

Appendix E

State Plans Considered in Revising the Green Plan

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Appendix E. State Plans Considered in Revising the Green Plan

- **2015 Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan**
- **2015 Connecticut Forest Action Plan (formerly Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy)**
- **2015 Connecticut Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan**
- **2014 Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan**
- **2013 Connecticut State Plan of Conservation and Development Policies**
- **2011 Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan**
- **2011 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans**

2015 Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) recently completed the [Connecticut Wildlife Action Plan](#), creating a framework for proactively conserving the state's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the next 10 years. The plan identifies species of greatest conservation need and their affiliated habitats. It also identifies priority research needs and conservation actions needed to address problems facing these species and habitats.

2015 Connecticut Forest Action Plan (formerly Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy)

Authorized by the Federal Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (the Farm Bill), the [Connecticut Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy](#) is part of a national effort toward protecting and sustaining healthy forests, which offers the first-ever suite of forest resource evaluations completed by 59 state/territorial forestry agencies. This plan was designed to document the condition of Connecticut's forests, engage the public in discussions about Connecticut's forestlands, and develop strategies to focus federal, state and local partner efforts in protecting, conserving, and managing Connecticut's forestlands. Assessments and strategies in this Plan address three national themes identified by the US Forest Service: conserving working forestlands, protecting forests from harm, and enhancing public benefits from trees and forests. The Farm Bill requires states to complete state forest assessments and resource strategies as a condition of receiving federal funds to support several state forestry programs, such as the Forest Legacy Program.

2015 Connecticut Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan

The [Connecticut Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program \(CELCP\) Plan](#) is intended to provide a proactive and strategic approach to coastal land acquisition and qualify Connecticut to receive federal grant funding assistance for such acquisitions. The plan:

- Identifies the State's coastal land conservation needs used to help prioritize coastal land acquisition opportunities to be funded in part by federal CELCP grant funds;

- Outlines a process to promote partnerships with municipalities and land trusts to identify land acquisition opportunities that address Connecticut’s priority conservation needs; and
- Provides guidance for selecting coastal land acquisition projects for nomination to a national CELCP project selection committee that can successfully compete at the national level for federal funding assistance.

The Department of Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act of 2002 directs the Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to administer a federal financial assistance program available to coastal states for coastal land acquisition. Available program funds are administered through a competitive grant program available to coastal states and their municipal partners by NOAA’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM). In order to receive CELCP coastal land acquisition funding through the grant program, a coastal state must first develop a CELCP plan for approval by NOAA-OCRM.

2014 Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

The State of Connecticut believes that climate change and adaptation techniques are an area of continued concern for which new policies and strategies will need to be developed. Connecticut adopted a [Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) update in January 2014 to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines set forth in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. It allows Connecticut to be eligible for federal funding from a presidentially declared disaster under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. This plan represents the State’s efforts to approach mitigating the effects of natural disasters on a multi-hazard basis, and shifts from a disaster-response driven system to one based on effective hazard mitigation planning.

2013 Connecticut State Plan of Conservation and Development Policies

The State Plan of Conservation and Development Policies¹ serves as a statement of the development, resource management, and public investment policies for Connecticut. The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is required to prepare a [State Plan of Conservation and Development](#) (POCD) on a recurring five-year cycle. The efforts of the Department of Energy and Environment and the Green Plan to acquire, preserve, and manage open space for clean and healthy natural waters, coastal resources, scenic highlands areas, fish and wildlife habitat, forestland, outdoor public recreation, urban greens and community gardens, and other resource values are consistent with the policies under the current POCD. The POCD specifically calls on state agencies and municipalities to facilitate the expansion of the Connecticut’s open spaces through the acquisition of lands and implementation of open space priorities as defined in the Green Plan.

2011 Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan

As required by Public Act No. [08-98](#) (An Act Concerning Connecticut Global Warming Solutions), [this Plan](#) evaluates the projected impacts of climate change on Connecticut agriculture, infrastructure, natural resources, and public health, and recommends strategies to

¹ CGS Sec. 16a-24 through 16a-33

lessen those impacts. The Adaptation Subcommittee of the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change developed the plan with the aid of working groups made up of subject matter experts who looked at anticipated changes to Connecticut's climate and proposed adaptation strategies under agreed upon guidelines. The workgroups recommended several overarching and specific adaptation strategies including the integration of climate change adaptation into existing plans and plans under revision, to plan for flexibility and monitor change, and to protect natural areas and landscape features that buffer potential impacts from climate change.

2011 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

The Connecticut [Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#) (SCORP) is a planning document that identifies outdoor recreation issues of statewide significance and evaluates the supply of and the demand for outdoor recreation resources and facilities in Connecticut. The SCORP provides unified guidance to State and municipal officials as they develop and expand outdoor recreation opportunities for their respective constituents.

In addition to its value as a planning document, the completion of a SCORP also satisfies a requirement of the federally administered Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which then makes Connecticut eligible to receive its annual apportionment from the LWCF State and Municipal Assistance Program. Apportionments from the LWCF can be used by the State and its municipalities to acquire new land for outdoor recreation and conservation, and to construct new outdoor recreational facilities.