

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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2022 Annual Report

Citizens Campaign for the Environment's Mission

Citizens Campaign for the Environment's (CCE) mission is to build widespread citizen understanding and advocacy to protect land and water resources, wildlife, and public health. CCE carries out this mission through public education, research, lobbying, organizing, and public outreach.

Over Three Decades of Environmental Advocacy

CCE was founded in 1985 and has grown to a 140,000-member organization. CCE engages in extensive education, research, lobbying, and public outreach. CCE continues to advance environmental programs, which benefit the residents of New York, Connecticut, and the Nation.

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CCE is a 501 (c)(4) not-for-profit organization registered as Long Island Citizens Campaign, Inc., which is doing business as Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Inc.



Water Protection

New York and Connecticut are water-rich states. Ensuring clean and plentiful water resources is a core CCE program priority. Below are CCE's major campaigns aimed at achieving water protection in 2022.

Stopping Sewage Pollution

Overflows from aging and failing sewage treatment infrastructure in New York and Connecticut release billions of gallons of raw sewage and industrial waste into local waterways each year. These overflows expose citizens to disease carrying pathogens and dangerous toxins, close beaches, kill wildlife, and hurt local businesses. To address this growing problem, local, state, and federal governments need to make significant investments in fixing failing sewage infrastructure.

In 2022, CCE conducted large-scale grassroots campaigns to advocate for infrastructure investments, generating thousands of letters and petition signatures from members of the public to elected leaders. In New York State, we were successful in increasing Clean Water Infrastructure Act funding by \$500 million in the 2022-23 budget. This nation-leading program includes a comprehensive approach to upgrading infrastructure and protecting clean water, from source to tap.



Ocean Protection

Over 2,000 miles of tidal shoreline define New York and Connecticut. Our many bays, rivers, and estuaries provide miles of beaches and habitat for fish, shellfish, and wildlife. CCE supports proactive local, state, and federal measures to protect our water resources and the historical use of our waterways. CCE continued

collaborations with a number of environmental organizations in the NY Ocean and Great Lakes Coalition to advance ocean and Great Lakes protection and restoration and ensure state funding for these vital programs.

CCE actively participates in the Oceans, Estuaries, and Great Lakes Coalition. In 2022, we joined with coalition partners to urge the NYS Legislature to continue the State's historic \$22.5 million annual commitment to protecting our ocean, estuaries, and Great Lakes.

Ocean Acidification

New York waters are already showing signs of ocean acidification. This is the result of greenhouse gas emissions combined with polluted runoff from land. This acidity can negatively impact shellfish, finfish, and other marine organisms. The New York Ocean Acidification (OA) Task Force was established to ensure that the best available science is used to assess and respond to this emerging threat to New York's marine waters and fisheries. CCE attends the task force meetings. The task force is working to put forward a plan on how New York can address ocean acidification in New York waters.



Great Lakes

Protecting, restoring, and improving the Great Lakes, the largest freshwater ecosystem on the globe, is a core CCE program area. In 2022, CCE's Great Lakes efforts focused on the following priorities:

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin Water Resource Compact (Compact)

Ratified by all eight Great Lakes States and Congress, the Compact became law in 2008. The NYS Water Withdrawal legislation, which was passed into law in NYS in

2011, established a program to regulate large water users, develop water conservation and efficiency standards, and ensure that NYS is in compliance with the Compact. In 2022, CCE continued to monitor Compact implementation in New York and throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

The GLRI is a federal program that invests in addressing priority issues to protect and restore the lakes, which includes cleaning up toxic hot spots, combating invasive species, reducing polluted runoff, restoring wetlands and other habitats, and providing monitoring to ensure investments are spent wisely. In 2022, CCE joined with our local, state, and national partners to successfully advocate for a \$368 million investment in the GLRI. This funding will help ensure the cleanup of many toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes, including the completion of cleanups in the Buffalo River, Niagara River, and Eighteen Mile Creek by 2030

Great Lakes Advocacy in Washington, D.C.

In March, CCE celebrated Great Lakes Days and once again led a team of advocates to meet with Congressional offices (virtually) in support of policies and funding to support Great Lakes. CCE recruited a diverse team of advocates—fishing groups, wastewater treatment operators, water suppliers, and environmental justice advocates—to speak in one voice on all the issues that must be addressed to protect our lakes. CCE and our partners pushed hard for increased funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, upgrades to aging and failing wastewater and drinking water infrastructure, a study on how to better protect Great Lakes coastal communities from the impacts of climate change, and to ensure safe and affordable drinking water to all. CCE led a similar team of advocates for in person meetings with congressional offices in the fall of 2022.



Advancing Great Lakes Restoration at the State Level

In 2022, CCE successfully advocated to increase state funding for the Ocean and Great Lakes program at \$22.5 million, which will allow key restoration programs to move forward along both coasts. This funding line is critical to advancing the Great

Lakes Action Agenda, which is New York State's comprehensive plan to advance Great Lakes restoration in the State. Furthermore, CCE worked with partners to weigh in with the DEC as they developed the next version of the state's plan to restore the Great Lakes, known as the Great Lakes Action Agenda 2030. CCE urged the state to increase focus on climate resilience, environmental justice, and coordinating with federal restoration efforts. The new plan will be released in 2023.

Increasing Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency

In recent years, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie have faced significant flooding, due to extreme rainfall and snowmelt. In 2022, CCE continued to advocate for local, state and federal investments in nature-based solutions that will make our Great Lakes coastline more resilient to the impacts of a changing climate. At the state level, we successfully advocated for a \$4.2 billion environmental bond act, and at the federal level, we supported passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which will both provide significant investments in coastal resiliency.

Estuary Protection

New York State and Connecticut are fortunate to have over 1,500 square miles of bays and estuaries, and 120 miles of ocean shoreline. The Long Island Sound and the South Shore Estuary Reserve are critical to our regional economy, culture, and maritime heritage. CCE works to preserve, protect, and restore our ecologically important bays and estuaries.



Long Island Sound Protection

CCE remains committed to Long Island Sound (LIS) protection efforts and is an active member of the Long Island Sound Study Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the CAC's communications workgroup, and its policy subcommittee.

The CAC's objectives include completion and implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for LIS protection and restoration, advancement of the Sound's water quality and habitat restoration goals, ample funding for important LIS programs, and improved public education on the health of the Sound and its watershed.

Reauthorization of the LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act

The combined LIS Restoration and Stewardship Act provides for up to \$65 million annually to fund Long Island Sound programs in New York and Connecticut. CCE continues to advocate for adequate funding for LIS programs.

CCE fought hard against attempts by the Trump administration to slash funding for Long Island Sound restoration in the federal budget. Due to grassroots pressure, Congress rejected previously proposed, ill-advised cuts and has instead continued to increase funding for critical restoration programs.

After delays due to COVID-19, fortunately CCE was able to resume our in person annual Long Island Sound Lobby day in DC. We worked with our Long Island Sound partners and our US House and Senate Representatives to support increasing funding for the Long Island Sound, preserving Plum Island, and growing funding available for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades. Long Island Sound funding received historic funding over \$32 million in the 2022 budget

Long Island Sound High School Summit

In 2022 CCE expanded the Long Island Sound High School Summit to work with 8 high schools. This innovative program works with students from Brentwood, Northport, Smithtown, Riverhead, Oyster Bay, Commack, Our Lady of Mercy and Rocky Point High Schools to develop and implement projects that are focused on the protection and restoration of the Sound. The students participated in the Long Island Sound High School Summit.

The LIS High School Summit was a great event with 8 schools, 100 students, and 30 unique Long Island Sound protection projects. It was fantastic to see the depth and diversity of the student's work and we are proud of these future Long Island Sound protection leaders. These future Long Island Sound leaders presented research projects on a variety of important topics, including water quality testing, storm drain monitoring, plastic pollution, and marine life in the Long Island Sound.



Long Island Sound Water Pollution Webinars

CCE partnered with The Nature Conservancy and Save the Sound to host a 3-part webinar series “Long Island Sound: Driving Local Actions to Tackle Water Pollution” to discuss, convene, and share solutions to marine debris, nitrogen, and fecal bacteria pollution.

Preserve Plum Island

CCE is a steering committee member of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition (PPIC), a bi-state partnership of non-profit and civic groups working to preserve the diverse ecological and cultural resources of Plum Island. Located at the tip of Long Island’s North Fork, Plum Island holds great ecological and cultural significance for the Long Island Sound community. The island provides critical wildlife habitat for a plethora of avian and marine species, including more than 200 different kinds of birds, harbor seals, and a dazzling variety of terrestrial mammals and native plant species. The island is home to the Historic Fort Terry and numerous other historic landmarks, which are in urgent need of restoration. Approximately 80% of the island remains undeveloped, which creates unique conservation and historic preservation opportunities.

In December 2020, Congress passed a budget measure repealing the requirement to sell Plum Island at public auction. This was the result of a multi-year, bi-state effort on the part of PPIC working with tribal partners, State and local governments, and stakeholders from across the LI Sound community. The island will now go through the standard General Services Administration (GSA) transfer and disposal process, which prioritizes existing State uses of the property.

PPIC is working with the State of New York and GSA to develop and implement a plan to preserve Plum Island for the benefit of future generations. In 2022, we worked with our partners to push for Plum Island to be designated a National Monument and will continue this work into 2023.

Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve (SSER)

In 2022, New York released an updated Comprehensive Management Plan for the South Shore Estuary Reserve, which spans the Western Bays to Shinnecock Bay along the south shore of Long



Island. This document will drive protection efforts to restore water quality in our bays and to combat nitrogen pollution, climate change, harmful algal blooms, and more. We joined New York Department of State Deputy Secretary of State Kisha Santiago Martinez and our friends at Seatuck, The Nature Conservancy, and Operation Splash to announce the release of this important plan. CCE continues to serve as Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Western Bays Campaign

CCE continues to work with the Western Bays Working Group for the restoration of Western Bays. The Working Group is made up of elected leaders and stakeholder organizations, including Nassau County, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Operation SPLASH, Sludge Stoppers, and The Nature Conservancy. The goal of the Working Group is to restore the Western Bays, by upgrading the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant, ensuring there is denitrification technology installed, and diverting effluent from the bay.

