

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Environmental Accomplishments 1970-2010

American History & Culture	US/World Environmental History	Year	CT Accomplishments
	First Earth Day. More than 20 million people participate. President Nixon forms the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Clean Air Act passed, regulating air emissions.	1970	
			DEP Established
		1971	Air Quality Monitoring Begins New Fish Hatchery Constructed
	Clean Water Act is passed, placing pollution limits on water discharges and sewage. EPA bans DDT.	1972	Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act Enacted Regulation of Open Burning Starts
	Endangered Species Act passed to protect wildlife. EPA starts lead gas phaseout.	1973	Connecticut's Water Quality Standards (WQS) Revised Regulation of Sulfur and Fuels Begins
The Equal Rights Amendment approved by Congress.			
	The Safe Drinking Water Act regulates pollutants to ensure that people drink safe water.	1974	
Secretariat wins the Triple Crown.			
Richard Nixon resigns; Gerald Ford becomes president.			
	Congress passes legislation that sets standards for automobile tail-pipe emissions. Automakers begin adding catalytic converters to cars.	1975	CT Pesticide Control Act Enacted Wild Turkeys Reintroduced to Connecticut
	The Toxic Substances Control Act empowers the EPA to track industrial chemicals used in the United States, as well as to ban those that pose a threat. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act passed to control handling and disposal of	1976	First Trout Management Area Established

hazardous waste.		
Bicentennial of the United States is celebrated.		
Clean Air Act Amendments passed.		
Clean Water Act passed.		
The movie Star Wars hits theaters.	1977	
Jimmy Carter becomes president.		
Sony introduces the Walkman, a portable audio cassette player.		
"Blizzard of 1978" batters the Northeast. Snowfall ranges from 2-4 ft.	1978	Connecticut Bottle Bill Adopted
EPA bans PCB manufacture.		
U.S. sues for Love Canal cleanup		
An accident occurs at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Middletown, Pennsylvania.	1979	
Congress creates the Superfund, setting aside large amounts of money to clean up hazardous waste sites.		
"Miracle on Ice" as US ice hockey team beats Soviet Union at the Winter Olympics.	1980	CT Coastal Management Act Approved
Mt. St. Helens volcano, in Washington State, erupts.		
Inauguration of Ronald Reagan as the 40th president of the United States.	1981	
First space shuttle launched.		
The word "Internet" used for the first time.		
Michael Jackson releases "Thriller".	1982	State Starts Efforts to Assist Private Well Owners
Compact discs begin to replace vinyl records.	1983	Hazardous Waste Regulations Adopted
Apple introduces the Mac.	1984	Action Taken to Protect Marine Fisheries
A team of British scientists reports that there is a hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic.	1985	Regulation of Underground Storage Tanks Begins

Space shuttle Challenger explodes after takeoff.

New York Mets top Red Sox in World Series.

1986

[Connecticut's Clean Water Fund Created](#)
[Public Boat Launches Modernized](#)

United States is one of 24 nations to sign the Montreal Protocol, an agreement to phase out production of chlorofluorocarbons(CFCs) that destroy the ozone layer.

1987

The New York Giants beat the Broncos in Super Bowl.

EPA sets standards for underground storage tanks.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act Amendments of 1988 passed.

1988

[State Parks 75th Anniversary Leads to 100th Park Acquisition](#)

EPA and DOT respond to Exxon Valdez oil spill.

EPA publishes first Toxic Release Inventory.

1989

[Protections Added for Endangered Species](#)

George H.W. Bush becomes president.

The Simpsons show debuts on Fox.

Fall of the Berlin Wall.

Earth Day 20th Anniversary is celebrated on April 22. One hundred million people around the globe participate.

Pollution Prevention Act passed.

1990

[Nonpoint Source Management Program Developed](#)

[Toxics in Packaging Banned](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law.

Hubble Telescope placed into orbit.

The World Wide Web makes its debut.

1991

[Pollution Prevention Efforts Established](#)

EPA commits to reducing environmental risks to minorities.

1992

Bill Clinton becomes the 42nd president of the United States.

1993

[Environmental Justice Program Created](#)

New standards require chemical plants to reduce toxic air pollution by more than half a million tons each year.

EPA presents first Energy Star computer awards.	1994	
On Earth Day, a student-led campaign delivers the Environmental Bill of Rights to Congress.	1995	100th Anniversary of Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Celebrated
It becomes mandatory that public suppliers of drinking water provide customers information about the chemicals and microbes in their water. Dolly, the first sheep cloned from adult cells, is born.	1996	Remediation Standard Regulations Adopted
Thirty-eight industrialized nations sign the Kyoto Protocol, agreeing to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by about 5% over 15 years. U.S. and Canada move to eliminate toxics in Great Lakes. Princess Diana killed in car crash.	1997	State Sets Open Space Goal
Baseball legend Cal Ripken, Jr. ends his record consecutive games streak at 2,632. Dale Earnhardt wins the Daytona 500. Seinfeld finale episode after nine seasons on NBC.	1998	
New emissions standards are set for automobiles, requiring them to become 77% to 95% cleaner.	1999	DEP Office of Enforcement Policy and Coordination Formed
The Senate overwhelmingly approves a \$7.8 billion aid plan to restore the Everglades in Florida. EPA endorses cleaner diesel fuels plan.	2000	
The head of Forest Service halts harvesting of old-growth timber on public lands. U.S. decides not to sign the Kyoto Protocol.	2001	
George W. Bush becomes president. September 11th terrorist attack.		Nitrogen Credit Exchange Program Created and Nitrogen General Permit Issued

Wikipedia, a web-based, collaborative encyclopedia, is created.

Patriots win first of three Super Bowls.

American Idol airs for the first time.

2002

[Mercury Reduction and Education Act Passed](#)
[Stronger Limits Set on Idling of Motor Vehicles](#)

2003

[100th Anniversary of State Forests Celebrated](#)

2004

[Adoption of the Aquifer Protection Land Use Regulations](#)

2005

[No Child Left Inside Initiative Kick Off](#)
[Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan Released](#)

2006

[Updated Solid Waste Plan Focuses on Recycling](#)

2007

[Connecticut Passes Electronics Recycling Law](#)

2008

[DEP Launches LEAN Program](#)

2009

[Revisions to Stream Flow Regulations Proposed](#)
[Improvements made to Brownfields Program](#)

Boston Red Sox win the World Series for the first time since 1918, finally vanquishing the so-called "Curse of the Bambino".

EPA proposes the first-ever mercury emissions regulations on power plants.

EPA's Clean School Bus USA initiative which is designed to limit children's exposure to the harmful effects of diesel exhaust from school buses.

EPA informs the governors of 31 states that the air pollution in their states does not meet Clean Air Act requirements.

EPA issues the Clean Air Interstate Rule and the Clean Air Mercury Rule.

Lance Armstrong wins a record 7th Tour de France.

"Hurricane Katrina" devastates New Orleans and the Gulf coast.

Population of the United States reaches three hundred million.

Arctic sea ice hits at an all-time low.

Through the Energy Star program, EPA prevents greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million vehicles.

EPA determines that greenhouse gases threaten public health and the environment.

Barack Obama becomes the first African American president and the country's 44th president.

New York Yankees win 27th World Series.

EPA proposes tightening smog standard to improve air quality and protect public health.

2010