



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Environmental Quality in Connecticut

A Summary Review of 2008

Below, the Council presents a very brief summary of environmental trends and conditions for 2008. The full report, available at www.ct.gov/ceq/AnnualReport, shows long-term trends for 30 indicators and gives complete information on how progress is measured.

April 29, 2009

Trends in Brief

<p>Our Air</p>	<p>Levels of every air pollutant except carbon monoxide improved in 2008.</p> <p>Connecticut had 338 Good Air Days in 2008 (compared to only 320 in 2007). These numbers take into account the new, more protective standards for ground-level ozone and particles.</p>	
<p>Our Land</p>	<p>Public Land To meet the state goal for land conservation, municipalities, nonprofit organizations, water utilities and the state need to protect about 11,000 acres per year. The estimated total for 2008 was about 3,000 acres.</p> <p>Farmland Farmland loss outpaced preservation. Connecticut has been losing about 1,800 acres of farm fields per year. In 2008, the state preserved 675 acres.</p> <p>Wetlands Connecticut saw fewer acres of inland wetlands destroyed in 2007 (most recent data available) than in any previous year.</p>	
<p>Our Beaches</p>	<p>Beaches were better in 2008 for people, with fewer beach closings caused by pollution...</p> <p>...and better for piping plovers, small shorebirds that nest on 15 coastal beaches from Stratford to Stonington. The piping plover is a threatened species.</p>	
<p>Our Sound</p>	<p>The past year saw a slight uptick in lobsters and tidal wetland restoration, but other Long Island Sound trends stayed the same or declined. The area of low oxygen spread in 2008.</p>	
<p>Our Rivers & Reservoirs</p>	<p>About 80 miles of rivers receive sewage overflows during storms, a problem that will take many more years to correct. More than 80% of river miles cannot be classified as suitable for swimming at all times.</p> <p>As usual, more than 99% of water delivered by water utilities met all drinking water standards in 2008.</p>	
<p>Our Health: Cancers</p>	<p>The incidence of breast cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma went up slightly but remained well below their peak levels of the late 1990s.</p>	
<p>Our Future:</p> <p>Leading environmental indicators measure today's actions that affect the quality of tomorrow's environment.</p>	<p>The average resident took the bus more often and used electricity more efficiently...</p> <p>...but bought a greater proportion of appliances that were not <i>EnergyStar</i> efficient.</p> <p>Compliance with environmental laws stayed the same at 90%.</p>	