

Connecticut Fund for the Environment / Save the Sound



Bringing together experts in law and science, citizens, and decision makers to protect the environment of Connecticut and Long Island Sound



Highlights of Recent Accomplishments

- **Capping carbon emissions:** We convened a coalition that led the fight resulting in a cap on greenhouse gas emissions in Connecticut, making our state's standards some of the strongest in the nation. This 2008 landmark legislation sets economy-wide reductions in carbon emissions of 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. *We are now focusing efforts on implementation of the cap.*
- **Blocking Broadwater:** Our legal and advocacy work over three years was instrumental in New York's Governor Paterson denying Shell Oil's Broadwater project a permit to build a massive 20 story natural gas plant proposed for the middle of Long Island Sound. *Our efforts with a broad, multi-state coalition continue as we prepare to fight a separate federal decision.*
- **Stopping toxic polluters:** Under the Clean Water Act Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) attorneys challenged five corporations for chronically discharging toxic chemicals into our rivers. These legal cases resulted in all five companies agreeing *to stop their discharges and pay more than \$3 million in penalties and environmental projects.*
- **Controlling fish-kill from the Millstone nuclear plant cooling system:** In 2008, our attorneys reached a legal settlement with the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant and the Department of Environmental Protection requiring them to decide within three years what technology they will use to upgrade their antiquated cooling system. This decision speeds up the choice and installation of the system improvement by almost a decade and will *have a significant impact on the massive numbers of fish currently killed annually.*
- **Restoring funding for clean water:** We co-lead the coalition that worked with Connecticut's state lawmakers to replenish the Clean Water Fund with \$595 million to be used in 2008 and 2009. This commitment represents the *highest level of bonding and investment for clean water since the Fund was established 22 years ago and* offers a substantial resource to help localities upgrade their aging sewage systems.
- **Cutting vehicle emissions:** We successfully advocated for Connecticut's adoption of California's rules for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles, a GHG labeling program for all new cars, and a consumer education program linking motor vehicle emissions and global warming. This campaign helped place Connecticut in the vanguard of states aggressively addressing air quality and global warming issues with the *potential of cutting pollution from new cars by one-third.* The Obama administration is poised to allow these greenhouse gas standards to take effect.
- **Restoring critical habitat:** Over the last six years, our Long Island Sound Habitat Restoration program successfully completed 18 major projects with a broad spectrum of partners, including Federal and state agencies, municipalities, other non-profit environmental groups and local volunteers. Restorations included opening or repairing ancestral fish migration runs (and tracking fish movements to ensure they are using new passage aids) and restoring wetland and marsh function to increase the quality and health of ecosystems and allow native plant, bird and other species to return. *We currently have eight more projects in our development pipeline.*

Other Selected Accomplishments

Air

- Expanding clean transit: As a result of our legislative work, bus transit was expanded beginning in 2007. This represents progress towards our state goal, set in 2007, of more than doubling transit ridership in Connecticut.
- Promoting green buildings: We've worked to promote green buildings in the state, including helping to pass legislation to require that green building standards be applied to construction of new public schools. Our current goal is to pass strong energy efficiency standards for large scale developments.
- Controlling diesel pollution: As a result of CFE intervention, the Department of Environmental Protection agreed to require state-of-the-art pollution controls for emergency diesel generators. This action will have a significant public health benefit, particularly in poor and minority urban communities.

Land

- Preserving lands that protect reservoirs and streams: Working with the legislature and local partners, CFE recently stopped a mining project on water company lands and curbed an overly intensive residential development on watershed lands, both of which posed a threat to clean drinking water supplies. CFE has steadily strengthened the protection of thousands of acres of forests, wetlands and water company lands that help to purify our drinking water, including legislation making it more profitable for private water companies to preserve land than to make it available for development. *We will continue to advocate for legislation establishing a 100 foot buffer around all streams and rivers in Connecticut.*
- Protecting open space and endangered natural areas: CFE continues to protect from inappropriate development critical open spaces including The Preserve in Essex, the largest stretch of remaining unprotected coastal forest in Connecticut. In 2007, CFE advocated for and gained passage of a bill to ensure that the Department of Environmental Protection and the general public have the opportunity to review state lands and comment on their natural resource value before they are sold.

Water

- Controlling pollution from stormwater: In 2007, we won authorization and funding for pilot projects allowing four towns to establish stormwater authorities to upgrade municipal stormwater systems. Stormwater picks up oils, greases, sediments and fertilizers as it flows over roads, lawns and parking lots before running untreated into rivers and Long Island Sound. It is a primary cause of poor water quality and the closing of beaches, shellfish beds and miles of rivers and streams to swimming and fishing each year.
- Cleaning up beaches: Our ongoing, year-round *Coastal Cleanup* program brought 4,243 volunteers together over the last three years to collect 35,072 pounds of trash at over 150 cleanup events along 69 miles of Connecticut shoreline.

***These highlights give a sense of the breadth and depth of our work.
We are doing all of this and more with your support. Thank you!***