

REBUILD BY DESIGN

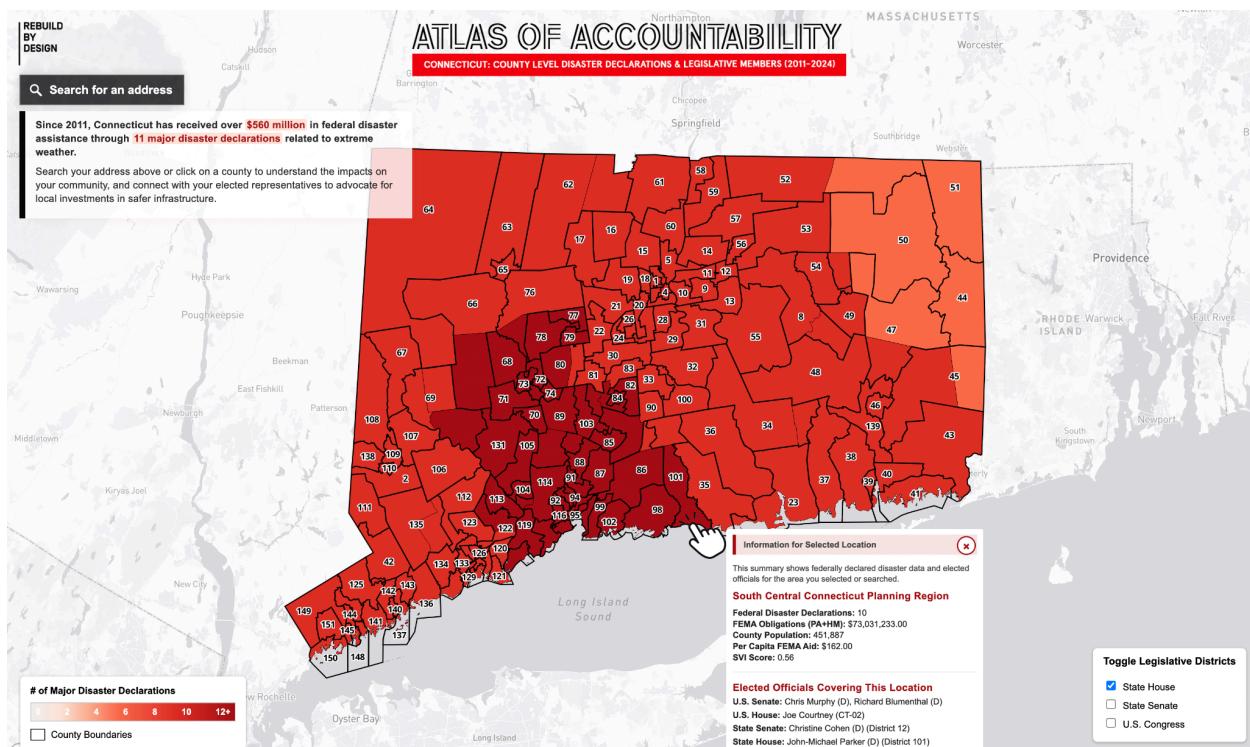
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NEW REPORT SHOWS CONNECTICUT EXPERIENCED 11 MAJOR DISASTERS BETWEEN 2011 AND 2024, CALLS FOR A NEW DEDICATED STATE FUNDING SOURCE FOR CLIMATE INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

Rebuild by Design releases a statewide legislative representative search tool to help Connecticut residents identify the officials accountable for climate resilience.



January 14, 2026 | Rebuild by Design today released the [Atlas of Disaster: Connecticut](#), a report examining the state's recent history of federally declared disasters and the opportunities to strengthen storm resilience and climate infrastructure. The report is accompanied by a [statewide legislative representative search tool](#) that connects residents to the state and federal officials responsible for advancing climate resilience.

