

THE PROBLEM

Climate change increasingly threatens Connecticut's communities and economy. Sea level rise, growing storm surges, severe rainfall events interspersed with intensifying drought periods are the new norm for the state. While Connecticut's Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) set aggressive emission-reduction goals, global failure to slow the pace of climate changes means we must prepare for the worst.

In the absence of federal leadership, the burden falls on Connecticut lawmakers to act. Given current trends, we may already expect to see residents displaced, critical infrastructure destroyed, and many species of wildlife extirpated. By acting now, we can head off the loss of life, collapse of coastal economies, and the systemic destruction of critical habitats.

A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

Connecticut communities need state assistance to adapt. We must fast-track local, community-based resiliency planning; implement nature-based projects that protect our coastline from storm surge; and expedite green stormwater infrastructure to reduce flooding and runoff.

Specific strategies to build resilience include:

1. Promoting living shorelines along our coast to protect from storm surges and sea level rise;
2. Funding design, engineering and construction of the projects that will protect communities;
3. Removing high hazard dams and restoring ecological function to rivers;
4. Discouraging development that threatens our open spaces, forests, and coastal habitat which all help to sequester carbon, filter water, and reduce erosion.

Connecticut must work with natural processes instead of trying to control them.



FAST FACTS

- According to the Global Warming Solutions Act, Connecticut must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% below 2001 levels by 2030 and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050.
- Every \$1 invested in Disaster Mitigation saves \$6 in disaster costs
- In 2019, Governor Lamont reconvened the Governor's Council on Climate Change and added a new focus on coastal and inland resiliency.
- The Connecticut Institute Resiliency & Climate Adaption (CIRCA) at UConn estimates that sea level in Long Island Sound will be 20 inches higher by 2050.

MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about resiliency in Connecticut, contact:

Leah Schmalz

CT Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound

Chief Program Officer

203-787-0646 | lschmalz@savethesound.org

David Sutherland, The Nature Conservancy

Director of Government Relations

203-568-6297 | dsutherland@tnc.org

UConn CIRCA

circa.uconn.edu | resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu

860-405-9214 | circa@uconn.edu