

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

At a Glance

KATHERINE S. DYKES, COMMISSIONER

Victoria Hackett, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Energy (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Energy and Technology Policy)

Vacant, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Quality (Air Management, Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, and Water Protection and Land Reuse)

Mason Trumble, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation (Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources)

Established – 2011

Statutory authority – CGS § 22a-2d

Central office – 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Number of employees – 982

Recurring operating expenses – \$208,136,229

Organizational structure –

Office of the Commissioner – Chief of Staff; Office of Legal Counsel; Office of Adjudications; Communications, Public Affairs and Web Publications; Office of Policy and Legislative Programs; Office of Planning & Regulatory Affairs; Planning & Program Development; Climate Planning; Land Acquisition and Management; Equity and Environmental Justice; and the Bureau of Central Services.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Energy (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy) – PURA: Office of Education, Outreach and Enforcement; Office of Administration and Operations; Office of Technical and Regulatory Analysis; Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs; and Office of Federal, Regional and Wholesale Affairs. Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy: Office of Energy Supply and Infrastructure; Office of Building and Transportation Decarbonization; Office of Telecommunications and Broadband; Office of Affordable Housing Energy Retrofits.

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 Engineering & Enforcement; Emergency Response and Spill Prevention; Permitting and Enforcement; and Office of Planning. Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse: Divisions of Remediation; Water Planning & Management; and Land & Water Resources.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation (Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources) – Bureau of Natural Resources: Divisions of Forestry; Fisheries; and

Wildlife. **Bureau of Outdoor Recreation:** Divisions of Boating; Environmental Conservation Police; and State Parks and Public Outreach.

Mission

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is charged with conserving, improving, and protecting the natural resources and the environment of the state of Connecticut as well as making cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable energy available for the people and businesses of the state. The agency is also committed to playing a positive role in rebuilding Connecticut's economy and creating jobs – and to fostering a sustainable and prosperous economic future for the state.

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 (codified at CGS § 22a-2d). 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 2021-2022, DEEP continued to focus on:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the department
- Advancing the state's agenda to provide cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy and broadband to Connecticut's residents and businesses
- Effective and efficient management of the state's public utilities
- Protecting our environment and natural resources
- Providing first-class outdoor recreational opportunities to residents, businesses, and visitors
- Increasing equity, inclusion, and access in department services
- Working to increase staff diversity in all programs to reflect the state's changing demographics.
- Increasing outreach and education to environmental justice and vulnerable communities
- Redesigning our webpage with input from communities and other stakeholders
- Increasing government transparency
- Continuing to collaborate with state and federally recognized tribes

Highlights and Achievements 2021-2022

Energy Branch

Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy

Office of Telecommunications and Broadband

- Office created to fulfill DEEP's obligations under Public Act 21-159; to plan for universal access to high-speed broadband service; and to implement broadband infrastructure development.
- Submitted and gained approval for a Program Plan for a \$42.9 million competitive subgrantee program for the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure throughout the State as part of the American Rescue Plan Act's Capital Projects Fund.
- Released a Request for Information seeking comment from municipalities, service providers, and other stakeholders to inform the design and implementation of Connecticut's broadband infrastructure programs.
- Participated in regulatory matters to ensure the safe and efficient deployment of equitable broadband, including supporting the One-Touch-Make-Ready process to streamline the pole attachment implementation and advocacy for the adoption of a Dig Once / Joint Trench approach to conduit excavations.

Office of Affordable Housing Energy Retrofits

- Office created to implement Public Act 21-48.
- Launched a Weatherization Barrier Remediation Program to make homes for people with limited income ready for energy-saving weatherization programs.
- Co-led a working group to provide input into the development of the residential solar tariff for multi-unit affordable housing.
- Revamped the state's Weatherization Assistance Program to leverage an increase in federal funding.

Office of Building and Transportation Decarbonization

- Modified and approved the 2022-2024 Conservation and Load Management Plan to align it with the Administration's equity and clean energy goals.
- Memorandum of Agreement executed to implement \$26 million worth of energy efficiency projects across state buildings.
- July 29th Bond Commission Meeting released \$15.7 million in funding to implement energy efficiency projects at state buildings.
- Actively participated in the managed charging working group led by EDC, which resulted in enhancements to Connecticut's managed charging program. Additions and programmatic changes are currently under review by PURA.

- Assisted the Connecticut Department of Transportation in the development of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure plan.
- Supported two key pieces of legislation, both of which were approved.
 - Right to Charge: Removes the ability for HOAs and landlords to unreasonably restrict residents from installing charging stations.
 - Fee-based charging at state facilities: Gives state agencies statutory authority to recoup operational costs associated with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.
- Continued participation, including detailed written comments and presentations, in PURA docket items.

