



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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CONTACTS: Keith R. Ainsworth, Esq., Acting Chair
keithrainsworth@live.com, 203-435-2014

Paul Aresta, Executive Director
Paul.Aresta@ct.gov, 860 424-4000 (Office)

CONNECTICUT'S OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT SERVES AS AN IMPORTANT BASELINE IN A TIME OF POTENTIAL CHANGE.

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

Hartford, May 1, 2025 – Yesterday, the Council on Environmental Quality (Council) delivered to Governor Lamont its annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, for 2024. The Council's annual report indicates both improvement in some areas of environmental quality and regression in others.

The Council's annual report serves as an important baseline for where Connecticut's environment currently stands. The federal government has indicated that there will likely be reductions in federal funding and manpower, and changes to environmental protection regulations in the near term. These proposed changes in federal resources and policies could impact Connecticut's environment.

"While our federal government drives toward extreme federalism, it will be up to the states to lead by example on environmental quality, as Connecticut has done for the last half century", stated Keith Ainsworth, acting chair of the Council. "At this time, it is critically important that Connecticut achieve the highest standards with regards to environmental protection."

Again, this year, the Council's annual report examines over forty different indicators of environmental health and human activity to illustrate environmental trends, both positive and negative, primarily for the 2024 calendar year. The annual report also appropriately focuses on greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts that climate change are having on Connecticut's environment. Indeed, the most recent data indicate that the trends for temperature and precipitation in Connecticut are increasing. This has resulted in increased coastal beach closures, Asian tiger mosquitoes, and discharges of untreated or partially treated wastewater from combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer overflows in 2024. And while there has been progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across multiple sectors over the last 20 years, more needs to be done.

"While climate change continues to be a significant risk, challenges to access to justice and the courts is a concerning recent development. Additional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are needed now more than ever", stated Ainsworth. "There exists real and urgent priorities like reducing the cost of energy; however, policies and programs that support reductions in greenhouse gases, such as renewable energy and electric vehicles, should be expanded."

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Timothy J. Bishop

Linda Bowers

Christopher Donnelly

David Kalafa

Aimee Petras

Denise Rodosevich

William Warzecha

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

The Council's annual report also identifies strategies to remedy the deficiencies of existing programs and improve Connecticut's environment, such as reducing the amount of solid waste and the consumption of energy; promoting nature-based solutions, such as the preservation of open space land and farmland; and improving air and water quality.

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.