



Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Compliance Division

What We Do

We ensure compliance with Vermont’s environmental regulations.

Our Environmental Assistance Office (EAO) ensures compliance proactively by providing support to DEC programs, educating the public on permit requirements, and assisting the regulated community in gaining compliance with environmental regulations.

Supporting all DEC’s programs, our Enforcement Section gains compliance by investigating citizen complaints and compelling remediation using various legal tools, including citations and referral of cases for financial penalties.

Who We Are

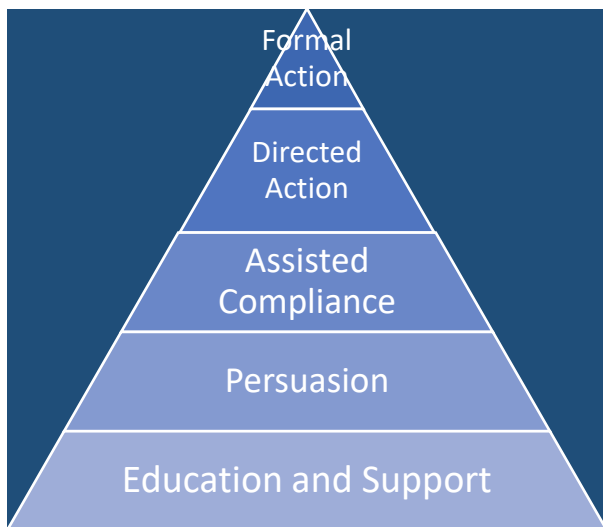
Our 13 staff are located across Vermont: three regional Permit Specialists, seven regional Environmental Enforcement Officers, a Chief Environmental Enforcement Officer, a Division Director, and an Administrative Services Coordinator.

What We’re Working on Now

- Using CARES Act funds, DEC launched an online Permit Navigator in December 2020. The Permit Navigator is an online tool that walks potential permit applicants through a series of questions coupled with a mapping feature that provides guidance and information on what permits a project will potentially require and the DEC staff to contact about them.
- Work with a variety of programs and stakeholders to further improve the Permit Navigator in 2021.
- Improve and streamline coordination with other state agencies regarding environmental projects and investigations, including the Natural Resources Board and Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.
- Intake and investigate citizen complaints and air, waste and water program complaints against homeowners, businesses, etc.
- Investigate and document any/all alleged violations of Vermont’s environmental permits, rules, regulations, and statutes under DEC jurisdiction.
- Utilize recently streamlined administrative procedures to make environmental enforcement more consistent and transparent across state government.

How We Do It

We use the whole range of compliance tools from proactive assistance to reactive legal tools to gain compliance.



Why It’s Important

Maintaining environmental compliance, both through assistance early on and enforcement later, ensures continued natural resource preservation, enhancement, restoration, and conservation, while also protecting human health and encouraging thoughtful development and economic advancement.

How to Contact Us

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