Office of Energy Supply and Infrastructure

- Released the final [Integrated Resources Plan](#), an assessment of future electric needs and a plan to meet those future needs that looks at both demand side (conservation, energy efficiency, etc.) resources as well as the more traditional supply side (generation/power plants, transmission lines, etc.) resources. This latest iteration is Connecticut's first assessment of pathways to achieve a 100% zero-carbon electric sector by 2040, as directed by Governor Ned Lamont through [Executive Order No. 3](#) and now required by [Public Act 22-5](#).
- Joined a multistate agreement, along with New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maine, and Rhode Island, to develop a proposal to become one of at least four regional clean energy hydrogen hubs designated through the federal Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs program included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- Reviewed and screened proposals for year three of Connecticut's Shared Clean Energy Facilities (SCEF) program, which aims to deploy 25 MW per year of Class I renewable energy resources such as solar and fuel cells and provide on-bill savings to participating customers, the majority of which are low to moderate income.

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

- Adjudicated and approved eight applications for Water Infrastructure and Conservation Adjustments for the purpose of accelerating the replacement or rehabilitation of aging water systems as well as to encourage conservation and secure system resilience.
- Continued to better ensure public safety and deter safety violations and violators by conducting approximately 400 gas pipeline safety inspections, investigating over 600 reports of Call Before You Dig damages and violations, and taking over 235 enforcement actions, including collecting approximately \$511,000 in civil penalties.
- Issued final decisions in several regulatory proceedings to advance grid modernization, equity, and energy affordability in the state, including the following:
 - Continued advancement of the Authority's Equitable Modern Grid Initiative
 - June 14, 2021: Established the statewide zero emission electric vehicle charging program in docket 17-12-03RE04 to incentivize the deployment of networked Level 2 electric vehicle supply equipment, direct current fast chargers, and accompanying rate designs. This program has a goal of deploying 50,000 residential chargers, and nearly 13,000 chargers at

workplaces and other destinations by 2050. The program launched officially in January 2022.

- July 28, 2021: Established the Electric Storage Solutions program in the 17-12-03re03 decision pursuant to Public Act 21-43 with the goal of deploying 580MW of energy storage across customer classes by 2030. The program offers declining block incentives with adders for low-income and underserved communities. The program officially launched in January 2022.
- March 30, 2022: Established the Innovative Energy Solutions Program in docket 17-12-03RE05 to bring innovative technologies and programs that benefit all ratepayers to scale in a monitored “regulatory sandbox environment.” The program commits up to \$25 million a year to testing and scaling technologies that deliver or exceed expected benefits and will increase the modernization and resilience capabilities of CT's grid. The program will officially launch in early 2023.
- Continued emphasis on equity and affordability from both procedural and substantive perspectives.
 - April 20, 2022: Established a centralized data reporting platform through the 2021-2022 Arrearage Forgiveness Program Proceeding (21-07-01) that was recommended in the 17-12-03RE01 Energy Affordability Decision. This platform will provide greater transparency and accessibility in reviewing the companies’ data related to uncollectible, customer service metrics, and existing reporting requirements. It will also allow the Authority to track progress towards offering energy assistance and flexible payment arrangements for customers in need, while mitigating the impact of uncollectible. It will also serve as a foundational tool in the Authority's ongoing PBR proceeding. This decision also established expanded flexible payment arrangement parameters for the EDCs and LDCs.
 - Reviewed and approved 3 fuel cell projects with a total capacity of 1850 MW.
- Monitored the activities of electric suppliers in Connecticut and initiated investigations regarding certain practices of several of those electric suppliers to determine whether they are in compliance with state statutes, state regulations and PURA’s orders. From July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, the Authority settled 15 matters with suppliers, resulting in more than \$7 million in fines and other actions.