In a newly proposed solution, Nassau County announced a plan to use an existing County owned steel pipe to divert treated waste from Bay Park STP to the Cedar Creek ocean outfall pipe, which has more than enough capacity. In November 2020, the Nassau County Legislature unanimously voted “yes” to advance the much-needed project connecting the Bay Park Sewage Treatment Plant to an ocean outfall pipe at the Cedar Creek STP. This vote was a crucial milestone in the road to fixing our sewage infrastructure problems on the south shore of Long Island and will lead to greatly reduced nitrogen pollution entering the Western Bays. The Bay Park Conveyance Project is the biggest environmental project in decades and will restore the Western Bays.

This transformative project will connect the Bay Park and Long Beach sewage treatment plants, which were discharging treated sewage into Reynolds Channel, to an ocean outfall pipe at the Cedar Creek plant. We are closer than ever to restoring the Western Bays.

Shinnecock Bay Kelp Farm

We were honored to be invited to the Hampton Bays to visit a Kelp Farm in Shinnecock Bay this March. The project is a collaboration between the Shinnecock Kelp Farmers and Sisters of St. Joseph that will help restore water quality in the bay.





Crab Meadow Watershed

In summer 2022, the Huntington Town Board on Long Island unanimously accepted a plan 10 years in the making to protect the environmental asset known as the Crab Meadow Watershed. The Crab Meadow Watershed Hydrology Study and Stewardship Plan studied this unique and special area of glacially formed features that drains into Long Island Sound. The Crab Meadow Watershed is designated as a “Long Island Sound Stewardship Area” which means a high level of protection is needed.

The Crab Meadow Watershed Hydrology Study and Stewardship Plan provides excellent guidance, but now actions are needed. CCE is urging the Town of Huntington to address the environmental and community concerns raised in this report and move forward with a planning process and implement meaningful water quality protection measures that will demonstrably protect wetlands, marshes, ponds, harbors, and Long Island Sound. Steps need to be taken to restore wetlands and critical habitat, increase land conservation, combat climate change, increase coastal resiliency, reduce pollution from nitrogen, pesticides, and other contaminants, enhance public education and more. CCE will continue to push for a meaningful action plan to protect the Crab Meadow Watershed in 2023.

Northport Harbor Water Quality Protection

The Northport Harbor Water Quality Protection Committee (NHWQPC) was established in 2010 and successfully developed a comprehensive plan to restore water quality in the Northport/Centerport Harbor complex. Members include community groups, local governments, and businesses. The plan focuses on reducing nitrogen loading in the bays using stormwater runoff mitigation and upgrades to sewage infrastructure. The plan also includes a subcommittee on education and outreach that aims to increase resident awareness about limiting fertilizer and pesticide application, as well as controlling runoff on private properties

with natural vegetation. Many of the committees' established efforts are underway or completed. CCE continues to meet regularly with the NHWQPC to continue dredging projects, stormwater reduction measures, and sewer and septic upgrades that can further restore the waterway.

Fire Island Sewage

On June 6, 2018, local, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and Fire Island stakeholders convened to review the current state of wastewater management on Fire Island. This group is now named the Coalition for Fire Island Wastewater Solutions.

This effort was prompted by the current upgrades to the Village of Ocean Beach's Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and collection system that will allow for expansion of the sewer district beyond the borders of the Village of Ocean Beach. A collective interest exists amongst the Coalition to upgrade and improve wastewater management on Fire Island and identify potential options for technologies that could serve the island's unique geology and human development. There is a recognition that one type of technology may not serve all locations on Fire Island, and an array of options will be necessary to improve wastewater management island wide.



Given the complex nature of Fire Island's governmental jurisdictions, array of stakeholders, and mosaic of land use and ownership, there was consensus that a cooperative, multi-jurisdictional effort was necessary to develop a Fire Island-wide and comprehensive approach to wastewater management on Fire Island. The Coalition worked to craft a document that is intended to help inform a Request for Proposals for Wastewater Planning Study for Fire Island (RFP) and act as the first step in the planning process to effectively manage Fire Island's wastewater. CCE is working with Suffolk County leaders and coalition members to secure funding for an engineering and planning study as the next step in the process to combat nitrogen pollution on Fire Island.

In 2021, CCE proudly announced the first ever Fire Island Wastewater Solutions Planning & Engineering Study. This critical process was spearheaded by Suffolk

County Legislator Steve Flotteron and CCE Executive Director, Adrienne Esposito. The study is underway and we can take the first step towards understanding the extent of the Fire Island nitrogen pollution problem and finding solutions that protect our waterways, fisheries, and community. Throughout 2022, we continued to work with our partners, community members, and elected officials to give updates on this important study. There were multiple community meetings to engage all 17 Fire Island communities. The draft report will be out in 2023.

Long Island Groundwater Protection

Long Island is a sole-source aquifer region, which means residents rely on groundwater for 100% of their drinking water. A clean, healthy aquifer system is vital to maintaining Long Islanders' quality of life.

A report, by the Suffolk County Health Department entitled "Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Management Plan," documents the troubling trends in Long Island's drinking water supply. Nitrates, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, and pharmaceutical drugs all threaten our drinking water supply. In particular, the report documents a sharp rise in nitrogen concentrations in both the upper glacial and magothy aquifers.

In 2022, Citizens Campaign for the Environment continued to work with the Group for the East End and The Nature Conservancy to restore and protect Long Island's water resources.

CCE engaged in the following activities in 2022:

- CCE helped to promote Suffolk County's Reclaim Our Water initiative, which will provide millions of dollars in direct financial support for Suffolk County residents who want to replace their existing septic systems with new technology that will improve Long Island water quality. Priority is given to residents in priority areas, including unsewered coastal areas where nitrogen



pollution from septic systems and cesspools quickly reaches surface waters. CCE participates in public forums and distributes educational literature to educate residents on this important program.

- We joined with our partners at the Long Island Clean Water Partnership and Dr. Chris Gobler to unveil a Summer 2022 map of harmful algal blooms. Excessive nitrogen from sewage and septic systems continues to degrade our waters, but there is some good news. In some areas where nitrogen pollution has been significantly reduced, like Western Long Island Sound, we are seeing improved water quality and decreased hypoxia!

Suffolk County Clean Water Plan

Nitrogen pollution from sewage and septic systems poses a significant threat to Long Island's water resources. To combat this problem, Suffolk County has worked diligently to create a comprehensive Subwatersheds Wastewater Management Plan, which analyzes the sources of nitrogen pollution in 191 subwatersheds and prescribes a path for ecosystem restoration in each water body. The Suffolk County Legislature unanimously voted "yes" in March to adopt the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) for the Suffolk County Subwatersheds Wastewater Plan. This vitally important vote moves the process forward and allows critical components of the plan to be considered by the Legislature in the future.

In order to fully implement this plan, Suffolk County will need a stable, recurring funding source to provide septic upgrade grants and sewer expansions. In 2022, CCE worked on state legislation which would authorize the county to form a combined sewer district and enable the county to put a clean water referendum on the ballot and let the voters decide if they want to fund these clean water projects out of their sales tax. This bill unfortunately did not pass in 2022, but CCE is working with our county, environmental, and labor partners to get this important legislation passed in 2023.

Stopping the Tax on Septic Upgrades

CCE worked with Senator Chuck Schumer and local policy makers to stop an unfair tax on homeowners who choose to replace their antiquated septic systems with new innovative alternative technology. Suffolk and Nassau Counties have grant programs which allow residents to switch from polluting septic systems and cesspools to nitrogen-reducing onsite wastewater systems. These programs are necessary to combat harmful algal blooms and restore our waterways.



In 2019, homeowners who opted into the septic replacement grants program were disturbed to receive 1099s claiming they owed taxes on their grants. Elected officials, environmental organizations, civic groups, businesses, and homeowners joined together in opposing the ill-advised issuance of the 1099s, which serves to dissuade community members from participating in an environmental protection program.

In 2022, the federal USDA ruled that homeowners who opted to replace their cesspools and antiquated septic systems with nitrogen reducing systems should not be taxed for choosing to protect our environment. This decision by the USDA states that the septic change-out programs are designed to protect our water and therefore should not be taxed. CCE joined Senator Schumer for a celebratory press conference where he stated he was certain the IRS would decide to make this ruling retroactive, so people who were wrongly taxed will get their money back.

Expanding Wetland Protections

In 2022, CCE worked to strengthen and improve New York's freshwater wetland protection law. Independent of size, wetlands provide significant benefits to the people and the environment of New York State. Acting like filters, wetlands protect lakes, rivers and streams by absorbing pollutants, pesticides, nitrogen, phosphorus and other contaminants. Wetlands save billions of dollars in property damage annually by acting as a buffer against storm water and absorbing floodwaters. Due to an outdated state law and federal rollbacks on clean water protections, New York's wetlands are vulnerable to pollution and destruction. After 20 years of advocacy, CCE and our partners successfully advocated to strengthen NY's freshwater wetlands program in the 2022 state budget. By removing a requirement that wetlands need to be on an outdated map to be protected, it is estimated to result in the protection of an additional million acres of freshwater wetlands across the state!



Public Health and Toxic Chemical Contamination

In 2022, CCE continued campaigns at the local, state, and federal level designed to protect public health, wildlife, and water quality from emerging contaminants, toxic chemicals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and hazardous waste.

1,4-Dioxane

1,4-Dioxane, an emerging contaminant, does not occur naturally and is linked to tumors of the kidney, liver, gallbladder, nasal cavity, skin, and breast through animal testing. Up to 80% of personal care products and cosmetics contain 1,4-dioxane because it results as a byproduct of a common processing method called “ethoxylation”. An EPA study revealed concerning levels of 1,4-dioxane on Long Island – the highest detected anywhere in the country.

