

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



At a Glance

DANIEL C. ESTY, Commissioner

Jonathan Schrag, Deputy Commissioner of Energy

Macky McCleary, Deputy Commissioner of Air, Waste and Water

Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner of 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 number of full-time employees – 1,150

Recurring operating expenses – \$165,000,000

Organizational structure – Office of the Commissioner – Affirmative Action; Planning and Program Development (including the Compliance Assurance Section and Constituent Affairs & Land Management Section); Information Management; Legal Counsel; Environmental Justice; Public Affairs; and Adjudications. Bureau of Financial Support Services (including the divisions of Agency Support Services; Financial Management; and Human Resources).

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of 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 (water-related activities). **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 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.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Energy – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy

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:

“...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 brings 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 2010-2011, DEEP continued to focus on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the department while transforming into a new agency designed to provide cleaner, cheaper, and reliable energy to Connecticut’s residents while maintaining its core functions of protecting the environment and natural resources of the state of Connecticut.

Improvements/Achievements for fiscal year 2010-11

Public Utilities Regulatory Authority

Rate Cases

PURA issued over 300 Decisions from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, including several large water company rate case decisions and the Yankee Gas Rate Case Decision, which reduced Yankee's proposed rates by over \$60 million over the two year rate period.

Regulatory Intervention

PURA's intervention at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the Tennessee Gas Pipeline case help lead to a settlement of the case, which saved Connecticut rate payers tens of millions of dollars annually compared to the original proposal. As a result of plant accounts audits, millions of dollars of rate base allocations for Connecticut Natural Gas Corp. and The Southern Connecticut Gas Company were corrected.

Environmental Protection

Permit Reform

On October 1, 2010, DEEP (then DEP) releases its Permitting Assessment Report, which analyzed the current time needed for action on permit applications and recommended steps to improve these time frames while maintaining the agency's environmental standards. DEEP prepared this report in compliance with Public Act 10-158, which required the Department to evaluate its 25 permitting programs.

Recommendations put forward by DEP to improve the timeliness of permitting decisions include:

- More than 40 process changes (steps that can be taken without statutory or regulatory changes, such as new procedures and forms);
- More than 20 programmatic changes (which require new authorizations, such as new general permits, and regulatory and statutory changes);
- The need for an additional 53 program staff, five legal staff and six information technology staff to consistently meet the time frame goals outlined in Public Act 10-158; and
- Additional annual funding of \$500,000, largely for contractual services necessary to improve information technology for the benefit of Department staff and customers.

LEAN

DEEP has made a commitment to LEAN, a process designed to achieve efficiencies, better serve "customers," and make more effective use of staff and resources – all while maintaining current levels of environmental protection. To date, DEEP has conducted 36 LEAN sessions with more than 300 DEEP staff participating. LEAN projects are helping to make the agency more efficient across all programs – from trout stocking projects to agency publications. DEEP is also looking

to expand the LEAN process by entering into inter-agency efforts and introducing LEAN into the energy side.

eGovernment

DEEP's Office of Information Management is working on a detailed plan that will guide a major investment into new technology designed to support the work of our bureaus and to engage each DEEP employee to get his or her work done more efficiently and more effectively. A consultant has been retained to assist the Agency with an analysis of our needs. The goal is to identify technology and systems that can help us work quicker and smarter and open up more e-government opportunities for people who do business with us.

Open Space

In 2010, the state awarded \$10.4 million in grants to preserve more than 2,700 acres of open space in 35 cities and towns across Connecticut. The funds are part of Connecticut's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. To date, Connecticut is 73 percent of the way toward achieving the goal of protecting 21 percent of state land – or 673,210 acres – as open space by the year 2023. As of October 2010, 488,822 acres have been designated as state or local open space lands.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives

In September 2010, DEEP established the Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF) to reimburse cities and towns for 80 percent of the cost of purchasing new energy-efficient lawn and grounds maintenance equipment. Under the program, DEEP awarded nearly \$500,000 to 76 cities, towns and regional school districts. The LEEF Program was funded through a Supplemental Environmental Project relating to an interstate air pollution case against Ohio Edison, a mid-western power company that was found in violation of federal new source review regulations.

Public Outreach

DEEP led a state-wide effort to raise environmental awareness by marking 2011 as the "Year of the Turtle." Through outreach efforts to researchers, educators, natural resource managers, and the public, the Year of the Turtle campaign's goal was to increase U.S. involvement in a variety of habitat issues by focusing on the effects environmental protection has on wildlife. State and federal wildlife agencies, along with several conservation and turtle organizations, partnered to help spread the word about the importance of maintaining quality wildlife habitat.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

Connecticut received nearly \$15 million in RGGI revenues to support energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. RGGI is a first-in-the-nation program designed to stabilize, and then reduce by 10%, carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from large fossil fuel-fired electricity generating units by 2018. Since the first RGGI auction in 2008, Connecticut's share of the revenues has been more than \$51 million. Connecticut has invested 73 percent of its revenues in energy efficiency initiatives; 23 percent in renewable energy projects; 5 percent on offsetting air pollution; and 1 percent on clean energy education.

Enforcement Actions

The DEEP is prepared to initiate legal action, when necessary, to ensure compliance with environmental laws designed to protect natural resources and the public health. The Department maintains a strong enforcement presence by conducting compliance inspections, reviewing monitoring reports, enforcing permit conditions and when necessary, taking enforcement action. DEEP staff also focuses on addressing existing violations and ensuring that violators return to compliance. As a result, the agency closed 952 enforcement actions during Fiscal Year 2010.

No Child Left Inside[®]

DEEP continued to build on the momentum of this nationally recognized initiative to reconnect children with the outdoors, showcase the recreational opportunities available in Connecticut's 132 state parks and forests, and build the next generation of environmental stewards. In 2010, DEEP launched the Great Park Pursuit Outdoor Recreation Challenge, a year round adventure that encourages Connecticut's families to experience the excitement and joy of having fun outdoors in Connecticut state parks and forests and on its waterways.

Fish Stocking

DEEP's active fish stocking program provides opportunities for anglers all across our state. In preparation for the 2011 fishing season, DEEO released nearly 387,000 trout into over 100 lakes and ponds and 200 rivers and streams throughout Connecticut and are now awaiting the state's many anglers. DEEP's spring trout stocking continued through the end of May and when completed, over 650,000 catchable size trout were stocked. During the fall trout stocking season, nearly 30,000 trophy and adult sized trout were released into selected waters throughout the state.

Wildlife and Forestry Management

DEEP staff was actively engaged in several critical wildlife and forestry management issues. These included monitoring and tracking the growth and spread of resident bear and moose populations – as well as responding to numerous calls for the capture and relocation of bears that had strayed into populated areas; working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other states to determine the cause and assess the impact of White Nose Syndrome, a widespread disease killing the bat population at an alarming rate; and developing and implementing plans to prevent the spread into Connecticut of two invasive insects, the Asian Longhorned Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer.