Section 16a-31 when they prepare required programmatic plans and undertake certain actions using state or federal funds, to ensure that the State C&D Plan is implemented on a consistent basis
- ASSIST municipalities and regional planning organizations in the planning and implementation of cooperative ventures that are intended to reduce the property tax burden on residents, while providing essential services and equipment more efficiently
- ENCOURAGE regional planning organizations and economic development districts to develop coordinated and effective regional plans and strategies for implementing projects that address the priorities of each region

3. Please discuss any ways the state agency policies under Growth Management Principle #6 can be refined to better guide state actions in your municipality and region.



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Written Principles and Policies: Overall Satisfaction

1. Now that you have reviewed the six growth management principles and their associated policies, consider them collectively and indicate your **overall** level of satisfaction with each of the following. Use the box below to add any specific comments if you have any.

Completely satisfied Generally satisfied Generally unsatisfied No opinion

The appropriateness and relevance of the written principles and policies in the 2013-2018 State C&D Plan

The completeness and inclusiveness of the written principles and policies in the 2013-2018 State C&D Plan

The state's implementation of the written principles and policies in the 2013-2018 State C&D Plan

Comments or examples:

This concludes Part I of the survey. Click Next to begin Part II: Priority Funding Areas



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Part II: Priority Funding Areas

Background

For each State C&D Plan revision, OPM is required to recommend criteria for delineating the boundaries of priority funding areas on the Locational Guide Map (LGM).

After a state agency has determined a proposed action to be consistent with the written principles and policies of the State C&D Plan under CGS Sec. 16a-31, the agency will determine whether the proposed action is a "growth-related project" using the definition provided in CGS Sec. 16a-35c.

If the proposed action is a growth-related project, it must be located entirely within a priority funding area, unless the state agency is granted an exception under CGS Sec. 16a-35d(b) to locate the project outside of a priority funding area. To receive an exception, the project must be consistent with the municipal plan of conservation and must meet at least one of the statutory exception criteria.

For additional information, please see pages 30 to 35 of the State C&D Plan.

1. Would you like to answer questions regarding the priority funding areas delineated on the State C&D Plan's Locational Guide Map? If you have no input regarding the priority funding areas, you may answer "no" to skip directly to the end of the survey.

- Yes, I want to provide input on priority funding areas.
- No, I do not have input on priority funding areas. Take me to the end of the survey.



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Part II: Priority Funding Areas

1. How well do the priority funding area boundaries in the [2013-2018 Locational Guide Map](#) align with the conservation and development goals in your municipal or regional POCD? If you have specific examples to explain your selection, you may provide them in the box below.

- Little alignment
- Some alignment
- High degree of alignment
- I'm not sure

Comments:

2. To what extent are your municipality's or region's goals for conservation in conflict with the priority funding areas and balanced priority funding areas in the 2013-2018 Locational Guide Map? Feel free to provide comments in the box below.

- No conflicts
- A few conflicts
- Many conflicts
- I'm not sure

Comments:

In the 2013-2018 Locational Guide Map, priority funding areas are classified by Census Blocks that include at least one of the following criteria:

- Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in the 2010 Census
- Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations
- Existing or planned sewer service from an adopted Wastewater Facility Plan
- Existing or planned water service from an adopted Public Drinking Water Supply Plan
- Local bus service provided 7 days a week

3. Can the above priority funding area classification scheme be improved by using different criteria or requirements? If you have specific ideas you want to share, please provide them in the box below.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Comments:

4. Would your municipality prefer parcel boundary-based priority funding areas? Please explain why you believe this would be a good or bad idea in the comment box below.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Comments:



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Part II: Priority Funding Areas (continued)

In the 2013-2018 Locational Guide Map, there are three types of priority funding areas (PFAs). The three PFA types and their applicability to growth-related projects are represented by the colored chart below. Balanced priority funding areas exist wherever a priority funding area overlaps one or more mapped conservation factors. In those instances, the conservation factors are classified as "balanced" priority funding areas, even though the same conservation factors result in a "conservation area" classification when they occur outside of priority funding areas. Village priority funding areas are specially designated by municipalities in order to recognize the unique characteristics and needs of traditional village centers.

A state agency may undertake state actions in a balanced priority funding area in the same fashion that it undertakes them in a regular priority funding area, as long as the agency internally documents how it will address any potential policy conflicts. Village priority funding areas have a similar documentation requirement.

When a state agency proposes to locate a growth-related project outside of one of the three types of priority funding areas, an exception may be granted under CGS Sec. 16a-35d(b) only when the project is demonstrated to be consistent with the municipal POCD.

Priority Funding Areas	Balanced Priority Funding Areas	Village Priority Funding Areas	Conservation Areas	Undesignated Areas
Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception	Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will address any potential policy conflicts	Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will help sustain village character	Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*	Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*

1. Do you believe the above documentation requirements for growth-related projects proposed in balanced priority funding areas and village priority funding areas are sufficient to ensure that potential conflicts between state and local conservation and development priorities will be adequately addressed? If not, please offer suggestions or comments in the box below.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Comments:

2. Beyond the existing priority funding area exception process, do you believe the municipal POCD should be used to help guide state actions proposed in balanced priority funding areas and village priority funding areas? If so, please share your ideas for the role of the municipal POCD in the comment box below.

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

Comments:

3. In the priority funding area revision process for the 2013-2018 Locational Guide Map, OPM prepared initial priority funding area boundaries for public review and comment. Municipalities were then afforded an opportunity to propose priority funding area boundary changes for OPM's consideration as part of the public comment period. Can this revision process be improved for the 2018-2023 Locational Guide Map? If so, please explain.

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Comments:

4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions that might help OPM refine the Locational Guide Map?



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Almost done!

1. If you have any additional comments or concerns pertaining to the C&D Plan or Locational Guide Map that were not covered in this survey, please list them below.

You have reached the end of the survey! Thank you for taking the time to supply OPM with valuable information to inform the next State C&D Plan. For further information or to contact OPM directly regarding this survey or other matters, please visit www.ct.gov/opm/cdplan.

IMPORTANT: YOU MUST CLICK "DONE" TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY, OR YOUR RESPONSES WILL NOT BE RECORDED