Banning 1,4-Dioxane from Products

CCE released the *1,4-Dioxane Shopping Safe Report* as part of CCE’s ongoing campaign to combat 1,4-dioxane contamination in Long Island drinking water. We tested 80 personal care products for 1,4 dioxane, including shampoos, bath soaps, baby products, and detergents. Of the 80 products, 65 tested positive for the contaminant! This was the first independent product testing for 1,4 dioxane in over a decade. There was an overwhelming response to the Shopping Safe Report with the list of the “Dirty Dozen” worst products and “Green 15” safe products going viral on social media. CCE continues to distribute the report and factsheets on our website and at public education events.



The public response to this report drove state lawmakers to introduce a ban on 1,4-dioxane in products in 2019. Throughout 2019, CCE lobbied lawmakers, garnered tens of thousands of signatures and letters from community members across NYS in support of the bill. The ban on 1,4-dioxane passed and was signed into law in 2019. NY is now the first state to pass a ban on this hidden carcinogen in products. Throughout 2022, CCE continued to educate the public on the dangers of 1,4-dioxane

contamination and to monitor implementation of this important law. The law will begin to take effect January 2023

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) represent a growing class of over 6,000 chemical compounds composed of a series of fluorine atoms organized around a carbon chain. These chemicals are used in a variety of household and industrial products, including firefighting foams, food packaging, and numerous water-resistant, stain-proof, and nonstick products. PFAS are highly persistent in soil and water and are linked to a wide range of human health impacts. These include birth defects and developmental challenges, elevated cholesterol levels, thyroid disease, and testicular cancer. PFAS are referred to as “forever chemicals” due to their persistence in our environment and our bodies. According to the CDC, PFAS are present in the bloodstream of 98% of American adults.

Federal Regulations of PFOA and PFOS

In 2022, CCE continued to call on the EPA to regulate PFOA and PFOS, two possible carcinogens that have been found in drinking water supplies throughout the state. Based on a growing body of new science, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated its drinking water health advisory for two types of PFAS chemicals, PFOS and PFOA from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to .004 ppt for PFOA and .02 for PFOS. This means that there is essentially no safe level of exposure to these chemicals in our drinking water.



PFAS Webinars

Throughout 2022, CCE hosted a series of public education webinars on the sources of PFAS exposure, the threats to human health, and the need for state and federal action to address PFAS contamination. In June 2022, CCE joined the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) in hosting a virtual lunch and learn on the environmental, public health, and safety issues associated with the use of artificial turf. Throughout New York, natural grass playgrounds and athletic fields have been replaced with artificial turf. The use of artificial turf, which often is made of crumb rubber, causes significant environmental, health, and safety concerns. As schools continue to switch over to artificial turf, children who play on these surfaces are at increased risk of physical injury and exposure to toxic chemicals. The problems associated with artificial turf include PFAS and other hazardous chemicals used in

the turf, water quality contamination, microplastic pollution, climate impacts and more.

In November 2022, CCE along with our partners at the Natural Resource Defense Council, and Yale hosted a virtual Lunch and Learn on the threats per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose to drinking water quality and human health. This discussion focused on the impacts these forever chemicals have on our health and environment and how the public can help address PFAS in New York.

PFAS in Food Packaging

PFAS are widely used in food packaging to provide water and grease resistance. PFAS are found in fast food packaging, beverage containers, microwaveable popcorn bags, bakery and deli papers, grocery store take-out containers, and in other food packaging. PFAS are very persistent in the environment and in the human body, meaning they do not break down and bioaccumulate over time. PFAS can transfer from toxic packaging to the foods and beverages we consume, leading to dangerous exposure. Exposure to PFAS can lead to higher rates of kidney and testicular cancer, higher cholesterol levels, suppressed immune system, thyroid problems, and adverse developmental effects and decreased immune response in children.

Scientific studies show that food packaging is one of the most common ways people are exposed to PFAS. The Center for Environmental Health found PFAS in 100% of microwave popcorn bags and molded food service-ware tested. A study by the Silent Spring Institute found PFAS in one-third of fast-food packaging. Currently there are no state or federal regulations on the use of short-chain PFAS in food packaging, and there is no way for consumers to know if our food is packaged using PFAS. The only way to ensure PFAS are not contaminating our foods and beverages is to ban their use in food packaging. A ban on PFAS in food packaging was passed in 2020 and took effect in December 2022. CCE continues to work to ensure the successful implementation of this ban.

PFAS in Firefighting Foam

Recent water contamination cases in New York State have sounded the alarm about the dangers associated with PFAS contamination. In Newburgh and Suffolk County, PFOS was used in firefighting foam that seeped into the groundwater through firefighting and training activities. Exposure to PFAS can lead to higher rates of



kidney and testicular cancer, higher cholesterol levels, suppressed immune system, thyroid problems, and adverse developmental effects and decreased immune response in children.

In 2019, CCE successfully lobbied lawmakers to remove PFAS from firefighting foam and prevent the contaminant from continuing to pollute drinking water near airports, air bases and firehouses where foam is commonly used and stored. Throughout 2022, CCE continued to advocate for federal action to ban toxic PFAS chemicals from firefighting foam. We will continue fighting for this critical legislation, which protects firefighters, our water, and public health.



PFAS on Long Island

As part of our advocacy for NYS to enforce more stringent standards for PFAS, CCE compiled data of PFAS contamination across Long Island. In 2022, we launched a new interactive map showing widespread PFAS contamination on Long Island in drinking water. This data was compiled using the water districts 2021 annual drinking water quality reports. Long Islanders can now [check out the map](#) to see if there is PFAS in their drinking water district. The map has over 2.5 million views.

New York State Health Based Drinking Water Standards for Emerging Contaminants

In addition to banning 1,4-dioxane and PFAS chemicals in products, we need to treat the existing contamination to protect public health as well. CCE worked with members of the NYS Drinking Water Quality Council to continue discussions on setting a state standard for 1,4-dioxane and got emails and letters from the public to

the NYS Health Department calling for a standard that would protect our drinking water and public health. We also worked in communities, such as Bethpage and Calverton, where these contaminants are prevalent and problematic. In March 2020, we joined community groups from Calverton and Bethpage in calling on NY to move forward without further delay in setting drinking water standards for these emerging contaminants.

In July 2020, after three years of hard work advocating for the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to adopt drinking water standards for the toxic chemicals PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, the DOH officially adopted strong, enforceable drinking water standards for these contaminants in July. The Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL)—10 ppt for PFOA and PFOS, 1 ppb for 1,4-dioxane—are the toughest MCLs adopted in the US and will ensure that our tap water is treated for these toxic chemicals. In fact, NY is the first state to set a 1,4-dioxane standard and we look forward to seeing other states do the same! Throughout 2022, CCE continued to monitor the implementation of these standards and worked to secure funding for drinking water system upgrades that will allow for the removal of these emerging contaminants.

In 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency updated its drinking water health advisory for two types of PFAS chemicals, PFOS and PFOA. Drinking water health advisories indicate the amount of a chemical in drinking water that is expected to cause adverse health impacts. The EPA significantly reduced the health advisory from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for both PFOA and PFOS down to a mere .004 ppt for PFOA and .02 ppt for PFOS. This means that there is essentially no safe level of exposure to these chemicals in our drinking water!

NY also proposed to expand regulations to a total of 23 PFAS chemicals as well as create a combined standard to account for the accumulation of effects from exposure to multiple PFAS chemicals. The proposed NYS standard would create drinking water standards at 10 ppt for 4 additional PFAS: PFDA, PFHpA, PFHxS, PFNA (keeps existing PFOA/PFOS at 10 ppt). It would also create a cumulative standard of 30 ppt for these 6 PFAS. In light of the EPA's updated advisory levels, CCE has been pushing for NY to lower their proposed drinking water standards and cumulative standard to be more protective of public health.



Expanding Testing for New Emerging Contaminants

In recent years, high profile incidents of drinking water contamination in New York communities have highlighted the critical need to improve drinking water protection. Emerging contaminants have polluted drinking water supplies in communities across New York State, often at levels above federal health guidelines. Unfortunately, due to a lack of testing, residents have been left in the dark when dangerous chemicals are lurking in their drinking water. New York has made strides in identifying and setting strong drinking water standards for a limited number of emerging contaminants (i.e. PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane) but little has been done to address the ever-growing number of new emerging contaminants. Industries regularly replace toxic chemicals they use for a newer “safer alternative.” Unfortunately, the alternatives are often just as toxic as the chemicals they replace. This has been the case with a chemical known as GenX, which was used to replace a different PFAS chemical, and has now been found polluting water resources in other parts of the country.

In 2021, CCE worked to address the growing threat of emerging contaminants in drinking water, and successfully lobbied the New York State Senate and Assembly to pass legislation to significantly expand drinking water testing. The legislation would expand testing of our drinking water for more contaminants. Establish the state’s first list of emerging contaminants and require that every drinking water system test for these contaminants.

The bill lists a minimum 40 emerging contaminants that all New York public water systems must test for in drinking water. The list includes chemicals known to occur in some NY water systems, as well as new and emerging threats, including many PFAS chemicals (e.g. GenX). The NYS Department of Health would also be required to update the list at least every three years to ensure that all communities are testing for the most up-to-date list of emerging contaminants. The bill also closes the federal loophole for smaller water systems which serve less than 10,000 residents. These smaller systems would have to test for emerging contaminants. This legislation was signed into law by Governor Hochul in December 2021.

Throughout 2022, CCE worked to ensure the successful implementation of the law and worked with the NYS Drinking Water Council to propose drinking water standards for new PFAS chemicals. CCE continues to work to ensure the strongest drinking water standards are adopted for new emerging contaminants. Additionally,



CCE is lobbying to require private wells be tested for emerging contaminants. It is estimated that over 1 million homeowners in New York currently utilize private wells for their drinking water. These residents may be drinking contaminated water without knowing it as there is no current statewide requirement for having private drinking water wells tested ever. To provide all citizens in the state with information on the quality of their drinking water, water from private wells should also be tested before home sales and by landlords leasing properties with private wells.

