



**Dr. Rebecca A. French**

Director of the Office of Climate Planning  
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental  
Protection

As the first director of the new Office of Climate Planning at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Dr. French advises the DEEP Commissioner on mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans across all divisions of the agency. Her first charge in the position is to administer the Governor's Council on Climate Change. Previously, Dr. French served as the

Director of Resilience for the CT Department of Housing, overseeing the \$64.3M grant awarded to the State of Connecticut through the US HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition as well as the Rebuild by Design pilot project in Bridgeport, CT. Dr. French served as the Director of Community Engagement for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) from 2014-2018. She was a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Research and Development on the staff of the Chief Innovation Officer. Dr. French also spent a year in Congress as a Congressional Science Fellow, sponsored by the American Geophysical Union, in the Office of US Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). She served as a policy advisor to the Senator in the areas of energy, environment, and agriculture. Dr. French holds a Ph.D. in geosciences from Virginia Tech, a masters in soil science from Cornell University and has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and environmental studies from Oberlin College. She was born and raised in northeast Connecticut and now lives in West Hartford with her husband and son.