Environmental Quality Branch (Air, Waste, and Water)

Bureau of Air Management

- **Advocated for strong federal clean air rules, standards, and policies to advance Connecticut’s goals and objectives, including:**
 - EPA’s rules for light-duty vehicles
 - Oil and gas standards for methane
 - EPA’s rule for heavy-duty trucks

- EPA’s Transport rule and “Good Neighbor Federal Implementation Plan”
- Reclassification of Areas for the 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards
- **Advanced clean transportation/mobile source regulatory strategies**
 - Advanced the adoption of Connecticut’s Clean Air Act Public Act 22-25 and oversaw implementation of clean air related provisions.
 - Engaged with California as part of its regulatory process for advancing a clean vehicles proposal.
 - Managed the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) vehicle incentive program and provided administrative support for the CHEAPR Board by deploying almost \$14 million to support the purchase of over 8,000 clean vehicles in Connecticut.
 - Administered several funding sources, including Volkswagen, the Diesel Emissions Reductions Act, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean School Bus Program, to support the transformation of the transportation sector to meet the State’s air quality and climate goals.
- **Continued to address ozone nonattainment, air pollution transport, and advance regional collaboration**
 - Continued to manage the ozone reclassification process and the development of an implementation plan and regulatory agenda.
 - Continued to work collaboratively with the Office of the Attorney General and participate in regional and national dialogues to ensure compliance with “Good Neighbor” requirements and other policy and legal mechanisms to address air pollution transport.
- **Monitored air quality statewide and issued daily air quality forecasts**
 - Maintained and operated an existing network of 14 air quality monitoring sites statewide.
 - Issued a daily forecast to inform the public of air quality levels measured daily and issued corresponding public health notifications.
 - Advanced efforts in community-based monitoring to further expand statewide monitoring efforts and increase data and transparency on localized air quality conditions.
- **Air Quality Permitting**
 - Implemented the Title V and NSR permitting programs.
 - Continue to prioritize permit timeliness and meeting 20by20 timeframes, an initiative to increase the predictability, efficiency, and transparency of DEEP’s regulatory processes.
 - Continued to advance a regulatory agenda in response to EPA rulemakings.
- **Air Enforcement**
 - Administered a field inspection program of major and minor sources of air pollution to meet EPA requirements and commitments including all phases of compliance reviews.
 - Developed administrative enforcement cases, consent orders, penalty calculations, closures, and case referrals.

- **Ensured the safe, secure, and environmentally responsible use of ionizing radiation**
 - In cooperation with federal partners, continued to provide ongoing support and oversight, and to ensure safety and regulatory compliance for operations at the Millstone Nuclear Power facility.
 - Ensured state oversight and safety requirements for mammography.
 - Coordinated emergency planning, preparedness, and response efforts.
- **Compliance Assistance/Education and Outreach/Electronic Tools/Environmental Justice**
 - Supported and completed the E-filing of annual emission statements.
 - Held bi-monthly meetings of the Air Advisory Committee (SIPRAC) to promote effective communications and enhanced transparency with stakeholders.
 - Focused compliance assistance efforts in the Air Bureau's permitting and enforcement programs on building stronger links with environmental justice stakeholders.
- **Continued engagement in statewide, regional, and national issues associated with air quality and radiation safety by representing Connecticut's interests with the following organizations**
 - National Association of Clean Air Agencies
 - Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management
 - Ozone Transport Commission
 - Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force
 - Nuclear Energy Advisory Council

Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance

Waste Engineering and Enforcement Division

- The single largest component of solid waste that is sent to incinerators and landfills is organic waste, including food scraps. Infrastructure in Connecticut is growing to handle organic waste and recycle and repurpose such materials.
 - With an initial \$5 million in funding from the Legislature, DEEP created the Sustainable Materials Management Grant Program to provide grants to municipalities interested in piloting organics collection programs. The agency received expressions of interest from over 50 municipalities and, of those, 25 moved on to Phase 2 and submitted complete applications to DEEP. DEEP is now working with a subset of eighteen municipalities to award grants in this first round. The grants will support a variety of organics collection methods, and part of the awards will be dedicated to making these pilot programs permanent.
 - Additionally, DEEP has retained the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) to provide direct technical assistance to businesses to divert food scraps. Since the start of the contract in January 2022, CET has conducted outreach to 528 businesses, provided technical assistance to 58 businesses, and worked with three municipalities and two regions in assisting their business districts, emphasizing food service businesses.