Replacing Lead Service Lines

The impacts of lead exposure through drinking water pipes can have significant adverse human health effects. Even at very low levels lead can cause serious irreversible damage to the developing brains and nervous systems of babies and young children. Across New York State there are roughly 360,000 lead service lines that need to be replaced. In 2022, CCE worked with Congressional representatives to secure \$2.6 billion in federal funding to help improve water infrastructure and replace lead service lines through the bipartisan infrastructure bill.



Brookhaven Lab Clean Up

In 2022, CCE continued our activity on the Community Advisory Council (CAC) to Brookhaven National Laboratory. CCE evaluated cleanup options, associated costs, and environmental and public health impacts for several remediation scenarios. Additional reviews included groundwater-sampling reports, wetlands restoration progress for the Peconic, testing data for 1,4-Dioxane, PFAS and PFOA. Also, remediation efforts for the BGRR stack. As part of the CAC, we attended presentations from BNL scientists on their work in the fields of nanoscience, renewable energy technologies, climate science, material science, biofuels and more. CCE continues to be a watchdog for environmental remediation efforts at this facility.

Hazardous Waste Landfill

In November of 2015 it was announced that the CWM hazardous waste landfill had reached full capacity. For the first time in 45 years, PCBs and other hazardous waste are no longer being landfilled in Niagara County, NY. This is welcome news, as CWM has been the state's only active hazardous waste landfill, which is located just a mile from the Lewiston-Porter Central Schools, two miles from the Niagara River, and

three miles from Lake Ontario. In 2022, CCE continued to oppose CWM's application to expand and build an additional landfill in Porter, NY, which would bring in more than 4 million cubic yards of additional waste for decades to come.



Pharmaceutical Disposal

Pharmaceutical drug contamination in our groundwater, rivers, estuaries, lakes, and bays is an emerging issue throughout NY, CT, and the nation. Flushing unwanted or unused medication has been the common disposal practice, despite the fact that our sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and drinking water infrastructure were never designed to remove these contaminants. A United States Geological Survey (USGS) study found low levels of drugs such as antibiotics, hormones, contraceptives, and steroids in 80% of the rivers and streams tested. CCE works to provide the public and healthcare facilities with increased access to safe disposal options for unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs.

In 2015, CCE partnered with King Kullen, the Suffolk County Water Authority and United Water to launch a first-of-its-kind, cutting-edge program for members of the public to safely and conveniently dispose of unwanted and expired over-the-counter and prescription drugs for free. As of 2022, the program has led to the safe disposal of over 20,000 pounds or 10+ tons of unwanted pharmaceuticals, preventing their impact on Long Island's aquifers!

Onondaga County

In 2022, CCE continued to partner with the Onondaga County Sharps, Needles, and Drug Disposal (SNADD) Program to address both the community and environmental impacts of improper pharmaceutical disposal. 10 police departments and 2 college campus Security offices have installed drug drop boxes, half of which also provide needle receptacles. CCE continues to partner with SNADD to support ongoing safe pharmaceutical disposal practices in Onondaga County.

New York State

In 2018, CCE was successful in advocating for the passage of the New York State Drug Take Back Act, which will help keep unused drugs out of the hands of abusers and out of our treasured water resources. This landmark law ensures that the multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry—not the taxpayers—will fund a statewide program to provide all New Yorkers with convenient access to safe pharmaceutical drug disposal options. It requires that all chain pharmacies provide a safe drug disposal option for customers and allows police precincts and independent pharmacies to also participate. In 2022, CCE pushed the NYS Department of Health to move forward with implementing the program, which had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In late 2022, program plans began to be implemented and take-back options began to increase throughout the state.

Sand Land

Sand Land, a huge sand mining operation, acting as a solid waste facility on Long Island, submitted an application to expand its operations. The 50-acre mine is located within a Special Groundwater Protection Area, a critical area for protecting the quality and quantity of Long Island's drinking water.

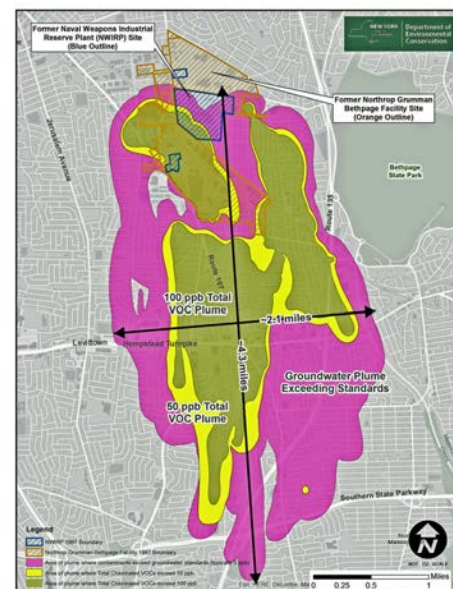
In 2014, they submitted an application to expand its operations. This 50-acre mine is located within a Special Groundwater Protection Area, a critical area for protecting the quality and quantity of Long Island's drinking water. In 2015 the DEC denied the expansion; however, Sand Land appealed that ruling. CCE in partnership with Group for the East End requested standing to become part of the DEC legal proceedings to support DEC's expansion denial. The denial of the expansion request still stands however, the NYS DEC has reversed their own ruling and is allowing the mine to remain open for 8 more years.



In a landmark ruling in May 2021, the NYS Supreme Court Appellate Division ruled in favor of aquifer protection and against the existing sandmining operation. Sand Land and the NYS DEC lost this critical court case and the courts ruled that DEC broke the law by issuing a permit extension and expansion to the sand mine located in the middle of a Special Groundwater Protection Area in Southampton Town. DEC appealed and the case is still being reviewed by the NY Supreme Court.

Navy/Grumman Plume

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation proposed a comprehensive plan to clean up contamination at the US Navy/Grumman Plume in Bethpage, Long Island. The plume contains 24 contaminants including known and likely carcinogens and has seriously impacted the drinking water and human health of residents in and around Bethpage for decades. CCE is working with community members for a comprehensive clean-up of contaminants and to stop the spread of the plume. CCE advocated NY to include a plan for public involvement, soil remediation, an expedited clean up timeline, and treatment for contaminants like 1,4-dioxane and Radium in their final plan.



In 2020, an investigation revealed that the US Navy and Grumman knew about the contamination for nearly 5 decades and allowed the public to continue drinking contaminated water. New York State reached an agreement for full remediation with the Navy and Grumman in 2020, including over \$100 million in damages, and CCE continues work with community groups as well as with leaders on the local, state, and federal level to ensure that this plume is fully remediated, and public health is protected.

Calverton Public Water

CCE continues to work with the Calverton community to ensure residents have clean public drinking water. Many in the community are still on private drinking water wells, including residents just south of a Navy/Grumman toxic site in Suffolk County. Unfortunately, the Navy has been slow to clean up the contamination, including dangerous PFAS chemicals. CCE Executive Director, Adrienne Esposito, is a member of the Calverton Restoration Advisory Board, a community oversight board, and we are fighting the public's drinking water.

In November 2022, we stood with local residents to demand #CleanWaterNow. We have worked with community members, The Riverhead Water District, the Suffolk County Water Authority, Suffolk County, our federal representatives and New York State to find collaborative solutions for bringing public water to this area. There are still 64 homes relying on private wells contaminated with PFAS chemicals and VOCs.



Solid Waste Management

At the local, state, national level—we are all experiencing a solid waste and recycling crisis. We are facing waste challenges across New York and Connecticut, but we also have a chance for new opportunities; a chance for new solutions, new policies, and a renewed focus on reducing our waste stream and making our communities more sustainable.

Addressing New York’s Solid Waste Crisis

In January of 2018, China dramatically altered their policy and now requires inspections of all recycling materials before accepting them, including New York’s paper and plastic. That has essentially halted the ability of the U.S. to send recyclable materials to China. Municipalities that were once getting paid for their recyclables, now have to pay to recycle them. As a result, many municipalities face recycling costs estimated to over \$80 million in 2022 in New York State, without even including the impact in New York City. Throughout 2022, CCE lobbied for policy changes at the state level to address New York’s ongoing solid waste crisis, save valuable natural resources, drive economic development, and protect the state’s environment.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Paper and Packaging

Packaging and printed paper constitute a significant portion of the solid waste stream in New York State. Policy changes in China that have restricted the importation of recyclable packaging and printed paper materials have significantly increased the costs for local governments and taxpayers to manage and dispose of these materials. While local governments in NYS are tasked with achieving waste diversion goals—increasing costs to taxpayers—manufacturers currently bear no

responsibility in dealing with the waste that they create. Large brands have externalized the cost of disposing of packaging onto our municipal recycling programs. Companies currently bear no responsibility in dealing with the packaging waste that their business creates.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) would require producers (brand owners) to take responsibility for their products throughout their entire product life cycle, by bearing the cost of proper recycling and responsible disposal for packaging and printed paper. Not only does this provide relief to taxpayers, it also serves as an incentive to producers to minimize packaging materials, improve recyclability, and reduce the toxicity of their products.



Enacting EPR for packaging and printed paper is the logical next step, and would help address the state's solid waste problems, while benefiting the environment and providing relief to taxpayers. In 2022, CCE continued our campaign to urge New York State to adopt EPR for packaging. CCE held numerous lobby days and press events with coalition partners to advance this critical legislation. In March 2022, CCE was successful in passing resolutions in both Tompkins County and New York City in support of a NYS EPR law. CCE continues to work on Extended Producer Responsibility legislation in New York.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Carpets

The public and businesses have almost no way to recycle carpets in a convenient and cost-effective way. Nationwide, less than 5 percent of it is recycled, and the New York recycling rate is only 1 percent, meaning that about 500 million pounds of NYS carpets go to landfills and incinerators each year. Local governments are now facing higher costs associated with recycling and waste. In New York it is estimated that the annual cost of carpet disposal to be \$22 million. Carpets are expensive and difficult for municipalities to manage, and often contain harmful chemicals, including PFAS.

In 2022, CCE successfully lobbied for a product stewardship program for carpets which will help ensure that manufacturers take responsibility for managing their products throughout their entire life cycle, which will incentive them to make products that are less toxic and more recyclable, while reducing



the financial burden currently placed on already overburdened municipalities and taxpayers across New York State.



