

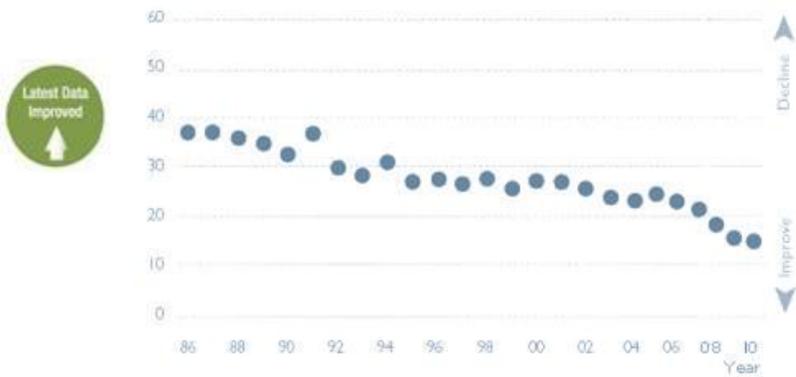
Environmental Quality in Connecticut

A Very Brief Summary of 2010

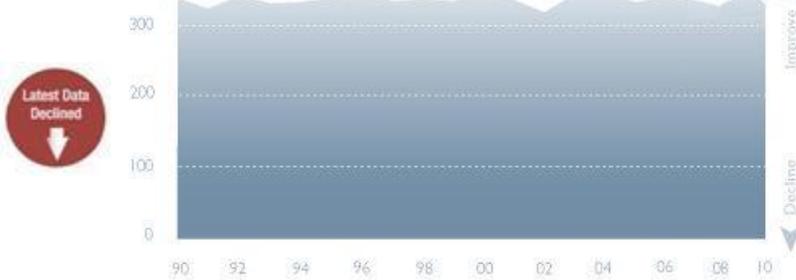
Air:

The total amount of pollution in the air was, on average, the best it has been in decades (top graph), but the number of “Good Air Days” declined (bottom graph). The explanation for this paradox: summer heat. Vehicles, industries and utilities are creating less pollution than they once did, but on hot summer days people turn on their air conditioners, and most of those are not the efficient models. The extra demand for electricity causes seldom-used, highly-polluting power plants to be brought online on the very days when pollution already is at its worst.

Pollution Index Value (Average of All Pollutants)



Good Air Days



Sound and Shore:

Coastal cities and towns had to close their beaches more often (primarily in the western half of the sound):

Days that the Average Coastal City/Town Closed its Beaches



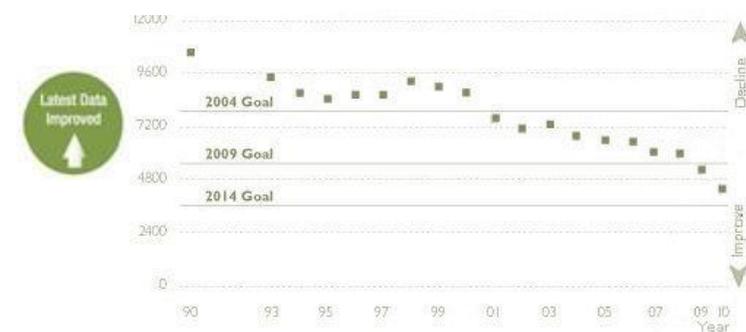
After five years of decline, the area of Long Island Sound that had satisfactory oxygen levels took a positive jump in 2010:

Square Kilometers with Adequate Oxygen % of Sound



The improvement in oxygen levels (above) could be a product of successful efforts to reduce nitrogen from sewage treatment plants:

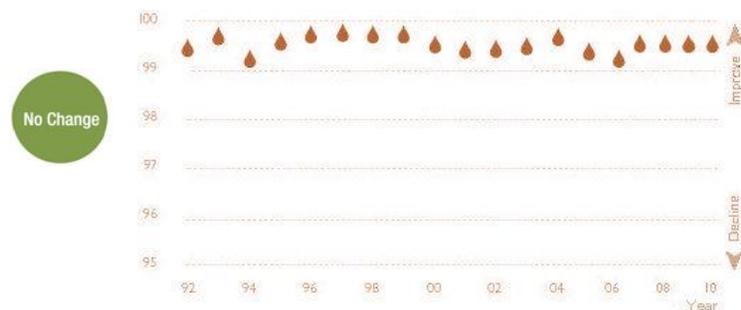
Tons of Nitrogen



Rivers and Reservoirs:

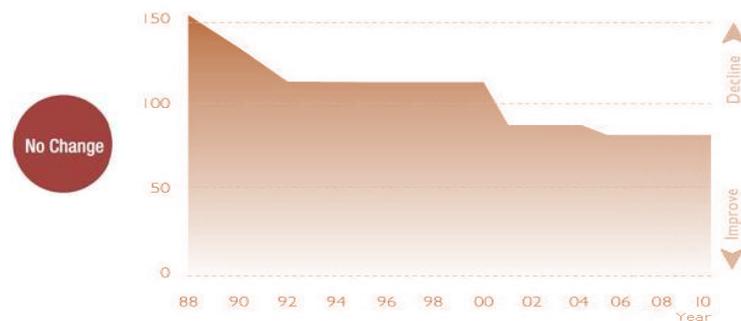
All large water companies delivered water that met health standards:

Percent of Drinking Water that Meets All Standards



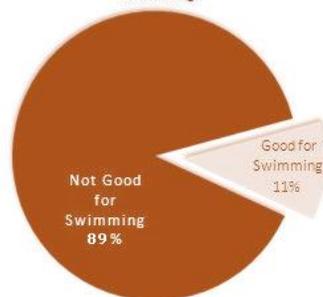
Rivers still receive raw or poorly-treated sewage after heavy rains:

River Miles Affected by Sewage Overflows



Only 11% of rivers and streams are estimated to be fully suitable for swimming:

Percentage of Rivers and Streams Suitable for Swimming



Personal Impact

The CEQ tracks several leading environmental indicators, which are activities that are likely to affect the future air, water, land and wildlife of Connecticut. The ones in **green** showed improvement in 2010, the ones in **red** showed decline or were constant at an unsatisfactory level:

Miles Driven by Average Resident

Bus Rides Taken by Average Resident

Compliance with Environmental Laws

Recycling

Percentage of Air Conditioners Sold that were ENERGY STAR Rated

Percentage of Refrigerators Sold that were ENERGY STAR Rated

Efficient Use of Electricity by Businesses

This summary presents only a few of the 33 environmental indicators used by the CEQ to track Connecticut's progress toward its environmental goals.

Please read the full report at

<http://www.ct.gov/ceq/AnnualReport>

Questions and comments are welcome at

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