Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Connecticut continues to achieve substantial reductions in climate pollution

Connecticut continues to demonstrate success in reducing emissions of powerful pollutants that are disrupting the global climate system. In June 2014, Gov. Malloy announced release of a new report (Taking Action on Climate Change) which showed that statewide emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases dropped 5.4 percent between 1990 and 2010.

Revised and updated U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data now available for 2011 show that Connecticut achieved a 9.5 percent reduction in GHG emissions statewide between 1990 and 2011.[1] In 2011, annual statewide climate emissions dropped below 40 million metric tons for the first time in more than 21 years.

This ongoing progress means that by 2011 Connecticut had almost reached its goal of reducing GHG emissions by 10 percent from 1990 levels, nine years ahead of the target date of 2020 established in the state's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act. Connecticut's overall emissions peaked in 2004 at almost 50 million metric tons and have since dropped by at least 20 percent.

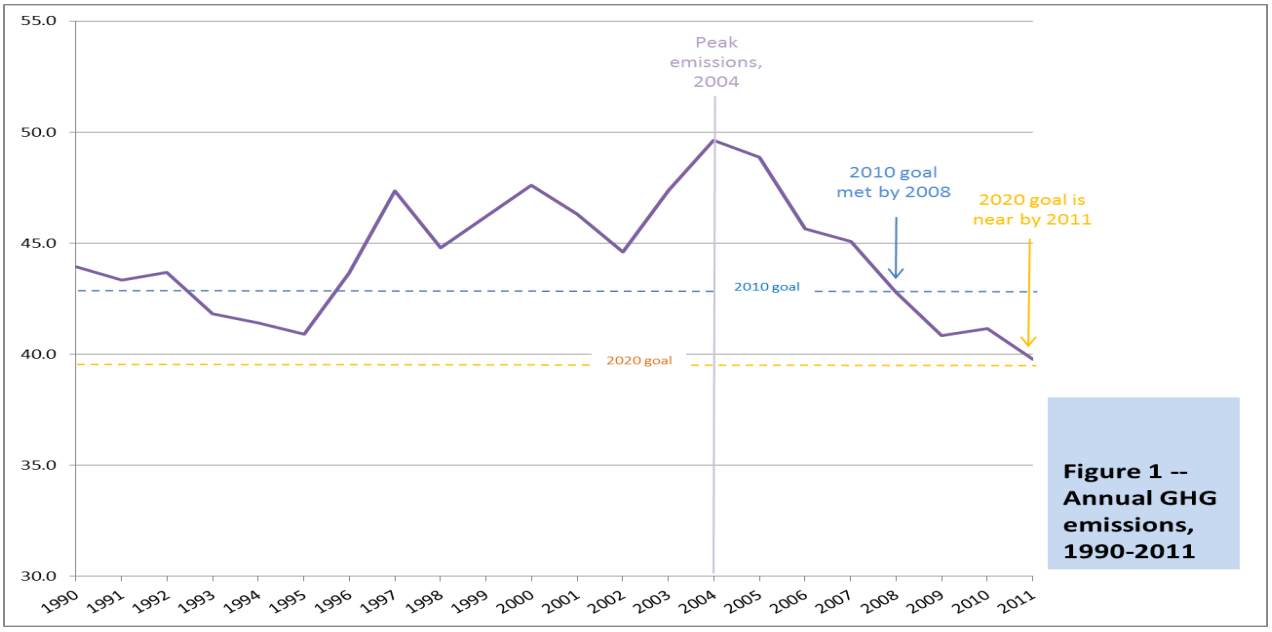

Figure 1 -- Annual GHG emissions, 1990-2011

[1] Like the June report, the revised data are based on estimates produced using EPA's "State Inventory Tool." Periodic revisions in EPA estimates for CT and other states result from refinements in data and methodology. The agency releases data annually, with a lag of two to three years, making 2011 the most recent year for which complete data are available. The improved emissions reduction reported for 2011 (9.5%, 1990-2011) were the result of revised EPA data for 2010 as well as significant improvement in 2011.

Table 1. Percent change in GHG emissions by sector

Sector	Change 1990-2011	Change 2004-11
Transportation	3.2%	-19.5%
Electric power	-40.2%	-23.3%
Residential	-11.3%	-28.8%
Industrial	17.5%	-18.6%
Agricultural	-11.7%	0.3%
Waste	21.6%	9.4%
Commercial	-5.5%	-8.3%
Total	**-9.5%**	**-19.9%**

The state's investments in energy efficiency and switching to low-carbon fuels and renewables are responsible for much of these emission reductions.

- The biggest percentage reductions as of 2011 were in the electric power sector. Energy efficiency and switching to low-carbon fuels and renewables were major drivers behind a 14 percent reduction since 2010, a 23 percent reduction since 2004, and a massive 40 percent reduction since 1990.

- Efficiency improvements contributed to reducing residential emissions (e.g., from home boilers) nearly 5 percent since 2010, nearly 29 percent since 2004, and more than 11 percent since 1990.

- Meanwhile emissions from vehicles, the state's largest source of greenhouse gases, although up modestly since 1990, fell almost 20 percent since 2004.

The 2011 emissions data also show that Connecticut is lowering its carbon emissions while still growing its economy and increasing population. As shown in Figure 2, between 1990 and 2011 emissions dropped nearly 10 percent even though population grew significantly (up 9 percent) and the economy grew dramatically (up 44 percent by 2013). As new data become available from EPA, they are expected to confirm that Connecticut's commitment to cutting carbon pollution through energy efficiency, switching to low-carbon fuels, increased use of renewable energy, and other means is continuing to reduce GHG emissions while transitioning the state to a truly "clean energy" economy.