- DEEP and more than 100 municipalities from across the state have now joined the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) formed in 2020 to explore and develop options for actions that Connecticut municipalities and DEEP can implement in order to counter the growing solid waste management concerns faced by the state. As part of the initiative, four working groups were established to focus on specific areas of interest, including: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); Increase Reuse and Recycling; Food Scraps/ Organics Collection and Diversion; and Unit Based Pricing (UBP). Meetings of the coalition and individual working groups are ongoing.
- Connecticut currently has four successful EPR programs for the collection and recycling of used or unwanted electronics, thermostats, paint and mattresses. In 2022, Connecticut passed Public Act 22-27, requiring the establishment of a statewide stewardship program for certain gas cylinders. That program will be fully operational in 2025.
- In 2021, the Legislature passed significant changes to modernize the state’s bottle bill. DEEP has been preparing for the changes in a variety of ways, including initiating a “Bottle Bill Stakeholder Process” in July 2021 to generate feedback from impacted and interested stakeholders about the proposed changes and their implementation. DEEP has also created a Beverage Container Recycling Grant Program, at the direction of the Legislature, to provide grants to establish new redemption centers, particularly geared to new, locally- and minority-owned businesses in environmental justice communities and urban centers.
- DEEP continues to develop opportunities to streamline permitting for food waste collection and processing facilities to increase its diversion. On January 13, 2022, DEEP issued a modification to the existing general permit for commercial solid waste management facilities as Appendix H. The new appendix authorizes the receipt, storage, transfer and de-packaging of food waste at registered aggregation locations throughout the state. Five facilities currently hold individual solid waste facility permits for the management of food waste through anaerobic digestion and food waste composting. Nine additional municipal and private facilities are currently registered for food waste collection and diversion activities under Connecticut Solid Waste Demonstration Project authorizations, temporary authorizations, Beneficial Use Determinations, or other streamlined permitting options. Several other municipalities also collect food scraps at municipal transfer stations or satellite drop off locations authorized under their Municipal Transfer Station General Permit registrations.

Water Permitting and Enforcement Division

- Continued partnership with the Center for Land Use Education and Research and the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials programs at the University of Connecticut to assist Connecticut municipalities with implementing the requirements of the MS4 General Permit. Stormwater runoff is the number one cause of stream impairment in urban areas. The MS4 permit contains requirements for the operation of 132 municipal and federal and state institution stormwater systems to protect and enhance the quality of the state’s waters.
- Stormwater staff are actively participating in the process to update the CT Stormwater Quality Manual and CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control and in a multi-

agency workgroup collaborating to mitigate the impacts of winter salt usage on the environment and drinking water supplies.

Emergency Response and Spill Management Division

- Responded to reports of 1,551 releases of petroleum or hazardous material to ensure steps were taken to protect public health and the environment and that a proper cleanup was conducted.

Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse

- Long Island Sound
 - Completed and received legislative approval of the Long Island Sound Blue Plan (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/LIS-Blue-Plan/Long-Island-Sound-Blue-Plan-Home>).
 - Separately, in partnership with UCONN, secured designation by NOAA of the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Coastal-Resources/NERR/NERR-Home-Page>).
- Water Planning
 - Participated with the Water Planning Council to evaluate the 2016 drought and incorporate recommendations of the Council's Drought Topical Sub-Workgroup into the state's drought planning and response.
- Clean Water
 - Continued to work with communities across the state to upgrade wastewater treatment plants to address phosphorus pollution. By April 1, 2022, substantial completion of phosphorus upgrades was achieved statewide, which will improve water quality by reducing nutrient loads in our rivers, streams, and the Long Island Sound.
- Dam Safety
 - Initiated or completed repair of Pachaug Pond dam, Upper Bolton Lake Dam, and Pine Acres Dam, and removed one state-owned dam.
 - More than 50 state-owned dams were inspected and the process begun to repair or remove six of these dams.
 - DEEP coordinated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and municipalities to apply for funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Release Cleanup
 - Completed significant revisions to the state's cleanup standards, the Remediation Standard Regulations, and the new Environmental Use Restrictions, which will advance the efficiency and quality of pollution cleanups across the state.
- Water Diversions
 - Reissued four legacy diversion permits on the Quinnipiac River. The Quinnipiac River Basin is in a heavily populated area of the state and the river provides waste assimilation as well as diversion from groundwater, which makes the basin complicated for permitting. Reissuing these four permits was possible, in part due to monitoring performed by the permittees and instream monitoring by DEEP over many years.

- Wastewater Treatment
 - Continued work 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 sanitary sewer systems in order to reduce overflows of sewage into the Connecticut River or Long Island Sound.
 - Drafted the FY22-23 Priority List to establish the process for the implementation of the next phase of wastewater infrastructure projects using the Clean Water Fund, as supplemented by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds.
- Sewage Right to Know
 - On December 1, 2021, DEEP’s new cloud-based system (QAlert) and associated CT DEEP Performance Dashboard went live, meeting the expanded reporting requirements of Public Act 21-42. The new system allows reporters to report sewage spills, make corrections, and provide data updates, thus allowing for more accurate data. The new Dashboard also allows for analytics and widgets to improve public transparency and self-service.
 - To meet the real-time notification requirement of Public Act 12-42, DEEP is using a Twitter account called “CTSewerOverflows” (@CTSewageSpills) through which DEEP disseminates reports of sewage spills in the state.
- Coastal Permitting
 - Expanded e-permitting by launching EZ-File phase 2 for the coastal programs permitting programs (Structures, Dredging & Fill & Tidal Wetlands), increasing efficiency by introducing a more intuitive system for creating and filing applications.
- Infrastructure Permitting
 - Completed environmental permitting for highly complex and large infrastructure and economic development projects, including the DOT WALK Bridge rail project in Norwalk and facility upgrades to support offshore wind development at State Pier in New London.

