



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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CONNECTICUT'S OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENT INDICATES IMPROVEMENT IN SOME INDICATORS, DECLINE IN OTHERS.

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

Aimee Petras

Denise Rodosevich

Hartford, April 29, 2026 – Yesterday, the Council on Environmental Quality (Council) delivered to Governor Lamont its annual report, *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, for 2025. The Council's annual report indicates both improvement in some areas of environmental quality and regression in others and serves as an important baseline for where Connecticut's environment currently stands.

William Warzecha

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 2025 calendar year. The annual report also appropriately focuses on greenhouse gas emissions and the impact that climate change is having on Connecticut's environment. Many of the indicators in this report, such as temperature, precipitation, heating/cooling degree days, water level and water temperature of Long Island Sound show that Connecticut's climate is getting warmer and wetter, and that changes in the climate are having direct impacts on Connecticut's environment. The report notes that greenhouse gas emissions for the most recent year that data is available (2023) increased by about 1.5 percent from 2022 levels, with the transportation sector accounting for almost 42 percent of the total.

Paul Aresta
Executive Director

“Achieving the emission reduction goals set forth in several public acts will be difficult without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. stated Timothy Bishop, acting chair of the Council. “Programs and policies to promote renewable energy, such as solar, and electric-drive vehicles (EVs) have been successful and should be expanded.”

There is good news to report. The area of hypoxia in Long Island Sound and beach closures/advisories for Connecticut's coastal beaches declined in 2025 due to several factors, such as reductions in nitrogen discharges, fewer sewer overflows, and better controls for stormwater runoff. Populations of bald eagle, osprey, and piping plover have increased over the last few decades due, in part, to successful reintroduction programs and habitat protection measures. And while there has been a shift to more warm-adapted finfish species in Long Island Sound, overall finfish diversity in the Sound remains high.

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.