

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



At a Glance

DANIEL C. ESTY, Commissioner

Katie Scharf Dykes, Deputy Commissioner of Energy (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Energy and Technology Policy)

Macky McCleary, 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 number of full-time employees – 1,069

Recurring operating expenses – \$213,065,407.49

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 and Support 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 2012-2013, 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 to while protect the environment and natural resources of Connecticut.

Improvements/Achievements 2012-2013

Transformation

The Department continues to focus 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 LEAN initiatives; 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. DEEP has now held approximately 50 LEAN team events and more than 300 staff members have been involved in changing the culture at DEEP. Highlights resulting from DEEP LEAN events include: Reducing the processing time of underground storage tank inspections from 47.6 days to 1.4 hours; reducing the processing time of Long Island Sound Certificates of Permission from 53 days to 26 days; and savings of \$15,390 in staff time through the implementation of electronic registration for Industrial Storm Water General Permits.

Through one LEAN event, the Underground Storage Tank program streamlined its inspection process by developing consistent procedures for staff and providing laptop computers with mobile internet, smart phones with cameras, and mobile printers – to document inspection results in the field and instantly share the results with the regulated community. The total processing time for an Underground Storage Tank inspection decreased from 47.6 days to 1.4 hours.

Another LEAN event evaluated the Office of Long Island Sound Programs' existing Certificate of Permission process. The Certificate of Permission process is a “short” permit process used to facilitate permitting of various “routine” maintenance and construction activities along the shore. During the event, a lack of consistency in interpreting eligibility criteria and inefficiencies in the pre-application process was discovered. When implementation of improvements identified through the LEAN process has been completed, 90% of applications will be processed within 26 calendar days – compared to the current average of 53 days – a 50% time reduction.

A third LEAN team developed an electronic registration process to improve the documentation of information submitted to DEEP and incorporate increased program obligations for the Industrial Storm Water General Permit. The introduction of the electronic registration process has resulted in the savings of the equivalent of five weeks of time spent processing paper (e.g., photocopying and transporting paper files), which translates to a cost savings of \$15,390 per year of staff time.

Storm Recovery

The department again played a significant role in helping Connecticut recover from two major storms in 2012 and 2013 – Super Storm Sandy and the February 2013 blizzard – which caused heavy damage and historic power outages. Staff from the Parks and Forest Divisions, along with field staff from the Financial and Support Services Division faced the difficult task of clearing the state’s recreation lands and making them safe for public use. Agency staff helped lead an extensive 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. Staff from PURA and the Energy and Technology Policy Bureau worked closely with the state’s electrical utilities to have power restored as soon as possible.

As part of its response to these storms, the agency launched the nation’s first statewide “microgrid” strategy, which will help ensure continued electrical service to town centers and critical facilities in the event of large-scale, prolonged power outages. Passed under Governor Malloy’s storm bill (Public Act 12-148), the Microgrid Pilot Program is providing \$18 million in funding to eight Connecticut communities for nine microgrid projects that will provide electricity to critical facilities and town centers on a 24/7 basis and including features allowing the microgrid to continue to provide power during any large-scale outages. Additionally, another \$30 million in funding over the next two years is recommended in the Governor’s current budget.

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. Building on Connecticut’s leadership role in solid waste management dating back almost 40 years, the Working Group developed forward-looking recommendations that will position Connecticut for continued leadership on materials management. One key strategy recommended by the Working Group is the continuation and expansion of programs aimed at Extended Producer Responsibility. There are already programs in place to regulate and increase the recycling of electronic waste, allow for the environmentally-safe disposal of used paint, and for complete cradle-to-grave stewardship of mattresses. This approach will increase reuse and recycling, lower costs for municipalities, create jobs, support recycling industries, and recover the value of materials previously relegated to the waste stream.

DEEP has worked closely with Governor Malloy and the legislature to streamline and modernize the state's requirements for cleaning up contaminated lands. Connecticut's industrial legacy left thousands of contaminated sites across the state and their successful cleanup and return to use is a key component in revitalizing the state's economy. This year, significant legislation was passed and signed into law by the Governor that maintains high remediation standards while accelerating the cleanup process to put these lands – especially in urban areas - back into productive use. This legislation includes an important “make-safe” provision that requires actions to limit the public's exposure to sites with high levels of contamination – while plans for cleanup can be made. The legislation also allows municipalities to take action to prepare underutilized properties for redevelopment without exposure to liability for cleanup and lightens regulatory burdens on developers of low-risk properties by providing cleanup standards tailored to proposed future uses.

Energy Agenda

The agency has been intently focused on implementing Governor Malloy's Comprehensive Energy Strategy to bring cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy to the residents and businesses of the state. Key components of the plan include making a lower-cost natural gas option available to more residents and businesses; expanding efficiency programs to help residents and businesses reduce energy use; and increasing the availability and use of renewable and alternative sources of energy – including alternative fuel vehicles at the lowest possible prices. The agency – working the Connecticut Energy Finance and Investment Authority (the nation's first “green bank”) – remains focused on leveraging private capital to develop and expand renewable energy and efficiency projects. When it comes to energy efficiency programs, the state is setting the example with the first of its kind “Lead by Example Program,” which seeks to reduce energy use in state and municipal buildings through targeted energy equipment retrofits in state buildings and large-scale, multi-faceted, energy efficiency overhauls in state and municipal buildings through the State's standardized Energy Savings Performance Contracting Program. As a result of these and other new initiatives, energy efficiency programs are expanding, a network of electric vehicle charging stations are being installed across the state, the state is seeing a 10-fold increase in the use of in-state renewable energy at competitive prices, and the state's electric rates have decreased by 12% in just two years.

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 2012-2013, PURA adjudicated several major rate cases as well as reviews of Connecticut's major utilities' responsiveness post-Storm Sandy. In addition, PURA successfully launched its power procurement division, and developed revised

performance standards for Connecticut electric distribution and telecommunications companies. PURA initiated several investigations concerning submetering, electric supplier marketing practices, small water company viability, and the small water company rate process. PURA is reviewing rate proposals from Connecticut Natural Gas and the Aquarion Water Company, the Natural Gas Expansion Plan that evolved from DEEP's Comprehensive Energy Strategy and recent legislation, as well as storm-related cost recovery issues. The 2012-2103 period also saw PURA successfully conclude various LEAN initiatives to improve workflow and maximize efficiency.

Great Outdoors

The department continues to focus on its responsibilities to provide first-class outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and visitors: The agency again sponsored the "No Child Left Inside[®]" Great Park Pursuit encouraging families and other outdoor enthusiasts to explore the state's countless outdoors recreational opportunities, the state's lakes and streams were stocked with more than 750,000 fish to support great public interest in fishing, and new regulations were put into place enhancing opportunities for the state's hunters – as well as protecting the state's snapping turtle population. Other agency initiatives included the planning of the year-long State Park Centennial Celebration (which kicked off in August 2013).

The state continues to work toward its goal of acquiring or permanently protecting 21 percent of Connecticut's land as open space by the year 2023. In 2012/2013, the state acquired 357 acres of open space utilizing \$100,000 in State funding. Private and federal partners contributed approximately \$290,000 toward these same acquisitions. The state is now approximately 80% of the way toward meeting its goal.

DEEP is also working closely with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to combat the invasive Emerald Ash Borer – an insect responsible for the deaths of millions of ash trees throughout the country and discovered for the first time this year in Connecticut.