

Connecticut Source Water Collaborative (CTSWC)

Scope: State

Location: Connecticut

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Website: www.ct.gov/dph/ctswc

SCOPE:

- Statewide scope
- Member-driven scope and initiatives

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- The CTSWC is an evolution of source water protection efforts in Connecticut. The "Drinking Water Quality Management Plan" (www.dwqmp.com) concept had already worked successfully in Connecticut, as had multiple source water protection workshops.
- The Collaborative was initiated after studying national (sourcewatercollaborative.org) and regional collaboratives and following brainstorming discussions between the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) and EPA Region 1. CTDPH is hosting the CTSWC website.

MEMBERS:

- The CTSWC membership is dynamic and new stakeholders can be added at any time. Current membership includes local, state and federal agencies, water utilities, academia and professional organizations.

WATER CONCERNS:

The CTSWC developed a Charter during the group's formative meetings. This Charter includes a Statement of Purpose, Mission and Vision which aid in members' ability to identify partners to support common goals. The Statement of Purpose sums up how the CTSWC intends to address the drinking water concerns in the state: "The CT Source Water Collaborative develops and supports strategies to preserve, protect and maximize the conservation of lakes, streams, rivers and aquifers used for drinking water and the land that protects and recharges these sources of water. Ensuring the high quality and sufficient quantity of our State's current and future drinking water resources not only serves public health but is essential for a vibrant economy and supports recreation, the environment and the complex, natural ecosystem with which they are interconnected."

STRATEGIES:

- Education and outreach to individuals, business/industry/agriculture, municipalities, and state and federal agencies
- Evaluation of land acquisition/protection initiatives and opportunities
- Identification of partners and opportunities to address emerging source water issues such as cyanobacterial blooms, increasing chloride concentrations and contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
 - Best Practices
 - When inviting members, reach out in person; give thought to who should be invited and who would actively participate. Having a professional facilitator run the kick-off meeting was beneficial to group dynamics. The facilitator was a neutral party that helped a very diverse group to reach a consensus. Be mindful of the time commitment that you are asking from the participants.

RESULTS:

The CTSWC held a kickoff workshop in December 2013 with national speakers in attendance followed by field trip meetings highlighting the work that goes into providing safe and adequate public drinking water. The CTSWC was formalized in a ceremony held on the banks of the City of Middletown's Mount Higby Reservoir during Drinking Water Week in 2016. The CTSWC strives to meet annually, while fostering collaboration on an ongoing basis. Most recently, the CTSWC met in the spring of 2019 at the University of Connecticut main campus which is partially within the public drinking water supply watershed of Windham Water Works. Attendees learned about the University's winter maintenance efforts to reduce chloride levels in groundwater and toured the many Low Impact Development practices employed around the campus to improve storm water quality.

Some of the initiatives that have grown from the connections made through the Collaborative include:

- **Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program:** Projects located in public drinking water watersheds are awarded priority points for funding consideration.
- **CT Environmental Health Association Chloride Workshop, May 2018:** Attendees learned about the challenges of increasing chloride levels in groundwater in CT and the opportunities available to reduce impacts to drinking water.
- **Farm River Watershed Pilot Project:** Collaboration with the State Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Services resulted in the award of a first of a kind project for Connecticut.
- **University of Connecticut Technology Transfer Center Public Works Academy:** Select CTSWC partners piloted and provided input on the Winter Operations training module.
- **Upper Natchaug River Healthy Waters Implementation Plan:** The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District is administering the first Environmental Protection Agency "Healthy Watershed" initiative grant awarded in CT, supporting the multiple uses of the river including its use as the public drinking water supply for the Town of Windham.



Information current as of November 2020. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaborati2ves across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)