

THE BENEFITS



Comstock Covered Bridge, East Hampton, CT

COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT DOT

DID YOU KNOW?



*One inch of rain,
falling on one mile
of a two lane
paved road, dumps*

**52,000
GALLONS**

*of polluted water into
the environment.*

CLEAN WATER

Connecticut is covered by a dense system of water resources and a vast system of waterways. We are blessed with 450,000 acres of wetlands, 6,000 miles of streams and rivers, over 2,000 square miles of lakes and reservoirs and 600 square miles of estuarine water in Long Island Sound. Maintaining healthy streams and rivers protects drinking water, recreational opportunities, property values and the ecosystems of fish and wildlife.

The large amount of pavement for roads and parking lots in Connecticut is created by our over reliance on car travel. This impervious coverage pollutes our water and increases erosion while decreasing the amount of rainwater allowed to seep underground to refill our water supplies.

Rain that falls onto paved surfaces collects pollutants, including gasoline, oil drippings, salt and de-icing chemicals, and flushes them into lakes, streams, rivers and Long Island Sound. This pollutes the water and hurts aquatic plants and animals. Water quality suffers when snow contaminated with road chemicals is dumped directly into water bodies.



Increased pavement cover also threatens drinking water supplies. Both public drinking water aquifers and private wells in Connecticut rely on underground water sources. More pavement means less rainwater is available to sink into the ground to replenish our underground sources of water. As our state develops, and new roads and parking lots are planned, we need to protect our water from deterioration caused by pavement runoff. The most efficient time to address this is during the planning process.

Recent extreme weather events, such as the 2011 Storm Irene, and rising sea level, flooding, and disruption of food and water supplies, reinforce the need to make dramatic changes in how Connecticut plans for transportation and land use. Rising sea-level will especially impact coastal states such as Connecticut, where housing and parts of our infrastructure may need to be moved or rebuilt. It is crucial as we do infrastructure planning, to move roads and bridges back from the areas which will be impacted by higher sea level and river levels that are expected in the coming decades.

DID YOU KNOW?



By the 2020's, projected sea level rise in Connecticut could permanently flood

13,000 ACRES

and portions of 6 airports, 94 miles of roads and 20 miles of train tracks.

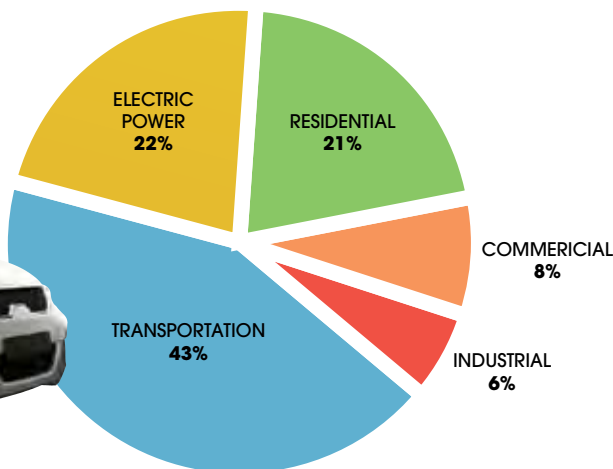
Source: The Nature Conservancy, www.coastalresilience.org, January 2012.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Transportation is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change. In Connecticut, transportation produces more greenhouse gas emissions than any other sector. Because of high levels of single-occupant vehicle travel, transportation causes 43% of total greenhouse gas emissions in our state (compared to the nationwide average of 29%).

MORE THAN HALF (59%) OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION SECTOR EMISSIONS COMES FROM CARS, SUVs, PICKUPS AND MINIVANS. This statistic is getting worse despite improvements in automotive technology. We will only significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by changing our approach to transportation. Connecticut has set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by the year 2020.

GREENHOUSE GAS SOURCES IN CONNECTICUT (2007)



FACT

About **80 MILES OF RIVERS** in Connecticut received overflows of raw sewage during storms in 2011 as reported by the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality