Amey Marrella,
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Environmental Protection, Connecticut

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Trinity College

Sustainability Challenge
WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US.
What is the biggest environmental challenge we face?
Sustainable Growth “Meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast

• Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment Issued by Union of Concerned Scientists - March 2007

• Projects impacts of higher- and lower-GHG emissions scenarios for 9 northeast states

• Annual temperatures across Northeast have risen more than 1.5°F since 1970

• Winters have been warming at 1.3°F per decade since 1970
NECIA Report Findings (higher-emissions scenario)

- By end of century, winters could warm 8-12°F, summers 6-14°F
- More 90°+ days
- More late summer & early fall droughts
- Sea-level rise will continue, threatening NE coastline
- Start & end of seasons will be significantly altered
Feeling the Heat

- Changes in average summer heat index will strongly alter how summer feels to residents of the Northeast.
  - For example, summers in southwest CT could feel like summer weather currently experienced in SC and GA by the end of the century under the higher emissions scenario.
- (NECIA Report, 10/06)
Trinity College: Commitment to Sustainability
Going “Green” Through Responsible Growth

Land use drives
- Lifestyle
- Energy
- Transportation
- And even Climate Change
Our Plan to Meet This Challenge:

- 5 focus areas
  - Cleaner electricity generation
  - Public education
  - More efficient energy use
  - Cleaner transportation and smarter land use
  - Reducing emissions from agriculture, forestry, and waste management practices
Connecticut GHG Emission Goals

- Observed 1.0% Growth
- CT GHG Inventory
- 1990 Baseline
- 10% Below 1990


- Business As Usual
- What We Need To Do
- Where We Need To Be

MMTCO2E