



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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CONNECTICUT'S OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS MADE AND GOALS YET TO BE ACHIEVED.

Link here to the Annual Report (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ_AnnualReport)

Hartford, May 4, 2023 – Yesterday, the Council delivered to Governor Lamont its annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*. Since the Council's creation in 1971, its annual reports have succinctly documented the condition of Connecticut's environment.

Generally, Connecticut's environment is better than it was ten years ago and significantly better than the environmental conditions from when the Council was created. The annual report highlights the progress made to improve Connecticut's environment, such as the quality of the state's water and air, the increase in the populations of raptors, such as bald eagles and osprey, and the effects of climate change.

While the causes of the warming climate are predominantly from beyond the State's border, the consequences are evident here in the state through warmer temperatures, more precipitation, displacement of local biota – such as lobsters and fishes in Long Island Sound songbirds in our forests, and intrusions by invasive species. Indeed, many of the indicators identified in the annual report are individually affected by climate change, but most are affected through their connections to one or more other indicators.

“The state's recent efforts to address climate change are noteworthy, but there remain persistent challenges presented by efforts to provide energy independence, housing opportunity and economic growth,” stated Keith Ainsworth, the Council's acting chairman. “The preservation of open space such as farmland, forestland, and parks is an indirect but important measure to reduce carbon and improve the quality of life for Connecticut's residents.”

The most recent data indicate that Connecticut is making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but more action is needed - especially in the transportation and electricity generation sectors. For the transportation sector, the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, the annual report assesses the adoption of zero emission electric drive vehicles, driving, fuel consumption, and use of public transportation. For the electricity generation sector, the annual report assesses the sources and use of electricity.

The annual report also quantifies the challenges to achieving the state's goals for open space acquisition, farmland and forest preservation, waste diversion, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

End

About the Council

Established in 1971, the Council on Environmental Quality submits Connecticut's annual report on the status of the environment to the Governor pursuant to section 22a-12 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Additional responsibilities of the Council include review of construction projects of other state agencies, publication of the twice-monthly Environmental Monitor, and investigation of citizens' complaints and allegations of violations of environmental laws.