Environmental Conservation Branch (Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources)

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

State Parks and Public Outreach Division

- Attendance at State Parks and Forest Recreation Areas grew considerably during the pandemic, and annual visitation is now estimated at more than 13 million visitors. Our diverse visitors come from every community in the state, and we have removed financial barriers to entry by allowing free parking access to everyone with a CT registered vehicle through our Passport to the Parks program.
- In collaboration with DOT, established The Park ConneCT program, creating free bus and shuttle service to seven Connecticut State Parks, including Hammonasset Beach State Park, during 2021. The program was expanded in 2022 to include three additional

locations: Sherwood Island State Park, Osbornedale State Park, and Indian Well State Park.

- Continued developing projects involving more than \$50 million of infrastructure improvements across our system of state parks and forests. These improvements include repair and refurbishment of historic structures, utility upgrades and the expansion of recreational facilities at our facilities.
- With a consultant and professional trail designer, began designing approximately 30 miles of mountain bike trails in the Pachaug State Forest. The trail will be designed using public input and in a sustainable manner.

Boating Division

- The Boating Division continued to advance Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education through seasonal Boating Education Assistants, providing municipal boat launch monitor training and issuance of special use Licenses. AIS Stamp funds were utilized to provide training to AIS stewards, a digital media campaign for AIS Stamp awareness, and the installation of DecoMark™ Clean Drain Dry logo at six state boat launches. DEEP partnered with the Candlewood Lake Authority to provide public awareness and recommendations for discouraging the growth of these harmful plants and animals.
- The Boating Division's instructors taught approximately 1,300 students in approximately 55 Safe Boating Certificate courses.
- The Boating Division continued to work on renovating/reconstructing boat launches at Squantz Pond State Park and Cedar Island Marina.
- The Boating Division oversaw the removal of 1.187 million gallons of recreational vessel boat sewage through pump outs from vessels in Candlewood Lake and Long Island Sound in 2021. Grant money totaling more than \$1.2 million was also awarded for boat sewage disposal facilities, or pump out stations, for 42 marine facilities during the 2022 boating season. The program is administered by DEEP with a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Clean Vessel Act program and provides free pump out service to boaters in Connecticut.

Environmental Conservation Police Division

- The Environmental Conservation Police Division (EnCon) equipped all officers with body-worn and dash cameras as required by the Police Accountability Act (PA 20-1). In addition, the division has begun to utilize an electronic citation system to increase officers' time in the field and reduce the use of paper and administrative time in transferring tickets to the courts.
- The EnCon Division, despite low staffing levels, remained busy for this fiscal period, logging 21,420 calls for service, which included 204 public outreach events, 95 arrests, 1341 infractions, 656 written warnings and 580 verbal warnings. The Division began to improve its data collection to better document time spent interacting with our outdoor users. Officers contacted approximately 1,950 hunters, 10,150 anglers and 4,180 boaters.
- EnCon, like other divisions across DEEP, has experienced several retirements over the past year and is actively refilling positions and adding an additional five officer positions for the upcoming fiscal year, for a total of 15 new officers.

Bureau of Natural Resources

Forestry Division

- Forestry staff facilitated the development of more than 10,000 acres of new or revised forest stewardship plans on private forest land and provided education and technical assistance to more than 1,300 landowners.
- The Forestry Division enabled private Connecticut forest landowners to access over \$1 million in federal funding from the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program for implementing sound forest management practices.
- State Lands Forest Management staff completed nine timber sale agreements improving forest health and wildlife habitats on approximately 351 acres of Agency-managed State Forests. Staff initiated control of invasive plant species inhibiting natural regeneration on 99 acres.
- Connecticut's Interstate Fire Crew set a new record for number of deployments to assist nationally with wildfire response. The DEEP Forest Protection program facilitated 58 mobilizations and a specially outfitted DEEP Connecticut fire truck spent 15 weeks in the Western US, stationed between Minnesota and Washington.
DEEP maintains a roster of agency staff members and personnel who have been certified to fight forest or wildfires. Crew members must complete a rigorous training program and participate in an annual physical work capacity test and refresher training course. Connecticut maintains this firefighting capability to participate in a reciprocal aid program operated by the U.S. Forest Service. Under this program, trained personnel from other parts of the nation are available to assist Connecticut in the event of a fire emergency or other natural disaster. All state agency expenses directly associated with these deployments are 100% reimbursed to the State by the U.S. Forest Service.

