

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 – 1,039

Operating expenses - \$245,662,715

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 Radiation. **Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance:** Divisions of Waste Engineering & Enforcement; Emergency Response and Spill Prevention; and Permitting and Enforcement (permitted discharges). **Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse:** Divisions of Inland Water Resources; Remediation; 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 2015-2016, 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 2015/2016

Energy

- Issued three historic Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to secure new, cost-effective clean energy resources to help ensure supplies of affordable and reliable power for Connecticut families and businesses. Responses to all three RFPs will be evaluated against each other to select projects that best meet the needs of Connecticut's ratepayers. The RFPs included requests for projects in these categories:
- *Natural Gas Resources:* Liquefied natural gas, natural gas pipeline capacity, natural gas storage – all aimed at increasing the availability of natural gas for electric generating facilities.
- *Large-Scale Clean Energy:* 20 Megawatt and above, as well as associated transmission. This RFP is being coordinated with the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- *Small-Scale Clean Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Energy Storage:* Projects providing or supplanting 2-20 Megawatts.
- Developed a request for proposals (RFP) to implement a Shared Clean Energy Facility pilot program, which will give a broader range of electric customers the ability to participate in the use of a clean energy resource. Known in other states as shared solar or community solar, the innovative Connecticut approach includes opportunities for the shared use of other renewables, such as wind, fuel cells and anaerobic digestion.
- As a result of increased investments in energy efficiency, Connecticut was ranked sixth among the 50 states in the annual scorecard issued by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). The strong ranking reflects the state's efforts to reduce the demand for electric power to reap the benefits of lower bills for families and businesses, a stronger economy, cleaner air, and a reduction in harmful carbon emissions linked to climate change.
- The first municipal microgrid project financed through a state pilot program went on line in the town of Fairfield. The 50-kilowatt system will provide power – that will continue running even when the grid is down – for Fairfield's police station, fire headquarters, and emergency operations center, as well as for a public shelter and a cell tower. Established after major power outages from a series of storms in 2011 and 2012, the pilot program has awarded \$23 million for 11 microgrid projects in two rounds of funding.

Utility Regulation

- The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has plenary economic and service quality jurisdiction over Connecticut's investor-owned electric, water, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities, along with other utility regulatory responsibilities.
- During 2015-2016, PURA:
 - Adjudicated several major proceedings including Iberdrola's acquisition of the UIL companies (United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Connecticut Natural Gas).
 - Released a report and action plan on strengthening preparedness for cybersecurity challenges.
 - Set standard service rates for Eversource and the United Illuminating Company, and adjudicated a revised rate plan proposed by the United Illuminating Company.
 - Reviewed the gas expansion plans of the major natural gas companies, and performed more than 500 inspections of natural gas facilities
 - Oversaw implementation of the new 959 area code and handled more than 150 applications from wireless telecommunications providers to install advanced facilities.

Climate Change

- CT continues to serve as a national leader in addressing Climate Change from both sides of the climate equation: The state is focused on both mitigation – reduction of carbon emissions – and adaptation – strategies to protect communities from changes we are already seeing.

Mitigation

- The Governor's Council on Climate Change developed greenhouse gas emission reduction scenarios that will help inform its recommendation for setting a mid-term target and developing new policies, regulations, or legislative actions to ensure the state is on a path to meet its Global Warming Solutions Act goal of 80 percent below 2001 carbon levels by 2050.

- Connecticut continues to be an active participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas initiative (RGGI), an initiative of nine New England and Mid-Atlantic States aimed at reducing carbon emissions from electric generating facilities – a major source of carbon emissions. The RGGI states have experienced a reduction of more than 45 percent in power sector CO pollution since 2005, even as the regional economy has grown 8 percent. In addition, participating states have benefited from more than \$1.3 billion in RGGI proceeds to invest in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance.
- Announced expanded funding for a rebate program designed to encourage car buyers to purchase or lease alternative vehicles, such as Electric Vehicles. The Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) program puts money back in the pockets of car buyers when they choose eligible vehicles which run cleaner and can help reduce carbon emissions and conventional pollution from the transportation sector. This sector produces nearly 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas pollution as well as half of all smog-forming air pollution emitted in the state.

