Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut

2018-2023 Revision

March 9, 2020 Public Hearing
Legislative Office Building Room 2100, Hartford, CT
State C&D Plan Revision and Adoption Process

The State C&D Plan is developed by OPM, adopted by the General Assembly, and implemented by state agencies
(CGS Sec. 16a-24 thru Sec. 16a-33)
2018-2023 C&D Plan Revision Timeline

- **September 15, 2016** — OPM submitted an initial draft of the State C&D Plan to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development for a 90-day review. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(a))

- **May 12, 2017** — OPM published a revised draft C&D Plan based on feedback from the Continuing Committee and informal public workshops. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(b))

- **May 12, 2017 – October 16, 2017** — OPM conducts public hearings and solicits comments on the draft C&D Plan. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(c))

- **December 1, 2017** — OPM submits a recommended draft State C&D Plan to the Continuing Committee for consideration. (CGS Sec. 16a-29)

- **2018 Legislative Session** — Continuing Committee holds a public hearing on the draft State C&D Plan, prior to making its own recommendation to the General Assembly for approval or disapproval. (CGS Sec. 16a-30(a))
State C&D Plan Implementation

• CGS Sec. 16a-31(a) requires agencies to be consistent with the C&D Plan whenever they undertake or authorize grants for any of the following actions using more than $200,000 in state or federal funds:
  ➢ The acquisition of real property
  ➢ The development or improvement of real property
  ➢ The acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities
State C&D Plan Implementation (cont.)

- CGS Sec. 16a-31(b) requires agencies to request an advisory statement from OPM commenting on the extent to which any proposed action is in conformity to the C&D Plan.

- CGS Sec. 16a-31(c) requires OPM to submit an advisory statement commenting on the extent to which Bond Commission agenda items are in conformity with the C&D Plan.

- CGS Sec. 16a-31(e) requires agencies to submit a draft of any plan prepared under state or federal law to OPM for a review of consistency with the C&D Plan.
Role of the Locational Guide Map

- State agencies shall not provide funding for certain “growth-related projects”, as defined in CGS 16a-35c, unless such projects are located within a priority funding area
  - *LGM shall not be used by itself to determine consistency with the written policies of the State C&D Plan (see 2013 Continuing Committee endorsement letter)*

- State agencies may provide funding for growth-related project located outside of a PFA following an exception process that is weighted toward consistency with the municipal POCD
  - Ensures local support for projects located outside of PFAs
  - Reduces the need for interim map changes
  - Encourages municipalities to develop robust POCDs
Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) Delineated on the Locational Guide Map (LGM)
(CGS Sec. 16a-35c — 16a-35h)

- State agencies choosing to provide funding for a “growth-related project” located outside a PFA must request an exception from OPM based on the project meeting the following requirements:
  - Determination that such project is consistent with the POCD of the affected municipality(ies); and
  - Determination that such project meets at least one of nine exception criteria listed under CGS Sec. 16a-35d(b)
Revisions to the C&D Plan for 2018-2023

• GMP chapter preambles updated to reflect current trends and conditions
• Out of 67 total policies:
  • 14 revisions (majority in GMP #4 - protection of natural resources
  • 2 new policies
    • Policy #1.2
    • Policy #4.3
• Improved readability and made technical edits where warranted
• Fresh graphics and visual design
Recommended PFAs for 2018-2023

- Majority of public input requested a stricter approach to delineating priority funding areas (preference toward census blocks containing two or more of the following criteria as opposed to one or more):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PFA Criterion</th>
<th>Source of Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in 2010 Census</td>
<td>U.S. Census Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations (busway or passenger rail)</td>
<td>Generated by OPM using data from CT DOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing or planned sewer service</td>
<td>DEEP; municipalities; COGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Existing or planned water service</td>
<td>DPH; municipalities; COGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local bus routes when service is provided 7 days a week</td>
<td>CT DOT; local transit authorities; COGs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Priority Funding Areas

Larger Census Blocks in less populated areas

Smaller Census Blocks in highly populated areas
Water Service Area passes through one corner of census block:

Prime agricultural soils (conservation factor)

Results in entire census block being designated as a Priority Funding Area (PFA):

Balanced PFA designation only where conservation factors exist
Application of the LGM for 2018-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Balanced Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Village Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Conservation Areas</th>
<th>Undesignated Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception</td>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will address any potential policy</td>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will help sustain village character</td>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*</td>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed with an exception*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exception process requires a state growth-related project to be consistent with the municipality’s POCD
### Conservation Factors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Factor</th>
<th>Source of Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core forest areas greater than 250 acres</td>
<td>UCONN CLEAR Changing Landscape Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water supply watersheds</td>
<td>DPH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aquifer Protection Areas</td>
<td>DEEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wetland soils greater than 25 acres</td>
<td>DEEP; DoAg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undeveloped prime, statewide important, and locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres</td>
<td>DoAg; USDA NRCS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane Inundation Zones</td>
<td>FEMA; CT DESPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-year flood zones</td>
<td>FEMA; CT DESPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical wildlife habitats</td>
<td>DEEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locally important conservation areas</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
informationCheck OPM’s website for and updates: portal.ct.gov/cdplan

OPM Staff:

Dan Morley
Bruce Wittchen
Matt Pafford
Eric Lindquist