Food Redistribution and Recycling Act

Wasted food is a serious economic, environmental, and food security problem. The irresponsible overproduction, distribution, and preparation of food has led to excessive waste of usable food scraps, contributed to climate change, and perpetuated the challenges of food insecurity. New York generates an estimated 4 million tons of excess food annually, which makes up 18% of the state's municipal solid waste stream. The vast majority of wasted food is disposed of in landfills, where it breaks down and releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Meanwhile, an estimated 2.5 million New Yorkers are facing hunger and food insecurity—37% of which are children.

It is critical to reform New York's practices to ensure that instead of wasting food, we are redistributing excess food in order to benefit those in need and protect the environment. In 2019, CCE successfully lobbied for the Food Redistribution and Recycling Act which establishes a program that prohibits large generators of excess food from discarding of food at landfills or incinerators, but rather, redistribute edible food to those in need and send food scraps to a compost facility or to generate renewable energy through anaerobic digestion.

In 2022, the law went into effect. For 2022, 1,150 businesses and institutions were required to comply with the law, with all of these entities required to donate excess edible food, and 320 (28%) required to recycle their food scraps. By October 2022, 1.6 million pounds of food had already been donated to New Yorkers under this law!

This law is critical for encouraging investment in anaerobic digesters and composting operations. In 2022, after 10 years of work, the largest anaerobic digester on the east coast broke ground. Located in Yaphank, Long Island, this facility marks a

change in the way we think about food waste on Long Island. They will convert 180,000 tons of food scraps and create 6 megawatts of local energy. We joined American Organic Energy, Suffolk County Executive Bellone, and our community partners for the groundbreaking ceremony.

Reducing Disposable Bag Pollution

According to the EPA, between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. These bags are used for an average of 12 minutes, but they remain in our landfills, oceans, parks and beaches for thousands of years. Both plastic and paper disposable bags are costly, environmentally damaging, and completely unnecessary. Communities across the globe have been breaking the single-use bag habit and encouraging reusable bag use through bans and fees on plastic and paper bags.



New York State Plastic Bag Ban

After over a decade of working with policy makers to address the dangers of plastic bag pollution, New York State banned plastic bags in 2019. Throughout 2020, CCE worked with state elected officials and the NYS DEC to educate the public on the implementation of this policy and ensure a smooth transition from plastic bags to reusable alternatives. This bill was slated to take effect in March 2020, but enforcement was delayed due to COVID-19 coupled with a lawsuit by the plastics industry and bodega owners to overturn the law. New York won the lawsuit in August and successfully implemented the plastic bag ban in October. CCE conducted outreach to our members and through social media on the importance of the new law as citizen reporting options for stores not in compliance with the plastic bag ban. Throughout 2022, CCE continued to conduct public education and digital outreach on the importance of Bring Your Own Bag (BYOBag) behavior.

Expand and Modernize New York's Bottle Bill

New York New York State's Returnable Container Law (aka "the Bottle Bill") was enacted in 1982, and after 38 years of existence, stands as one of New York's most successful and impactful environmental laws. The program established a 5-cent refundable container deposit on beer, malt liquor, wine coolers, and carbonated soft drinks sold in a metal, glass, paper or plastic container that are less than 1 gallon in

volume. The Bottle Bill was updated and improved in 2009 to include bottled water, and to direct 80% of unclaimed deposits to be kept by the state.

The Bottle Bill has reduced roadside container litter by 70 percent. In 2016, the Bottle Bill helped to recycle 5.1 billion plastic, glass and aluminum beverage containers totaling more than 336,000 tons; at no cost to local governments. Despite the success of the Bottle Bill, more must be done to modernize this bedrock law in order to help address the solid waste crisis, reflect current markets, and further protect the health of our environment. In 2022, CCE worked to modernize and expand the Bottle Bill in the 2022-23 state budget. CCE advocated to increase the amount of the container deposit to 10 cents, expand covered containers to include wine, liquor, and other glass beverage bottles, and expand covered containers to include juices, teas, sports drinks, and other non-carbonated beverages. CCE continues to advocate to expand and modernize the Bottle Bill.

Connecticut's Bottle Bill

The Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation updating the State's outdated container deposit law (aka "the bottle bill") in 2021. This included expansion of the deposit program to cover non-carbonated beverages, hard seltzers and hard ciders, effective January of 2023, and it will increase the deposit on covered containers from 5 to 10 cents, effective January 2024.



The law also included several additional provisions aimed at modernizing beverage container recycling in Connecticut, including a requirement that large chain retailers (retail chains with 10 or more locations in the State with 7,000+ sq. feet of retail space) install reverse vending machines (RVM's), to collect deposit containers they sell. Further, the bill called for the formation of a Stewardship Organization for the collection and recycling of deposit containers sold in the state, no later than July of 2022. Such an organization would be responsible for submitting a stewardship plan for the management of covered containers, to be approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

CCE continues to play a leading role in the CT Bottle Bill Works Coalition, an ad-hoc partnership between state and local NGO's, recycling industry partners, local recycling authorities and community organizations working to support and

modernize the State's bottle deposit program. This coalition continues to meet bi-weekly to monitor progress in the new law's implementation, facilitate stakeholder discussions and disseminate relevant information to a diverse field of bottle bill stakeholders in the state.

Styrofoam

Polystyrene foam (often called Styrofoam) is a pervasive form of plastic pollution found in our parks and beaches throughout the state. CCE worked to mobilize the public and lobby policy makers on the public health and environmental impacts of polystyrene and the importance of switching to reusable cups and bottles. In 2019, CCE worked throughout NYC, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and Central New York to pass local legislation banning polystyrene foam and packaging. These laws added momentum to a statewide movement to get rid of this plastic pollutant. In January 2020, Governor Cuomo included a ban on polystyrene foam in his Executive Budget. CCE conducted a statewide outreach campaign, including door-to-door outreach to tens of thousands of homes coupled with social media and digital advocacy in support of the legislation. We lobbied New York Senate and Assembly leaders to include the polystyrene ban in their respective budgets. The statewide polystyrene ban was passed in the 2020 budget. The law was successfully implemented in January of 2022.



Connecticut Solid Waste and Recycling

Expanding solid waste & recycling education in Connecticut was a continued priority for CCE in 2022. CCE serves on the CT Recyclers Coalition (CRC) board, has continued its leadership role in the CT Bottle Bill Works Coalition, and has been an active participant in the BYO CT network throughout 2022. CCE also continued collaborating with the CT Zero Waste Coalition in 2022, a coalition of advocacy partners working to advance waste reduction policies, increase recycling and



promote environmental justice in our communities. These efforts characterize CCE's involvement on a variety of recycling and waste reduction priorities in Connecticut, including reducing pollution from single-use plastic bags, single-use plastic straws, service ware and expanded polystyrene.

In the fall of 2020, Gov. Ned Lamont approved the formation of the CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM), to assess the state's MSW and recycling systems and develop a slate of sustainable materials management strategies to help achieve an 80% reduction in solid waste. The coalition was made up of municipal officials and solid waste/recycling professionals working to identify scalable solutions to the solid waste crisis affecting CT municipalities.

In December of 2020, CCSMM put out a list of policy options for municipalities seeking to reduce waste and save money. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategies emerged as a clear priority, comprising 4 out of CCSMM's top 5 recommendations for legislative action in 2022. These include establishing EPR programs for gas cylinders, packaging and printed paper, household hazardous waste, and scrap tires. CCE will continue to advocate for EPR programs for wasteful consumer packaging and other "difficult-to-recycle" consumer products in 2022





Open Space, Habitat and Wildlife Protection

Preserving open space and critical habitat and wildlife in New York and Connecticut is a significant CCE program focus. Open space conservation of forests, parks, farmlands, and coastal areas is essential to our region's natural beauty, environmental health, and quality of life. Below are CCE's major campaigns aimed at open space, habitat and wildlife protection in 2022.

Environmental Protection Fund

The Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), created by the New York State Legislature in 1993, provides a reliable and dedicated funding source for key environmental programs, including Great Lakes and Oceans protection and restoration, municipal recycling, open space, and farmland preservation, reducing toxics, and much more. For the past 29 years the EPF has invested billions of dollars in these critical programs. Each year, the NYS legislature must appropriate funding to the EPF. CCE joined environmental advocates from across the state to fight for a \$400 million EPF in the 2022 budget. CCE was successful in securing an all-time high level funding of \$400 million for the EPF in the final state budget.

Farms and Agriculture

Farms and agricultural property are important examples of working landscapes and land preservation. CCE works to promote better environmental practices on farms in New York, including efforts to achieve effective nutrient management policies and regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations. CCE serves on the Agricultural