Adaptation

- The work of the CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), a partnership between DEEP and the University of Connecticut, is providing real and practical solutions to climate challenges for communities, residents, businesses, and institutions in vulnerable shoreline and flood plain portions of our state.
- CIRCA initiatives are providing grant funds for projects to protect critical infrastructure and properties, as well as developing data and information that communities will use to engage in sound land use planning for the future. CIRCA also played a key role in Connecticut's successful application to HUD's National Disaster Resilience Competition that resulted in a \$54 million federal grant award, and continues to be involved in implementation of projects that this grant is funding.

Environmental Quality

Materials Management

- Adopted a new Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS) providing a framework for doubling the diversion of trash to 60% by increasing the recycling rate and recapturing more materials of value from the waste stream. The strategy focuses on strengthening local waste reduction and recycling programs; use of new technologies to more effectively sort recyclables and recover materials from the waste stream; and greater participation from corporations that produce materials to have them share in the cost and development of recycling programs.
- Issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to redevelop the waste-to-energy facilities in Hartford and other locations operated by the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA), formerly known as the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority

(CRRA). The RFP invited proposals for a range of technologies to upgrade or replace the present system in order to significantly reduce the volume of waste combusted.

- The new CT Recycles Foundation was launched to build public awareness and participation in recycling. The Foundation announced a series of grants to schools and not-for-profit organizations to implement recycling education initiatives and enhanced recycling programs.

Stormwater Management

- Adopted new General Permit requirements for the operation of 121 municipal and federal and state institution stormwater systems in order to protect and enhance the quality of the state's waters. The new requirements will strengthen maintenance and oversight of local stormwater systems, which discharge waters into rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.

Brownfields Remediation

- Continued efforts to streamline the process for cleanup of contaminated lands in order to put properties back into productive reuse – eliminating threats to human health and the environment and public health as well as generating new tax revenues for cities and towns and creating jobs for our residents.

Wastewater Treatment

- The first municipal treatment plants with capacity for removal of phosphorous – which impairs the quality of inland waters came on line in Cheshire and Manchester. These project were funded through the state's Clean Water Fund (CWF).
- The Mattabassett District wastewater treatment plant expansion was completed to provide regionalized, cost-effective service to the city of Middletown – a project funded through the state's Clean Water Fund (CWF).
- Work continued on major Clean Water Fund projects with the Hartford area Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) and the New Haven area wastewater treatment district aimed at separating storm water from sanity sewer systems in order to reduce overflows of sewage into the Connecticut River or Long Island Sound.

Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission

DEEP continues to coordinate the activities of the Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and is an active member of this organization.

SERC was established by Connecticut Law (CGS, Section 22a-600) and is tasked with the implementation of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) in Connecticut.

The Commission:

- Oversees five Regional Districts (62 Cities/Towns) and 107 Local Emergency Planning Committees.
- Supports community, industry, government and academia in planning, release and incident reporting, data management guidance for inventory reporting, public disclosure of information about hazardous chemicals in Connecticut as well as development of training and outreach programs through federal grant opportunities.
- Serves as a state clearinghouse for hazardous chemical emergency preparedness and planning activities and information through coordination with federal, tribal nations, state, local governments, industry and community interest groups.

Members of the Commission represent the interest of state and local government, emergency services and public protection, public health, industry, energy and environment, labor, and the public.

