

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



At a Glance

DANIEL C. ESTY, Commissioner

Katie Scharf Dykes, Deputy Commissioner of Energy

Macky McCleary, Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Quality (Air, Waste and Water)

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 number of full-time employees – 1,009

Recurring operating expenses – \$138,270,000

Organizational structure – Office of the Commissioner – Chief of Staff, Offices of Affirmative Action, Planning and Program Development, Information Management, Legal Counsel, Adjudications; and the Bureau of Financial Support Services.

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 (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 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.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Energy – Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) and the Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy: Offices of Climate Change, Technology and Research; Energy Supply; and Energy Demand.

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 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 2011-2012, 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 2011-2012

Transformation

The Department is strongly focused on transforming the way it does business to better serve the public and meet the regulatory and policy challenges of the 21st century – while upholding important environmental standards. The transformation agenda includes: investments in technology to speed work and create more e-government opportunities for those doing business with the agency; streamlining and modernizing permitting and enforcement processes through the continuation of a LEAN initiative; permitting reform that allows the agency to effectively allocate resources to the most risky and high impact applications; and development of metrics to provide the public and decision makers with key indicators that track the progress being made in addressing energy and environmental issues.

Storm Recovery

The department played a major role in helping Connecticut recover from the two major storms of 2011 – Tropical Storm Irene and an October snowstorm – which caused heavy damage and historic power outages. Staff from the Parks and Forest divisions faced the difficult task of clearing the state’s recreation lands and making them safe for public use. Agency staff led a Debris Management effort, which helped clear highways, roads and other state facilities and offered assistance to municipalities facing similar cleanup challenges. The Office of Long Island Sound Programs took steps to allow property owners to quickly repair or rebuild seawalls, docks and other structures along the state’s coast. Following these storms, the Public Utility Regulatory Authority launched an extensive review of the storm preparedness and response of the state’s utilities. The Forestry division formed the State Vegetation Management Task Force to recommend steps to improve the resiliency of roadside trees and forests against future catastrophic weather events while ensuring the reliability of the state’s power grid. The agency was also charged with implementing a “microgrid” strategy, which will help ensure continued electrical service to town centers and critical facilities in the event of a large-scale, prolonged power outage.

Environmental Quality Challenges

Seeking to apply new approaches to major environmental challenges facing our state, the agency launched major initiatives to revamp the state’s system for handling solid waste and to develop a

more results-oriented approach to the cleanup of contaminated lands. The Waste Management for the 21st century initiative – working closely with the Governor’s Modernizing Recycling Working Group – is developing plans to divert a higher percentage of materials from the waste stream and allow our state to benefit from their value. The top-to-bottom review of the Department’s site remediation and cleanup programs will lead to legislation that creates a more efficient and streamlined approach that will help reduce health risks, create jobs, and put more contaminated sites back into productive use.

Energy Agenda

The department has moved quickly to implement important provisions of the 2011 energy legislation. As a result: energy efficiency programs have been enhanced and expanded, helping residents and businesses reduce energy costs; renewable energy generating facilities are being built through programs that are driving down costs for alternative power; a strong focus on the resiliency of the electric grid will lead to improvements that help the power system better withstand the impact of future storms; the state hired its first Procurement Officer, whose work is helping to bring down the cost of electricity; the first Integrated Resource Plan was developed, which assesses the state’s electrical needs for the future; development of the state’s first Comprehensive Energy Strategy – which recommends the best approaches for electricity, power for industry, and fuels for heating and transportation.

Utility Regulation

The former Department of Public Utility Control was transformed into the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) under Public Act 11-80. The new regulatory authority is designed to bring a streamlined approach to the task of reviewing the rates and services of electric, water, natural gas and other utilities. During its first year, PURA took action to: reduce rates for electricity; review and approve – with certain conditions – the merger of Northeast Utilities and NSTAR; and to investigate the actions of utility companies to prepare for and respond to the two major storms the state faced.

Great Outdoors

The department continues to focus on its responsibilities to provide outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors. These opportunities were enhanced through two major acquisitions: the 449-acre Mason Property, which preserves a sensitive watershed in Vernon, and Beverly’s Marina at Bantam Lake, Morris, which provided the boating public with access to

Connecticut's largest natural lake. In addition: the department continued building its "No Child Left Inside" program to encourage families and children to explore the outdoors; the state's lakes and streams were stocked with more than 750,000 fish to support great public interest in fishing; the Parks division tapped the power of social media – e.g., Facebook and Twitter – to keep the public up-to-date on activities and news of the state park system; and boating safety education programs were expanded to reach more of the state's boaters.