Fisheries Division

- The Fisheries Division enhanced fishing opportunities for Connecticut residents by producing and stocking 641,000 trout into nearly 100 lakes and ponds and more than 120 rivers and streams. It further enhanced fishing by stocking 1,540 large broodstock Atlantic salmon, 224,000 kokanee salmon, 35,450 walleye, 10,000 catfish, and 1,860 northern pike into selected waters located throughout the state.
- The DEEP Fisheries Division – Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program has been teaching beginners (both rural and urban communities) about the wonders of fish and fishing since 1986. The CARE program offers a variety of “Learn to Fish” classes and events showcasing urban fishing opportunities. These events are designed to increase fishing participation by showing everyone how fun and easy fishing can be while also fostering an appreciation for the environment and our states natural resources.

Wildlife Division

- The Wildlife Division completed installation of MOTUS towers at Sessions Woods and Wangunk Meadows Wildlife Management Areas as part of an international collaborative research effort that uses radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory wildlife species—from butterflies and bats to birds and more.
- In cooperation with the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium and researchers at Western Connecticut State University and consultation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, the Wildlife Division launched a citizen science project to track movements of diamondback terrapins, a state species of special concern, to identify road mortality hot spots and develop conservation actions to protect these turtles.
- Through the federal Highlands Conservation Grant Act Program, a 627-acre parcel on Beech Street in Goshen was added to Goshen Wildlife Management Area, creating a block of roughly 1,000 acres of protected habitat supporting at-risk species and conserves highland habitats. Additional habitat restoration work is already underway to increase the benefits of this parcel to wildlife and natural resource conservation.
- The Wildlife Division continued to provide technical assistance to municipalities and individual residents to address the challenges of a growing and geographically expanding black bear population. Both the numbers of home entries and the complaints about bear damage to property and livestock continued to increase. In 2021, conflicts with trashcans and bird feeders accounted for more than 1,000 reported complaints.
- The Outreach Program within the Wildlife Division continued to engage the public across a variety of platforms. Our social media engagement with residents remains strong:
 - Facebook: 47, 628 followers
 - Instagram: 4,742 followers
 - Twitter: 1,700 followers
 - Wildlife Highlights eNewsletter: 6,363 subscribers
 - Hunter Highlights eNewsletter: 1,324 subscribers
- *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine, the DEEP website, and a variety of printed and digital materials provided additional outreach opportunities. Staff conducted a wide variety of public programs, most commonly on bears, bobcats, and coyotes, but also including native pollinators and illegal trade in turtles, reaching over 700 people. Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteers provided many additional public programs and participated in numerous outreach events.
- The Conservation Education Firearms Safety Program (CEFS) conducted training classes for firearms, bow, and trapping activities. A total of 126 classes graduated 2,336 students. The program also conducted six mentored Junior Pheasant Hunts, seven advanced hunter seminars (venison processing; turkey hunting), and special outreach events to promote and facilitate participation by women.
- The Natural Diversity Data Base program received 999 requests for environmental review relative to state listed species and issued 895 determination letters.
- Connecticut's 112 Wildlife Management Areas and 96 wildlife impoundments were the focus of 67 distinct habitat management projects, 677 acres of wetland enhancements and an additional 71 acres of early successional forest habitat were managed for species such as the New England Cottontail and American Woodcock.

Climate Planning Office

- The Climate Planning Office continues to support cross-agency functions for the three Branches of DEEP through integrating planning for the impacts of climate change and reducing carbon emissions in line with the state’s statutory goals of a 45% economy-wide GHG emissions reduction by 2030 and 80% by 2050, using an equity lens and informed by the best available climate science.
- The Office leads and/or coordinates policy and program development to achieve the above goals, including the development of Executive Order 21-3, signed in December 2021, and implementing actions from the order. For example, EO 21-3 directed the agency to create a new climate resilience grant program to assist Connecticut communities with preparing for the effects of climate change with planning and resilience project development. The Office of Climate Planning developed a straw proposal for public comment and held two virtual public meetings in May 2022 to solicit comments on developing the program. And EO 21-3, directed the agency, in partnership with OPM and DEMHS, to conduct a statewide vulnerability assessment examining climate risks to state-owned assets and operations; the Office of Climate Planning developed a workplan and began gathering data to support the process.
- The Office facilitated the Governor’s Council on Climate Change (GC3) on behalf of the Commissioner. EO 21-3 extended the GC3 to require an annual progress report on mitigation, and resilience and adaptation planning. The GC3 convened on June 8, 2022 to present the Annual GC3 Progress Report and discuss climate actions taken in 2022 and beyond. Following the meeting, the working groups of the GC3 were re-established and a public call to serve on the working groups was issued.
- The Office coordinated the state’s membership in national (U.S. Climate Alliance) and international (Under2 Coalition) coalitions to reduce carbon emissions.
- The Climate Planning Office supported the passage of a range of legislation informed by recommendations from the GC3., from clean air and zero-carbon electric grid to clean energy and resilience commercial property financing and more.

Office of Planning and Program Development (OPPD)

- OPPD continued to support cross-agency functions for the three DEEP branches in the areas of Enforcement, Planning and Process Improvement, Permit Assistance, and Compliance Assurance, while fulfilling its own programmatic responsibilities.
- For Enforcement, OPPD coordinated training for agency staff on Red Tag enforcement actions.
- For Planning and Process Improvement, OPPD:
 - Supported IT’s online permitting initiatives, including adding four new permit application types to the EZ-File system.
 - Developed a virtual Quality Assurance training for the agency, targeting EPA-delegated programs.
 - Served as the Performance Partnership Agreement/Grant central point of contact with the EPA.

- Provided comment on State projects under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act (CEPA), submitted comments to the Connecticut Siting Council on behalf of the Agency for solar and energy storage projects of more than 5 megawatts (9 projects in 2021), and participated in the annual SCEF bid procurement process, which included finalizing bid questions and scoring confidential bid submissions.
- Conducted internal CEPA trainings.
- Provided review and approval of six lake drawdown requests from lake associations and municipalities.
- Coordinated 12 authorizations of aquatic pesticide application on state-owned waterbodies with the Pesticides, Wildlife, and Fisheries Divisions.
- The Pollution Prevention (P2) project is focused on encouraging sustainability at breweries and distilleries across the state, as well incorporating matchmaking with waste organics processing facilities connecting breweries with DECD small business grant information. Through the project, OPPD:
 - Provided, in partnership with Eversource, on-site energy efficiency assistance to one brewery, resulting in about 190,000 kWh/yr and a cost savings of \$16,000/year if implemented, and to one beverage manufacturer.
 - Developed a new factsheet, “Solar for CT Craft Breweries: What You Need to Know.” Created a sector factsheet to provide breweries and distilleries with potential environmental permitting requirements and pollution prevention information.
 - Provided onsite assistance to five breweries and pollution prevention recommendations to reduce energy, toxics, and waste and provided best management practices to reduce wastewater pollutants.
 - Co-sponsored an Earth Day take-back event at a brewery to collect used plastic can-carriers; 6,125 carriers (175 lbs.) were collected for recycling.
 - Assisted state agencies with achieving the Sustainable Materials Management goals set out in Executive Order 1/GreenerGov CT and assisting with CT Valley Hospital’s food diversion project.
 - Through DEEP’s P2 CT Green Lodgings Certification Program, certified two lodgings, including one of Connecticut’s largest hotel complexes, Mohegan Sun.
- OPPD’s Permit Assistance program is being more utilized than ever due to the uptick of development projects, enhanced promotion of its services, and improvements in the transparency of the permitting process for applicants. OPPD:
 - Updated the permit pre-application questionnaire so that DEEP can provide project-specific assistance before the submittal of applications.
 - Held 102 multimedia pre-application meetings.
- OPPD’s Client Concierge Service focuses on providing additional assistance to particularly time-sensitive, complex projects that require multiple permits. This service was initiated in fulfillment of Goal 12 of the Commissioner’s 20BY20 Initiative.
 - Examples of projects include distribution facilities across the state for Amazon, Amtrak’s Connecticut River Bridge project, and Gravel Pit Solar in Windsor.

- The Concierge Team published the Virtual Brochure No. 2, highlighting important permitting information and projects in Connecticut and a Municipal Newsletter.
- OPPD has been an integral part of multiple stakeholder engagement groups garnering input from the regulated community on topics such as solar development, offshore wind, and environmental justice.

