



REGIONAL HAZE FACTSHEET

CONNECTICUT

CLEARING THE AIR

Air pollution remains one of the most serious problems facing national parks. It is threatening the health of park visitors, wildlife and neighboring communities, driving the climate crisis and compromising our views with hazy skies. In fact, nearly 90 percent of our more than 400 national parks are plagued by haze pollution caused mostly by coal plants, vehicles and other industrial sources, as well as oil and gas development and operations.

Fortunately, certain national parks and wilderness areas, labeled “Class I” areas, have the strongest clean air protections in the country, mandated by the Clean Air Act (CAA). The Regional Haze Rule is the CAA’s time-tested, effective program that requires federal and state agencies as well as stakeholders to work together to restore clear skies at Class I areas around the country. Even though Connecticut doesn’t have any Class I areas, haze pollution from sources in the state could negatively affect special places like Bear Mountain Reservation and regional Class I areas..

Connecticut has submitted its regional haze plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The plan outlines what pollution reductions the state will require from industrial facilities, if any. EPA must now decide to approve, partially approve, or disapprove the plan.



2

Industrial facilities in Connecticut potentially affecting visibility in two regional Class I areas.

Views from Bear Mountain State Reservation in Connecticut. Credit © Timothy Leonard

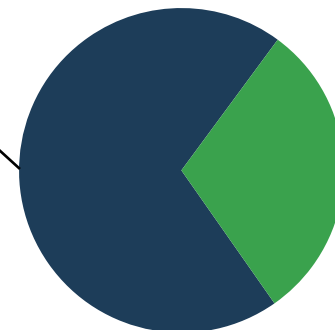
NPCA analysis of impact of industrial facilities based on publicly available emissions data from the EPA’s 2017 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) and the 2019 Air Markets Program Data (AMPD). Note that data regarding emission numbers and sources of pollution may have changed since the creation of this fact sheet. Please contact dorozco@npca.org for updated data information.

CONNECTICUT’S INDUSTRIAL SECTORS OF HAZE POLLUTION

NPCA analyzed publicly available data to identify the worst sources and industrial sectors of haze pollution potentially affecting Class I areas. We evaluated these emitters to determine which sources should be selected by the state for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis.

The chart on the right shows the industrial sectors emitting the most visibility impairing pollution in Connecticut.

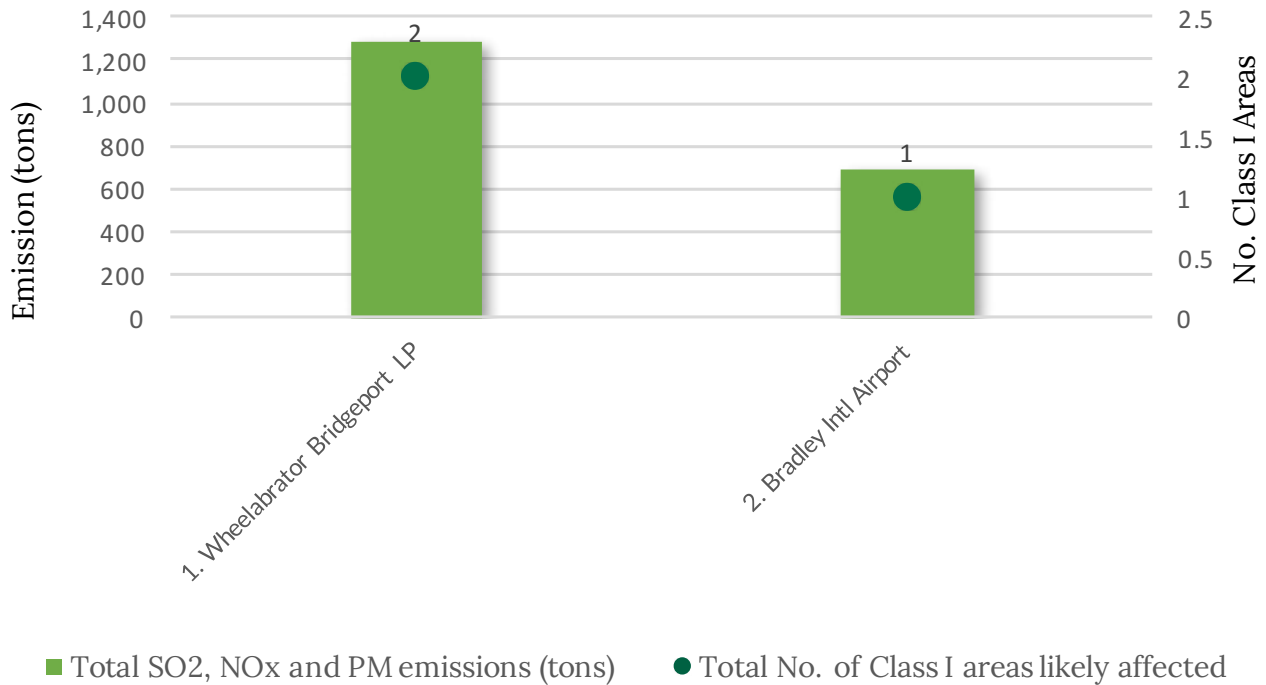
Solid Waste Combustors and Incinerators
70%



Airport Operations
30%

Sources of Visibility Impairing Pollution in Connecticut

CONNECTICUT'S 2 WORST SOURCES OF REGIONAL HAZE POLLUTION



The state of Connecticut identified a set of point sources for a four-factor reasonable progress analysis and requested information on emission reduction options from these source owners. NPCA supports the evaluation of these sources and we urge the state of Connecticut to ensure pollution controls are required to cut emissions from these polluting facilities.

HOW MANY FOOTBALL STADIUMS (8 STORIES HIGH) COULD EACH OF THE TOP FIVE INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES IN CONNECTICUT FILL WITH THEIR EMISSIONS EACH YEAR?



5

Wheelabrator
Bridgeport LP
Fairfield County
1,280 tons



3

Bradley Intl Airport
Hartford County
682 tons

TAKE ACTION: We have an opportunity to achieve a regional haze plan for Connecticut that protects people, parks, and our future. Please join our effort to ensure that all decision-makers and stakeholders, at the federal, state, and municipal level work to make this happen.

For more information, please contact Natalie Levine at nlevine@npca.org.