The report finds that Connecticut has experienced **11 federally declared disasters between 2011 and 2024**, totaling more than **\$564 million in federal assistance**. **New Haven County**, which corresponds to the South Central and Naugatuck Valley Planning Regions, experienced the highest number of disaster events with ten disasters and received \$73 million in FEMA Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation (HM) funds. Two former counties experienced nine disasters each: **Fairfield County** (Greater Bridgeport and Western Connecticut Planning Regions), which received \$84.3 million, and **Litchfield County** (Northwest Hills, Naugatuck Valley, and Western Connecticut Planning Regions), which received \$9.9 million.

The math is clear—when we invest now, those investments pay dividends in reduced risk and saved dollars,” **said Amy Chester, Director of Rebuild by Design**. “When we wait until the next storm hits, the bill comes due with interest—from lives lost to damages, repairs, and disruptions to school and work. Connecticut cannot afford to wait any longer.”

To help residents and policymakers better understand these impacts, the Atlas includes a detailed breakdown of disaster declarations and FEMA post-disaster funding for each former county and its corresponding modern planning regions (see Table 1).

Table 1: County-Level Federally Declared Disaster Declarations Aligned with Connecticut’s New Planning Regions (2011–2024)

Former County Name	Former FIPS Code	Number of Disasters	Total FEMA (PA+HM)	Corresponding Planning Region(s)	Planning Region FIPS Code(s)
New Haven County	9009	10	\$73,031,233	South Central CT; Naugatuck Valley	09170; 09140
Fairfield County	9001	9	\$84,344,727	Greater Bridgeport; Western CT	09120; 09190
Litchfield County	9005	9	\$9,894,082	Northwest Hills; Naugatuck Valley; Western CT	09160; 09140; 09190
Middlesex County	9007	8	\$15,561,074	Lower CT River Valley; South Central CT	09130; 09170
New London County	9011	8	\$18,470,877	Southeastern CT	9180
Hartford County	9003	7	\$77,454,330	Capitol; Lower CT River Valley	09110; 09130

Tolland County	9013	7	\$10,253,548	Capitol; Northeastern CT	09110; 09150
Windham County	9015	6	\$2,292,755	Northeastern CT	9150

"The Atlas of Disaster report reminds us of the immense cost of climate change and makes an undeniable case for the need to invest in resiliency and for dedicated funding," says **Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group**. "CCAG will use this report to advance polluter-pay policies to support resiliency efforts in Connecticut."

While these numbers seem bleak, there are actions that Connecticut can take to protect communities' lives and livelihoods. Together, we can advocate for stronger, resilient infrastructure by:

- **Shifting** post-disaster federal dollars to pre-disaster funding so communities can invest in infrastructure before they suffer.
- **Creating** new sources of dedicated funding, such as surcharges on certain types of insurance coverage and state-level superfund laws.
- **Mandating** that U.S. insurance companies take into account mitigation measures when pricing insurance policies, which would incentivize policyholders to take actions such as wet-proofing the ground floors, raising mechanical systems, and taking other steps to mitigate disaster risks that will save all taxpayers money—just as FEMA does with the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.
- **Creating** better infrastructure that is built to withstand extreme weather events for its lifespan and is designed to address both physical and social vulnerabilities.

The report comes on the heels of the release of Rebuild by Design's [*Atlas of Inspiration*](#)—a growing collection of climate infrastructure projects, planning strategies, and funding approaches that are already advancing local climate adaptation. The collection features local projects like [Resilient Bridgeport](#), demonstrating the opportunity for broader investments in resilient infrastructure.

As Connecticut communities continue to face costly and disruptive extreme weather events, Rebuild by Design is committed to working with residents, organizations, and local governments to build capacity on the ground and help educate policymakers and stakeholders to secure the state-level funding needed for Connecticut's climate infrastructure.

For briefings on the report, please reach out to media@rebuildbydesign.org

Rebuild by Design is housed at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University and works with communities and local governments to co-design policies, projects, and programs to adapt to the worsening impacts of extreme weather.