Equity and Environmental Justice Office

- Coordinated the first meeting of the Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC), a council established by EO 21-3 within DEEP to advise the Commissioner on current and historic environmental injustice, pollution reduction, energy equity, climate change mitigation and resiliency, health disparities, and racial inequity. CEEJAC will meet quarterly.
- Along with the University of Connecticut’s Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), launched an “Environmental Justice Mapping Tool” to identify vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted by pollution, health disparities and climate change. This tool will enable the public to access demographic information on environmental justice communities as defined by CGS § 22a-20a. The project will take two years to complete. Community input will be incorporated.
- Created a second GIS map that shows large emitters of pollution, defined as “affecting facilities,” in environmental justice communities. This tool is used by environmental organizations, neighborhood communities, academia, industry, financial institutions, consultants, and local, state, and federal agencies.
- Continued to facilitate DEEP’s participation in the Native American Heritage Advisory Council to preserve tribal history and archeological artifacts, and to support state and federal tribes in these efforts.
- Worked with the State-recognized tribes on infrastructure improvements on reservations.
- Provided support on the enforcement of the State Bottle Bill; populations in the state rely on bottle deposits to supplement their income.
- Exercised oversight over public engagement and participation with respect to permitting and provided assistance to industry and department’s permitting and program staff to ensure meaningful public participation in the community. During the COVID pandemic, the EJ Office provided guidance to industry on how to schedule and hold public meetings remotely.
- Served on numerous environmental, conservation, and civil rights boards and commissions to advise and support diversity, inclusion, and equity throughout the state.
- Supported DEEP’s Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program, which provided funding assistance to develop or enhance urban open spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education.
- Strove to provide access to Limited English Proficiency persons—decreasing language barriers and translating outreach materials and publications.

Land Acquisition and Management Office

- Recognizing the threat of loss or degradation of natural resources due to land-use change and development, the General Assembly set a goal of preserving 21% of Connecticut’s land base as public open space (CGS § 23-8). The Connecticut Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Plan set a target to meet this goal by year 2023. To reach this goal, 673,210 acres across the state needs to be acquired as open space. Of the total open space goal:
 - 10% (320,576 acres) shall be held by the State of Connecticut (DEEP), and
 - 11% (352,634 acres) shall be held by DEEP’s land conservation Partners (municipalities, non-profit land conservation organizations, and water companies).
- At the end of 2021, DEEP and its partners together held a combined 513,831 acres as public open space: 76% of the way towards achieving the total statewide open space acquisition goal. DEEP must acquire 57,776 more acres and DEEP’s partners must acquire 101,603 more acres.
- *State (DEEP) Open Space:* As of December 31, 2021 DEEP held an estimated 262,800 acres of land in its system of Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Management and water access areas: 82% of its open space goal. In 2021, DEEP acquired 732 acres, adding to Connecticut’s network of Parks, Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, water access, and other publicly available open space areas. DEEP utilizes state bond funds through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program combined with Federal funding through the Highlands Conservation Act, the Forest Legacy Program, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Long Island Sound Grant, in addition to private funding – maximizing the impact of state dollars.
- *Partner-held Open Space:* As of December 31, 2021, DEEP conservatively estimates that its partners held 251,031 acres: 71%, of their share of the statewide open space goal. Of this, non-profit land conservation organizations held about 68,380 acres, municipalities held 84,435 acres, and water companies held 97,775 acres as open space.
- DEEP also manages the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant program (OSWA), which provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space. Properties acquired through the OSWA program are protected with conservation easements – ensuring that they are open to the public and preserved as open space in perpetuity.
- The goals of the OSWA program extend beyond an acreage number. It is just as important to focus on where open space is conserved as it is to focus on how many acres are conserved. DEEP is especially focused on increasing our efforts to conserve open space in and around cities, to ensure everyone across the state has equal access to open space. Before the 2021 OSWA grant round, DEEP revamped the OSWA scoring criteria, which previously favored larger parcel in rural areas. The goal was to change the scoring so a vacant, smaller lot in a city score could score just as high as a large parcel in a rural area of the state. Example of changes to the scoring criteria include considerations for public transit accessibility and population density.

Agency Transformation

In FY 2021-22, DEEP experienced a steep retirement cliff, while achieving significant hiring successes as well; developed new DEI initiative across the agency; and implemented IT improvements to its permitting programs. Amid the ongoing COVID pandemic, DEEP continued to adapt and innovate, building its skillset as a hybrid workforce combining telecommuting with in-office work.

Information Reported as Required by State Statute - Include any other information required by state statute to be in the annual report.