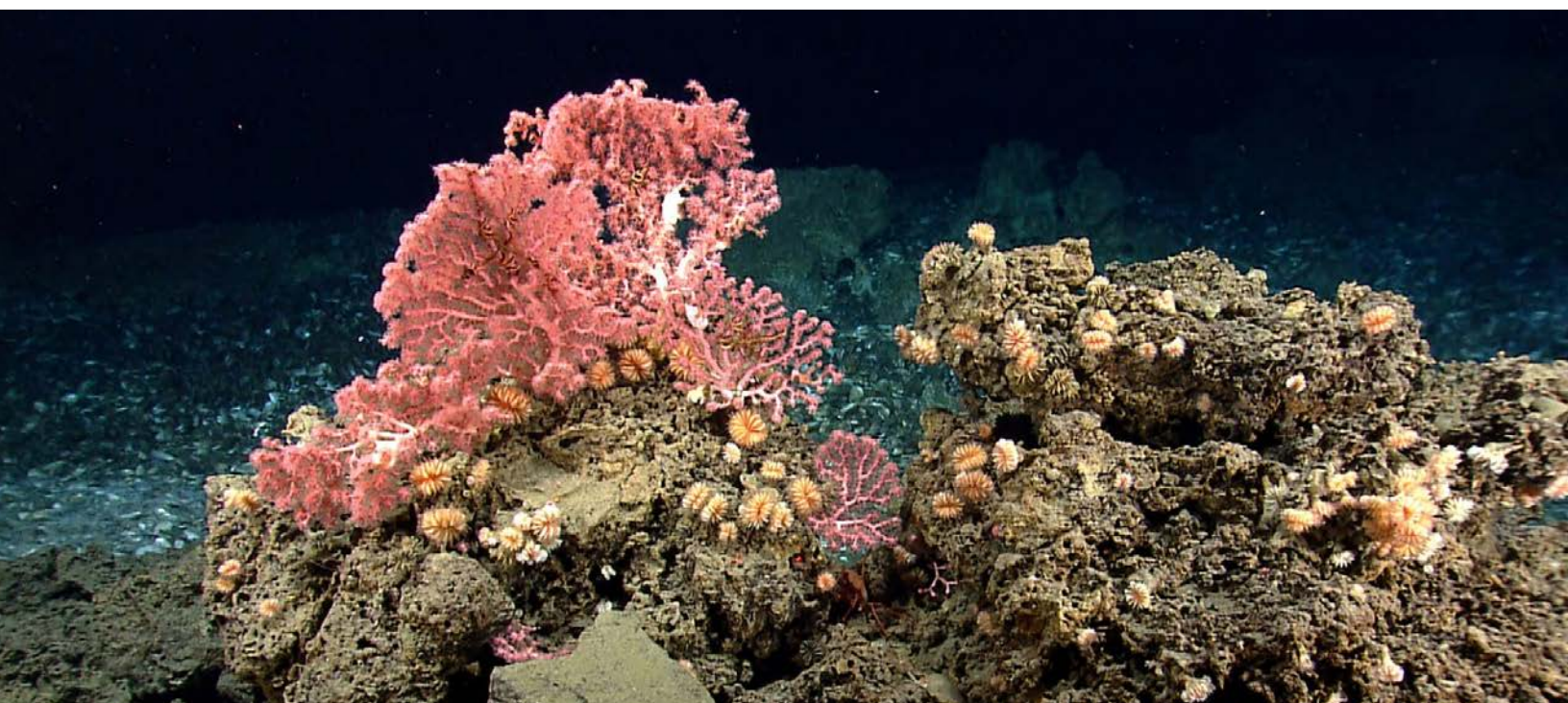
Environmental Management Steering Committee for New York and the Albany Soil and Water Conservation District Committee.

Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument

The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument was established during the Obama administration, and it stands to this day as the first and only Marine National Monument in U.S. Atlantic Waters. Located 130 miles off Cape Cod, the area was designated in the interest of preserving the unique ecological resources found within its boundaries, including its fragile, yet dynamic underwater landscape and stunning array of rare and threatened marine species.

In 2017, the Trump administration initiated a process to roll back protections for the NE Canyons and Seamounts monument, along with multiple others across the U.S. These rollbacks threatened to reintroduce industrial extractive activities, such as offshore drilling and commercial fishing in and around the monument. These attacks could have undone years of invaluable ocean conservation efforts and set a harmful precedent regarding presidential rollbacks to existing National Monument designations.

CCE worked with a coalition of state and regional advocacy groups, Connecticut based aquariums and academic institutions to combat Trump Administration rollbacks to the NE Canyons and Seamounts National Monument. These included advocating for Congressional actions to strengthen the Antiquities Act, in addition to exerting pressure on the U.S. Dept. of Interior to block these short-sighted attacks. In October 2021, President Biden issued a proclamation restoring protections to the Northeast Canyons National Monument and several others. CCE continued its work to preserve ocean habitat in 2022, including supporting the federal 30 x 30 initiative, among others.





Climate Change and Energy Policies

In 2022, CCE continued aggressive campaigns at the local, state, and federal level designed to increase our energy independence, maximize energy efficiency, increase the renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change, and protect public health and the environment from waste created from fossil fuel dependence.

Climate Change

Throughout 2022, CCE worked at the local, state, regional, and federal level to advance solutions to the climate crisis. We advocate for comprehensive energy policies that support renewable energy (such as offshore wind and solar power) and energy efficiency, while ending our dependence on dirty, polluting fossil fuels. Additionally, CCE works to advance climate adaptation and increased resiliency measures, to ensure that New York and Connecticut are equipped to manage the impacts we are already and will continue to face. In 2022, CCE continued to work to engage its members on important efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Federal Inflation Reduction Act

After a long campaign by CCE and partners across the nation, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act into law, which undoubtedly represents the most significant action that our nation has taken to fight climate change. The investments made under this law will help the U.S. reduce greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030, while increasing clean renewable energy, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, providing clean transportation in disadvantaged communities, supporting sustainable farming, and lowering energy costs for all Americans.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)

For years, CCE has worked vigorously to advance strong comprehensive climate change policy in New York. In 2019, New York passed the nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The CLCPA is the most ambitious and comprehensive climate and clean energy legislation in the country. The CLCPA requires the State to achieve a carbon free electricity system by 2040 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85% below 1990 levels by 2050 and offset the remaining 15% by reforestation, carbon sequestration in soils and other actions. The new law will drive investment in clean energy solutions such as wind, solar, energy efficiency and energy storage. Importantly, implementation of the CLCPA will target investments to benefit disadvantaged communities, create tens of thousands of new jobs, improve public health and quality of life and provide all New Yorkers with more robust clean energy choices. CCE worked throughout 2022 to weigh in on the NYS Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan to implement the law. In December of 2022, the Council adopted a strong final scoping plan that will put New York on a solid path to implement our ambitious climate goals and support environmental justice.

Wind Power

In order to transition away from fossil fuels, New York needs to invest in our vast offshore wind potential. New York is poised to be a leader in the fight for offshore wind with a commitment to secure 9,000 MW of offshore wind by 2035. New York already has five offshore wind projects selected – the South Fork, Empire, Empire 2, Beacon Wind, and Sunrise Wind, which collectively will generate over 4,000 mw of offshore wind power for Long Island and New York City while creating thousands of jobs and powering millions of homes. These five projects will bring the state nearly halfway to our 9,000 MW offshore wind target, but we will not be able to achieve our goals without additional Wind Energy Areas. CCE is working to educate the public on the importance of offshore wind and is engaged in the regulatory process on each of these important projects.



CCE had also been advocating for BOEM to move forward with the designation of additional Wind Energy Areas in the New York Bight for several years. This is critical if we are going to meet our state offshore wind mandate. In 2022, BOEM held an

auction on 6 dedicated Wind Energy Areas in the NY Bight. There was immense interest in the auction, which lasted for days and ended in a record \$4.3 billion sale for the six leases. In 2022, Governor Hochul announced that NY would be holding its third solicitation for offshore wind projects. The selected project(s) will generate at least 2,000 mw of renewable energy. CCE met with several wind companies and held stakeholder meetings and virtual events to give input on the project proposals. The announcement of which projects have been selected is expected in spring of 2023.

Wind Works Long Island

CCE spearheaded the Wind Works Long Island Coalition. The coalition is a diverse group of environmental, labor, community, and faith-based partners. The goal of the coalition is educating the public on the science-based benefits of renewable energy, particularly offshore wind. As part of the coalition, CCE runs a Wind Works Long Island website and Facebook group to keep members updated on offshore wind projects and opportunities to get involved. We continue to develop and professionally design a series of educational factsheets on offshore wind with the latest updates. These factsheets are posted on the website, emailed to our members, and mailed to policymakers throughout Long Island.

Lunch and Learns on Offshore Wind in NY

We have co-hosted several virtual forums with the New York League of Conservation Voters to educate the public on the benefits and progress on offshore wind. In 2021, we held a series of three virtual Lunch and Learn events: *New York Leads on Climate Change* with Senator Todd Kaminsky, Assemblyman Englebright, and NYSERDA, *New York's Offshore Wind Projects* with Orsted and Equinor, and *Advancing Wind and Protecting Wildlife* with experts from Wildlife Conservation Society, Inspire Environmental, and National Wildlife Federation.

In 2022, we held Lunch and Learns on *Sunrise Wind and South Fork Wind* with Orsted and Eversource and *NY's Offshore Wind Future* with NYSERDA's Doreen Harris for a presentation on the 5 offshore wind projects that will power over 2 million homes in NYC and LI.

Offshore Wind Roundtable Discussions PSA Videos

CCE sat down with our partners in labor and leading environmental experts for two roundtable discussions on the benefits of offshore wind for Long Island. Learn more and check out the videos here. These 30 minute videos were circulated to our members and Wind Works, posted on social media, and aired weekly on Public Access TV across Long Island throughout 2022.



Offshore Wind Developers Meet and Greet Networking Forum

CCE joined the NY League of Conservation Voters and the New York Offshore Wind Alliance. The event brought together 80 stakeholders—community leaders, labor, businesses, environmental groups, civic organizations, elected officials, and academics—with the wind developers that have projects and/or leases off the coast of New York. Updates were provided by Equinor on the Empire and Beacon Wind Projects, Ørsted on the Sunrise and South Fork projects, and each of the six companies that acquired offshore wind area leases in the New York Bight earlier this year.

Long Island South Fork Wind

CCE has continued to push for final approval for the South Fork Wind Farm. CCE has urged the Public Service Commission in NY to approve the much-needed cable connection between the offshore wind turbines and the East Hampton power grid. We also worked to solicit public comments in support of the wind farm and cable connection and conducted public education on the importance of NY's first offshore wind farm, which will result in 130 megawatts, powering 70,000 homes on the south fork with clean renewable energy.



In November 2021, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a Record of Decision on South Fork Wind Farm, the 130MW project off the coast of Montauk that will power the South Fork of Long Island and offsets the need for a new fossil fuel plant. LIPA selected this project in 2016 and we have been working hard to ensure that the wind farm and cable connection are done in an environmentally responsible manner while providing clean energy for tens of thousands of Long Island homes. The project broke ground in 2022 and is expected to be online by the end of 2023.

