



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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NEWS RELEASE

October 7, 2009

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONNECTICUT'S AIR SHOWING CLEAR IMPROVEMENT



Air is the focus of the CEQ's "Indicator of the Month" for October

HARTFORD – Connecticut's battle against air pollution can be called one of its biggest environmental success stories – this is the conclusion of the state's Council on Environmental Quality, which spent time in September reviewing air quality indicators.

At every monthly meeting, the Council examines one or more of the 30 "Environmental Indicators" that appear each year in *Environmental Quality in Connecticut*, the official state report on the condition of Connecticut's environment. One of the Council's primary statutory responsibilities is to prepare this comprehensive report and submit it to the governor, which it usually does in the spring.

"We are documenting impressive improvement both in the number of 'Good Air Days' and in the total amount of pollution in our air," said Council Chair Barbara

Wagner.

“When all the numbers are in for 2009, we expect them to show another year of significant improvement. The summer of 2008 had 22 bad ozone days, and in 2009 we saw only six bad days – and most of those affected only a few towns,” Wagner said.

“Residents and their businesses have been asked to do a lot over the years – take their cars to testing stations, and buy low-sulfur fuel oil, improved gasoline, and low-VOC* paints and other consumer products – and these actions clearly are paying off,” Wagner said.

Wagner also noted that the cool rainy weather of early summer helped to keep pollution levels low.

“We still can’t rest,” Wagner concluded, “until we have 365 good air days each year in every town and city.”

“Good Air Days” and “Clearing the Air” are the Council’s “Indicators of the Month” for October 2009. For more information, look for the Featured Indicators for October on the Council’s home page at www.ct.gov/ceq.

The Council is a nine-member board that is independent of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) except for purely administrative functions. Established in 1971 alongside the DEP, the CEQ has published dozens of reports on state environmental problems and solutions – including Environmental Quality in Connecticut, the official annual state report on the condition of Connecticut’s environment – and has resolved hundreds of citizen complaints. The Council monitors and reports on important state actions that affect the environment, and, pursuant to state law, advises other state agencies on projects and policies.

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* VOCs are Volatile Organic Compounds found in paints and varnishes as well as in some spot removers, hair care products and even shaving creams. When VOCs evaporate, they react with nitrogen oxides to form ground-level ozone, a major pollutant of Connecticut’s air in the summer months. [Recent regulations](#) of the DEP require consumer products to contain fewer VOCs.