Judy Anderson - Community Consultants
Judy Anderson of Community Consultants has worked in the land trust sector for over 25 years. Judy currently assists nonprofit organizations on practical strategic conservation initiatives, incorporating local communities, climate change, governance, communications, and community-based fundraising strategies.

She also coaches land trusts on inclusive conservation, easement drafting and stewardship, and building greater community relevance to ensure their work withstands the test of time. Judy is a regular presenter at national and regional land trust conferences and provides trainings on topics including fundraising/outreach, easement drafting/stewardship, climate change and land protection, and inclusive community conservation.

State Representative David Arconti
David Arconti is serving his fourth legislative term in the Connecticut General Assembly representing Danbury's 109th District. He currently serves as Chair of the Energy and Technology Committee and on the Environment and General Law Committees. During his tenure in the CT General Assembly, David has developed a deep understanding of the current and the many overall environmental challenges facing our planet, and the need for finding alternatives for clean energy and developing a strong green economy. His passion for clean energy and a green economy has driven many legislative initiatives to move Connecticut forward and toward a more sustainable energy future.

Amy Blaymore Paterson - Executive Director, Connecticut Land Conservation Council
Amy joined the Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) in 2010 as its first Executive Director. Working with the CLCC Board of Directors and Advisory Council, Amy provides the Connecticut land conservation community with technical assistance, training and advocacy to further advance permanent land conservation across the state. Before joining CLCC, Amy served as a Project Manager for The Trust for Public Land, overseeing several complex conservation transactions, and worked for over twenty years as an attorney, concentrating her practice in land conservation and environmental protection. Prior to moving to Connecticut, Amy was an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice. She received a BA from Franklin & Marshall College and her law degree from the University of Denver. In recognition of her years of work in conservation, Amy was awarded the 2014 Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut Award presented by Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and sponsored by The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Farm Service Agency and the Connecticut Association of Conservation Districts. In 2015, Amy was awarded the Rockfall Foundation's President's Award. In 2018 Amy was honored to be appointed by Governor Dannel Malloy to the State of Connecticut Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board, for which she serves as co-chair. She has also had the pleasure of serving as a member of the Working Lands Alliance...
Steering Committee since 2012. Amy lives with her family in Vernon, CT. An avid trail runner, when Amy isn’t helping to conserve land, she’s outside enjoying it.

Dr. Emily Cole - Climate and Ag Program Manager New England, American Farmland Trust
Dr. Emily Cole leads American Farmland Trust’s Climate and Agriculture Program in New England. In this role, she works both to improve and advocate for the integration of climate smart management practices into New England’s productive farming communities through education, outreach, and policy. In this capacity, Dr. Cole has testified to the US House of Representatives’ Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition on the importance of improving soil health for climate change mitigation and adaptation in agriculture, as well as the management practices that are fundamental to building soil health. She provides technical assistance to New England states in the US Climate Alliance as part of AFT’s role as Impact Partner. Dr. Cole also leads AFT’s Smart Solar Siting partnership - a project focused on building an influential, ongoing, multi-stakeholder group providing information and analyses to support recommendations that advance smart solar siting policies and programs in New England states.

Before joining AFT, Dr. Cole was an Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at Westfield State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Plant and Soil Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where her research focused on improving soil health and carbon sequestration through the application of biochar and implementation of climate-smart management practices. Dr. Cole also holds a Master’s degree in Science Education from Boston University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Kenyon College.

State Representative Mike Demicco
In 2012 Mike Demicco was elected to represent the 21st Assembly District of Farmington and Unionville in the General Assembly. Mike is House Chair of the Environment Committee and a member of the Public Health and Energy & Technology committees.

Prior to becoming a state representative, Mike worked at the Legislature’s Public Safety & Security Committee and served on the Farmington Town Council. He also worked in the Commerce Committee, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies, and the Task Force on Law Enforcement’s Response to Family Violence.

Commissioner Katie Dykes - Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
Katie Scharf Dykes is the Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as the Commissioner of DEEP, and was confirmed on February 20, 2019. Katie previously served as Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) from 2015-2018, and as Deputy Commissioner for Energy at Connecticut DEEP from 2012-2015. Katie also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI) from 2014 to 2017. RGGI is a multi-state effort focused on reducing carbon emissions from electric generating facilities. Katie joined CT DEEP in March 2012 after prior service as Deputy General Counsel for the White House Council on Environmental Quality and as a Legal Advisor to the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy. She is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School.

Paul Elconin - Director of Land Conservation, Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust
Paul Elconin is the director of land conservation at Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust where he oversees acquisitions and stewardship. Paul has B.S. in environmental biology from Yale University and a M.S. in forest resources management from the State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). While at ESF, Paul researched landowner motivations for granting and satisfaction with their conservation easements, and his findings were published and distributed to land trusts nationwide. Paul currently represents Weantinoge on the Working Lands Alliance Steering Committee and its Farmland Access Working Group.

Paul was a wildlife ecology field technician on wolf and grizzly bear projects for government agencies and taught environmental education in Minnesota and California, was the stewardship coordinator at the Open Space Institute, the “circuit rider” for the Land Trust Alliance of New York, and a consultant to small land trusts in New York State.