Sunrise Wind

Sunrise Wind, located approximately 30 miles off Montauk, will generate 924 mw of energy and power nearly 600,000 Long Island homes via a cable connection to the Holbrook substation. In 2022, CCE testified at the Suffolk County Legislature in favor of two bills which will allow the Sunrise Wind cable connection infrastructure to be installed underground in county parkland and roadways and enable the project to bring renewable energy to Long Island homes. Based on the environmental impact review, the cable infrastructure would be minimally disruptive to county parkland

and roads and would not cause significant or long-term environmental or community impacts. The two bills passed in July!

In December, the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released their draft Environmental Impact Statement on Sunrise Wind. New York State has also announced public hearings before the Public Service Commission on the Sunrise Wind cable connection in early 2023 as part of the state's Article VII process. CCE will be submitting in depth comments to both the PSC and BOEM, will be attending each hearing, and we are currently working to garner large public turnout and comments through the Wind Works Coalition and CCE's membership.

Empire Wind

The Empire Wind offshore wind project, located off the southern coast of Long Island, will generate 2.1 gigawatts (GW) of wind energy, enough to power more than 1M homes. Empire Wind 1 will connect to the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and Empire Wind 2 will connect to Nassau County via a cable connection through Long Beach to a substation in Island Park. In 2021, CCE submitted public comments to the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management as part of their scoping process on Empire Wind. In November, 2022 BOEM released a draft Environmental Impact Statement for the projects.



CCE set up a Lunch and Learn with developers Equinor and Eversource to discuss the DEIS and both Empire Wind projects, including how Wind Works members could be involved and submit comments. CCE will be submitting in depth comments to BOEM and will be attending all three public hearings in early 2023. We are currently working to garner large public turnout and comments through the Wind Works Coalition and CCE's membership.

Great Lakes Wind

New York's nation-leading climate law mandates 70% renewable energy by 2030 and carbon-free electricity by 2040. Offshore wind power in the Atlantic, and potentially in the Great Lakes, will play a critical role in meeting these important and ambitious clean energy mandates. Therefore, the state recently proposed to study the feasibility of offshore wind in the Great Lakes (there are currently no wind farms in the Great Lakes). As New York considers the potential for offshore wind in the Great Lakes, CCE found it is essential that the public has access to fact-based information about offshore wind and its potential benefits and impacts on the lakes. CCE developed

and distributed three factsheets (Great Lakes offshore wind and climate change, New York's clean energy economy, and frequently asked questions), held stakeholder roundtable discussions, and provided presentations to the public to provide factual information to the public and policymakers. In late 2022, NYSERDA completed their feasibility study on Great Lakes wind, indicating that the state believes Great Lakes wind is not feasible at this time, but may play a role in meeting long term targets, such as the state's goal to achieve net-zero GHG emissions economy-wide by the year 2050.

Hydropower

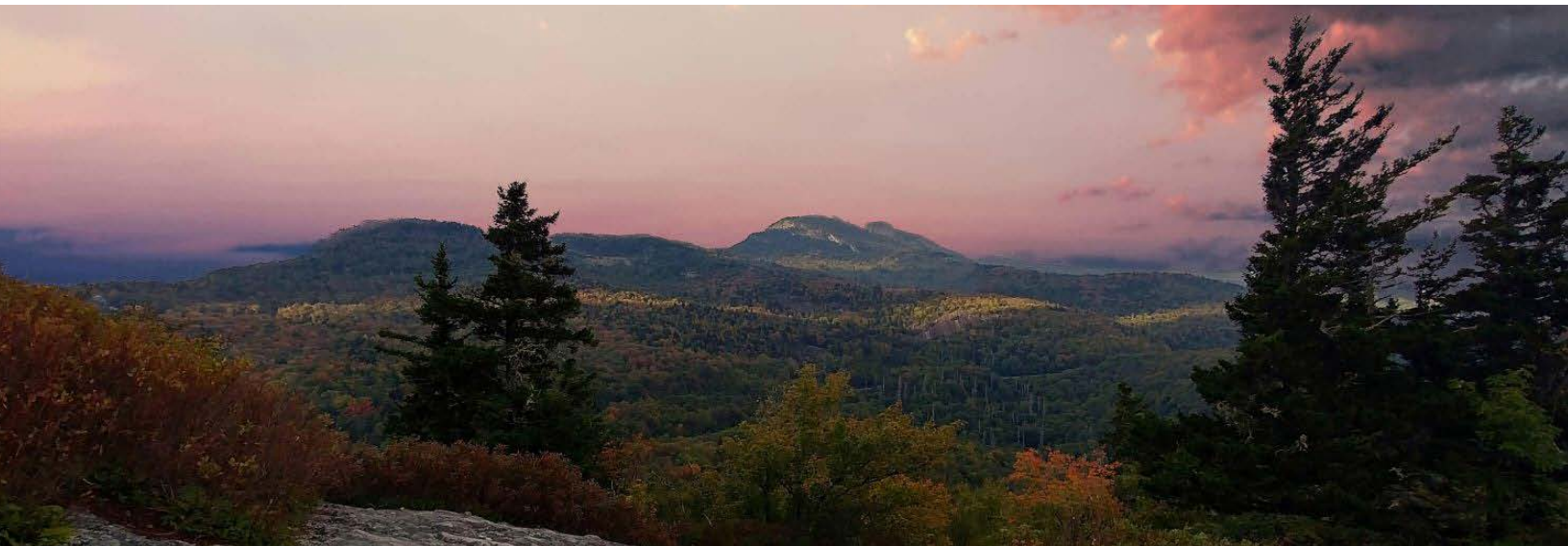
Hydropower is an important component of New York's energy sector; however, this renewable resource is predominantly used in Upstate NY communities. NYC gets approximately 85% of its electricity from burning fossil fuels. While constructing new hydropower dams can be problematic, importing excess renewable energy from existing dams will help curb fossil fuel use in NYC and the State. In 2021, CCE co-hosted a virtual event with the NY League of Conservation Voters and featured speakers from Hydro-Québec and Transmission Developers Inc. on the potential of transporting excess Canadian hydropower to NYC. Transporting excess Canadian hydropower to NYC can help NY combat climate change and transition from polluting fossil fuel power plants to renewable energy. CCE continues to work in support of this project and increasing the amount of renewable energy used in the state.



In 2022, CCE took an educational trip with New York League of Conservation Voters to James Bay to visit Hydro-Québec's hydropower facilities. Existing Canadian hydropower is slated to help New York reach our clean energy goals, diversify our energy sources, and reduce our reliance on dirty fossil fuels. The trip was very informative. The Champlain Hudson Power Express is a renewable energy project that will use hydropower to replace our local fossil fuel peaker plants in downstate NY.

Solar Power

Harnessing the power of the sun creates local jobs, improves air quality, and stabilizes volatile energy costs. The solar energy potential for New York State is greater than Germany, the current world leader in installed solar capacity. CCE continued our works to support the implementation of large scale solar to meet rising energy demands and promotes responsibly sited large scale solar projects in 2022.



Environmental Policy Advancement

CCE helps to foster progress through legislation, lobbying, advocacy, committee work, grassroots networking, and reports. CCE works with officials at the local, state, and national levels of government to promote policies to protect public health and the environment. CCE served on approximately 20 advisory committees, providing sound advice on environmental policies and actions. CCE used printed materials, newsletters, and other documents to support its efforts in the various areas of interest. CCE staff testified at many public forums and hearings in New York, Connecticut, and Washington, DC. CCE visits schools, attends civic meetings, and participates in other venues to provide presentations on a broad spectrum of environmental and public health issues.

Brookhaven Town Landfill

In 2019, residents of Brookhaven, along with teachers and parents at the Frank P. Long School, filed a lawsuit against the Town due to excessive odors and numerous health impacts from the Brookhaven Landfill. CCE has worked with residents and those at the school to fight to control odors at the landfill for years, but the Town continues to turn a blind eye to the problems faced by the community. Now, with no options left, over 20 impacted community members will be taking the Town to court.

CCE's Facebook Group (created in 2015) for concerned residents entitled, "Brookhaven Landfill Community Watch: If You SMELL something, POST something" now has over 1,100 members and is used as a conduit for odor complaints to the DEC. CCE and the Brookhaven Community Coalition continue to push for expanding air

monitoring efforts to ensure the public health is not put at risk. The NYS DEC has now ordered the Town to take immediate action to reduce landfill orders and implement enhanced gas monitoring at the site and CCE continues to work with the community, Town, and the State to combat odors and air pollution at the landfill.

Environmental Justice in Brookhaven

A massive 228-acre solid waste transfer facility has been proposed on the last heavily forested area of Yaphank. The proposed facility would be the largest in the state, taking up to 6,000 tons of waste per day and then shipping the waste via rail off the island. Instead of going through an important public process, including public hearings, the Town of Brookhaven is considering allowing the federal government to usurp local control and ignore community voices. In 2021, CCE joined the Brookhaven Town NAACP and concerned community members to call on the town to NOT relinquish local control to a federal agency for a massive solid waste facility. We continued to advocate for local control of the review process for this project in 2022.

New Yorkers for Clean Water Coalition

New York's water resources are under threat. State and local agencies, water suppliers, wastewater treatment operators, and consumers face a number of critical water challenges now and in the years ahead. To ensure that current and future generations can rely on abundant, clean, and affordable water resources in New York, CCE has brought together a diverse network of organizations to collaborate on water protection in New York State. In February 2022, the New York Clean Water Coalition came together for the third Clean Water Coalition Lobby Day. CCE and coalition partners lobbied state elected leaders on the priority water issues that need to be addressed in NY, including funding water infrastructure improvements, septic system replacement, lead service line replacement, the Environmental Bond Act, private well testing, adopting an Environmental Bond Act, and increasing agency staff. CCE and the coalition continue to work collaboratively to advance protections for New York's water resources.



Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act

On November 8th, 2022, New Yorkers had the opportunity to vote on Prop 1: The Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Bond Act. The Bond Act will allocate \$4.2 billion to a variety of critical environmental programs and projects from Buffalo to Long Island that will protect drinking water and upgrade infrastructure, protect communities from flooding and extreme weather, conserve open space and family farms, and fight climate change.