The Great Outdoors

State Parks

- Continuing investments in state park infrastructure pay dividends at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, with the opening of a new, state-of-the-art environmental education facility, Meigs Point Nature Center and a new, modern bathhouse facility at West Beach. The bathhouse, which offers many visitor accommodations and services, replaces a facility damaged during a storm.
- With opportunities for public input and comment, plans moved forward for major investments at Silver Sands State Park, Milford, and Seaside, Waterford. These projects will help ensure a strong future for the state park system and increase public access for outdoor recreation opportunities on Connecticut's shoreline.
- Silver Sands: plans call for construction of a facility offering public bathrooms, changing areas, a snack bar, a wraparound deck with scenic vistas, and office space for law enforcement and lifeguard staff. The plan also includes construction of a maintenance facility.
- Seaside: A Master Plan was finalized calling for development of trails, fishing areas, a boat launch, and other recreational features on the 32-acre site which was declared a state park in 2014. The plan also calls for adaptive reuse of historic buildings on the site through development of a state park lodge, with meeting space and a restaurant, through a public/private partnership.

- A year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of dinosaur tracks in Rocky Hill was launched at Dinosaur State Parks. The celebration included a series of family-friendly outdoor and educational activities at the popular state park museum.

Natural Resources

- Activities were rolled out to celebrate the 150th anniversary of natural resource conservation on Connecticut – the roots of which can be traced to establishment of a state Fisheries Commission in 1866. Now under the auspices of DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources, resource conservation in Connecticut includes comprehensive and science-based programs and initiatives to protect resources, waters, woodlands and habitats, as well as wildlife and aquatic species.
- Connecticut received federal approval of its Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), a blueprint for proactively conserving fish and wildlife, as well as the habitats they need to thrive. Approval of the plan by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes a framework for collaborative conservation efforts by many partners at the state, local and landscape levels and continues Connecticut's eligibility for a wide range of federal funding.
- DEEP dispatched 20-person fire crews consisting of certified agency staff and local firefighters to help fight major forest fires in California and Montana as part of its participation in a mutual aid program operated by the U.S. Forest Service.
- DEEP's fish hatcheries raised and stocked approximately 1.5 million catchable fish, smaller fry and fingerlings in more than 200 rivers and streams and 100 lakes and ponds across the state to support the needs of recreational anglers.
- Grant awards through several key DEEP programs furthered efforts to protect our state's environment and natural resources.
 - Almost \$6 million was awarded to support 17 communities in the purchase of 949 acres of open space, to assist three urban communities in enhancing or developing community gardens, and to allow a fourth urban community to establish a natural habitat for environmental education. These grants through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program further efforts to achieve the state goal of protecting 21% of Connecticut's land as open space by 2023.
 - More than \$5.8 million in grants was awarded for 38 projects to build, expand, or enhance greenways and multi-use trails in more than 27 communities across the state. The funding was provided through an expanded Recreational Trails Grant Program.
 - 48 marine facilities received more than \$1.2 million to provide pump out facilities for the proper disposal of sewage from recreational vessels. These funds, made available by the federal government, come through DEEP's Clean Vessel Act

program. During the 2015 boating season, pump out facilities and vessels removed a record level of more than 1.2 million gallons of recreational marine sewage from vessel on Long island Sound and Candlewood Lake, helping to protect the water quality of these areas.

Agency Transformation

LEAN

- DEEP continues to employ LEAN techniques to streamline permitting and enforcement decision making processes as well as to improve the agency's own business practices.
 - During the year, the agency engaged in five LEAN projects, with a continued emphasis on interagency projects and building capacity through partnerships.
 - DEEP has also mentored and trained other state agencies and other environmental agencies on the implementation of process improvement methods and hosted events for many of them.
 - With a focus on LEAN since 2008, DEEP has now conducted and implemented improvements resulting from more than 80 projects and 60% of agency staff have participated in this initiative.

Technology Advances

- DEEP is working to make the best use of modern technologies to make it more convenient and efficient for the regulated community and the public to do business with the agency and to communicate important information to these audiences.
 - Online offerings through DEEP's EZ-File system were expanded and now provide the opportunity to obtain several permits electronically and also to file various reports and information that are required.
 - DEEP expanded the number of Facebook pages provided by various programs, to reach more people with important news and information.