Peter Hearn - Executive Director of Connecticut's Council on Environmental Quality
Peter began his environmental career working in the office of the Commissioner of New York’s Environmental Protection Administration where he was responsible for assuring appropriate responses from the agency to citizens’ concerns regarding air quality, water supply, noise, solid waste disposal, sewage and storm water. He left to become the first full-time Executive Director at the Housatonic Valley Association, where he did the sampling that proved the presence of PCB’s in the Housatonic River. He is most proud of his role in the preservation of seven miles of land along the Housatonic River in Kent, which the Appalachian Trail now traverses. He worked for the Environmental Defense Fund in New York City, while he earned a Master’s Degree from Columbia University. He became Executive Director of a non-profit in northern Manhattan and created an environmental education program that used the 196 acres of Manhattan’s Inwood Hill Park as a classroom to teach concepts from the public schools’ science curriculum for middle school and high school students. While on the Board of Directors of Friends of Fishes Inc., he initiated a volunteer diver program for the New York Aquarium. In 2007 he was hired by Connecticut’s Council on Environmental Quality as an environmental analyst. He has been its Executive Director since July of 2018.

Shelly Green - Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut
With a specialty in planning and facilitation, Shelley coaches TNC programs on strategy development, Engaging Across Difference, and systems thinking. She initiated the pioneering Salmon River Watershed Partnership to improve land use planning across 10 towns in central Connecticut. In earlier positions she facilitated training for worldwide staff and partners based in Arlington, Virginia and managed conservation programs on Long Island and in the lower Connecticut River area.

Shelley earned a B.A. from Indiana University and a M.E.S. in conservation biology from Yale University. In addition, she chaired the Guilford Conservation Commission and Plan of Conservation and Development Committee and co-authored the town’s Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment, which is used as a model by communities throughout Connecticut. She, her wife, two children, and two stepchildren live in her hometown of Guilford.

Eric Hammerling - Executive Director, Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Eric Hammerling is the Executive Director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, the first conservation organization established in Connecticut (1895). Eric is responsible for CFPA’s budget, operations, and oversees its programs on Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails,
Environmental Education, Land Conservation, and WalkCT. Eric is also the programmatic lead for CFPA’s state and federal advocacy efforts.

**Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt - Connecticut Department of Agriculture**

Before being named Commissioner of the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, Bryant P. Hurlburt was the executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association – the state’s largest and oldest agricultural organization. In this role, he advocated on behalf of its members to promote policies that enhance the economic viability of agriculture in the state.

Prior to joining the Farm Bureau, Hurlburt worked as senior vice president of program operations at Wholesome Wave, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Bridgeport, CT that is dedicated to empowering underserved consumers to make healthier food choices by making fresh food more affordable.

In 2013, he was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the Connecticut State Executive Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in a position where he was responsible for overseeing the agency’s crop protection, disaster relief, and loan programs. He instituted a program to use the agency’s six field offices to better serve Connecticut farmers and help them navigate the different state, federal, and local programs that are available to help them and their farm operation.

**Robert LaFrance - Policy Director, Audubon Connecticut**

Prior to working for Audubon Connecticut, Robert LaFrance served as the Director of Law and Policy for Environmental Conservation at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). He also taught environmental law at the Quinnipiac School of Law in North Haven. He received a BA in Economics/Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona and a JD at Quinnipiac School of Law.

**David Sutherland - Director of Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy CT**

David Sutherland is the Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy’s Connecticut Chapter. He was the founding co-chair of the Chapter's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team, and is a Facilitator for TNC’s global Engaging Across Difference workshops. He is also the Director of the Chapter’s Low Carbon Future initiative. David was the long-time co-chair of the 15 then-Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut which in 2006 was merged into the CLCC, on whose Advisory Council he serves. David has served on the legislature’s Shoreline Preservation Task Force, and the State Water Plan Steering Committee, is a member of the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council, and serves on the Board of the Acadia Center.

**Kelly Watkinson - Land and Climate Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance**

Kelly Watkinson has been with the Land Trust Alliance since May of 2017. In her role as the Land and Climate Program Manager, Kelly leads the efforts of the Alliance to help land trusts protect resilient lands, mitigate climate change, and pursue renewable energy solutions. Previous to the Alliance, Kelly was the Executive Director of the accredited Cacapon and Lost Rivers Land Trust and Senior Director of Land Protection for the accredited Potomac Conservancy. Kelly has more than a decade of experience working to protect and restore lands of Chesapeake Bay watershed. Kelly earned a B.S. in Environmental Policy and Management from Indiana University’s School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and a Masters of Natural Resources with a focus on Leadership in Sustainability from Virginia Tech.
Joanna Wozniak-Brown, PhD, serves as a Senior Resilience Planner for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). In this role, she will offer planning support to the Resilient Connecticut project and public engagement support to both CIRCA and Resilient Connecticut.

Most recently, she worked with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) as a Regional Planner, managing regional environmental programs and GIS services. She also worked with CIRCA previously on the successful National Disaster Resilience Competition Phase I application, focusing on public outreach. Other former roles include science communication training for scientists and environmental consulting to land trusts, real estate developers, and municipalities.

Joanna is passionate about local and regional resilience with a special focus on enhancing systemic adaptive capacity and developing resilience strategies that reflect the local character. She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England and an M.Sc. from Johns Hopkins University in Environmental Planning.