We worked around the state to educate the public on the benefits of this important funding and reminded everyone to flip your ballot in November and vote on Prop 1. In September, we joined our Senate and Assembly members, Long Island elected officials, labor leaders, community stakeholders, and environmentalists for a press conference and rally in support of the Bond Act. We also hosted a Lunch and Learn on the importance of the Bond Act on October 18th. The Bond Act passed by overwhelming support— 67% of all New Yorkers voted in favor.

Pollinator Protection

Scientists have documented a global decline in honeybee populations since 2005. Massive bee die-off events and colony collapse disorder are putting our ecosystem and food production at risk. This rise in bee deaths has been largely linked to the explosive growth in the use of neonicotinoids and other harmful pesticides. Not only do neonicotinoids threaten bee populations, but they are also very pervasive in soil and drinking water sources. The use of neonicotinoids (a.k.a. “neonics) pesticides decimate bee populations, threaten food production, and pollute our drinking water.

CCE participates in a broad and growing statewide coalition of organizations that are working collectively to support legislation to protect bees and other pollinators from the adverse impacts of neonicotinoid pesticides. The coalition includes, but is not limited to, CCE, NRDC, Audubon NY, Sierra Club, Environmental Advocates NY, Earthjustice, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Clean and Healthy NY, NOFA, Riverkeeper, and Physicians for Social Responsibility. The coalition collaborates on biweekly Zoom meetings, lobby days, educational



materials, sign on letters, virtual events, and more.

In the summer of 2020, the coalition was successful in pushing for the release of a long-awaited report from Cornell University that reviewed 1,121 peer-reviewed studies on neonics and their impacts on pollinators. The Cornell report revealed that the neonic uses that pose the greatest threats to New York's bees are also those that provide little-to-no benefits to users or are easily replaceable with safer alternatives. CCE and the coalition have since worked with Senator Hoylman and Assemblyman Englebright to introduce legislation based on the results of the Cornell report and prohibit wasteful and harmful uses of neonics—specifically, neonic-treated corn, soybean, and wheat seeds and non-agricultural, turf and ornamental uses. Throughout 2022, CCE and the coalition continued to push for the bill's passage.

Federal Regulation of Neonicotinoids

All pesticides distributed or sold in the U.S. are required to be registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and must show that they do not cause “unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.” Despite numerous EPA risk assessments demonstrating the threat these pesticides pose to pollinators, aquatic life, and human health, the EPA has failed to adequately restrict the use of neonics. Similar findings and studies have resulted in broad neonic bans in Europe and Canada, yet neonics remain the most widely used pesticide in the U.S. with only very few restrictions by the EPA.

The EPA began reviewing the safety of several neonic pesticides in 2022 and won't be required to review these toxic chemicals again for another fifteen years. CCE worked to have the EPA ban harmful and unnecessary uses of neonics as part of this review process in order to protect pollinators, water quality, human health, and our environment. This process is still ongoing and CCE continues to work to restrict uses of neonics at the federal level.



Legislative Agenda

118th Congress - Federal Agenda

CCE works to advance legislation that will protect our natural environment and public health, while working to oppose legislation that will have an adverse impact on our shared environment.

Invest in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has provided over \$4 billion for thousands of restoration projects, proving to be a huge success since it was first implemented in 2010. In 2022, CCE and our partners worked with members of Congress to increase funding for the GLRI up to \$368 million, a \$38 million increase from the previous year.

Clean Water Infrastructure Investments

Sewage pollution threatens public health from exposure to pathogens, closes beaches, degrades water quality, and consumes valuable oxygen necessary for healthy fisheries. Drinking water infrastructure is also in a state of constant disrepair; with communities facing ever-increasing water main breaks every year and numerous “boil water advisories” due to contaminated drinking water. In 2022, CCE successfully advocated for Congress to maintain key federal programs—the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.

Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship

Residents of New York and Connecticut depend on the Sound for recreational opportunities, including fishing, sailing, and swimming. The Sound also contributes \$17-\$36 billion annually to the regional economy. CCE supports reauthorizing both the Long Island Sound Restoration Act and the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act to continue effective project implementation to improve the Long Island Sound ecosystem. CCE successfully advocated to increase funding for Long Island Sound restoration to \$40 million in 2022.

Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

CCE successfully advocated for passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which will provide the nation’s largest ever investment—nearly \$370 billion—to fight the climate crisis. This transformative funding will help grow our clean energy economy, cut climate pollution by an estimated 40% by 2030, and create 9 million jobs over the next decade.

New York 2022 Legislative Agenda

The following is a list of New York State legislation that CCE actively worked to support in 2022:

Birds and Bees Protection Act (S.699B – Hoylman / A.7429A - Englebright)

Bans the use of neonic pesticides for treated seeds and ornamental/turf applications

Expanding Zero Emission Vehicle Sales (S.1763 – Kaminsky / A. 4614 – Fahy)

Lifts the cap on direct sales of electric vehicles across New York State

Carpet Recycling (S.5027B – Kavanagh / A.9279 – Englebright)

Establishes Extended Producer Responsibility program for carpet and bans toxic PFAS in carpets

Electric Landscaping Equipment Rebate Program (S.7453A – Krueger / A.8327A – Englebright)

Allows individuals, commercial landscapers, and institutions to receive point of sale rebates for electric landscaping equipment

Extended Producer Responsibility Act (S.1185C – Kaminsky/ A.5801 – Englebright)

Requires manufacturers to fund recycling of packaging and printed paper

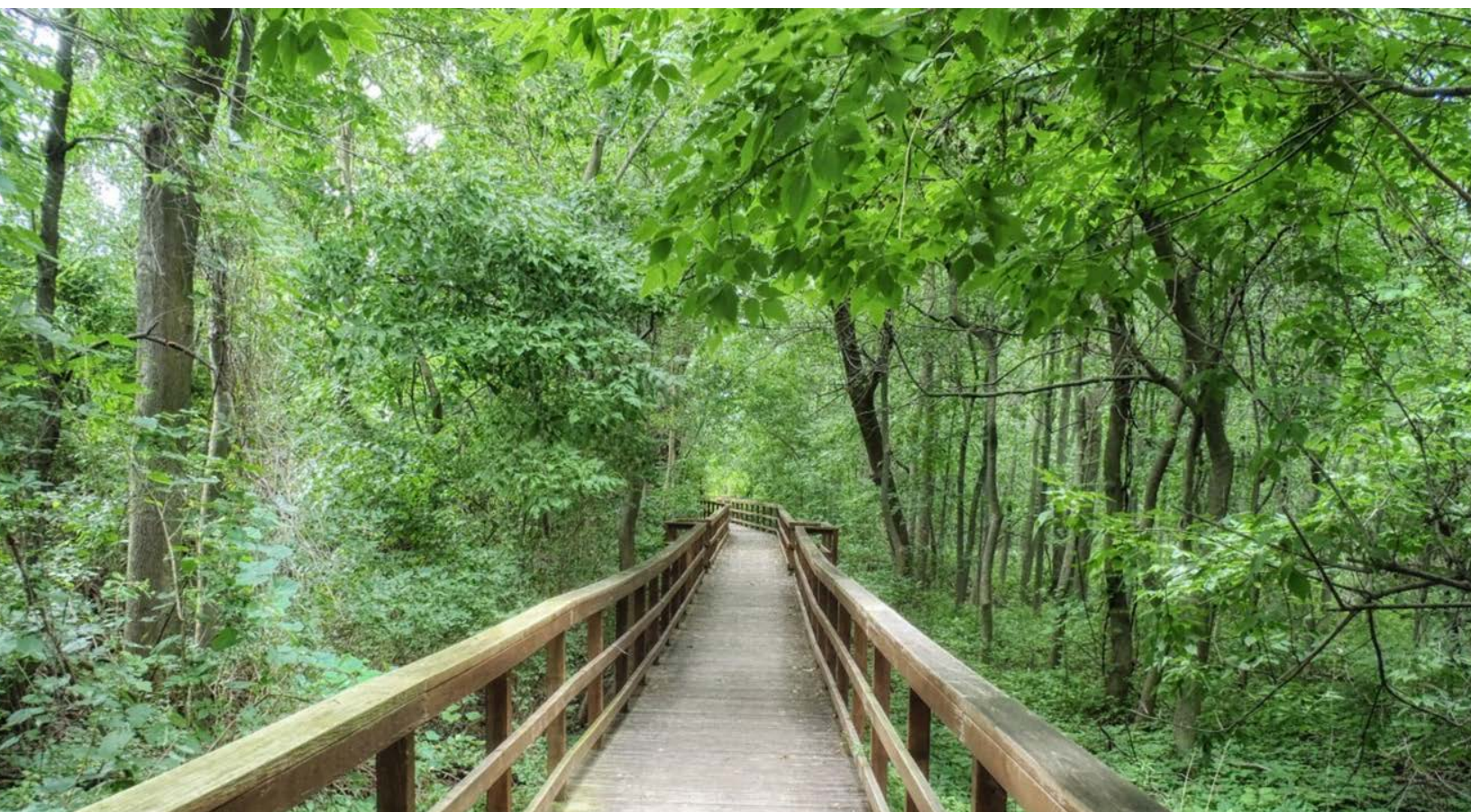
Wetlands Protection (S.5116C – Harckham / A.7850 - Englebright)

Removes jurisdictional barrier of freshwater wetlands maps and give DEC authority over class I & II wetlands of unusual importance

Program Expenses

Program Areas Expenses for 2022

Water Protection	\$125,000
Public Health and Toxic Chemical Contamination	\$135,000
Solid Waste Management	\$101,000
Open Space, Habitat, and Wildlife Protection	\$50,040
Climate Change and Energy Policies	\$175,000
Environmental Policy Advancement	\$91,000
Total 2022 Program Expenses	\$677,040



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For a copy of CCE's 990 Financial Report, please contact the New York State Department of State Bureau of Charities Registration, 41 State Street, Albany, New York, 12231 or contact CCE's main office in Farmingdale