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Green industry contributed over \$4.7 billion to the state in 2017, says the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association



By AMANDA BLANCO
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The Connecticut Garden & Landscape Trail, (www.ctgardentrail.com), a joint project of the Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Association and the Connecticut Greenhouse Growers Association, guides travelers to nurseries, garden centers, greenhouses and public gardens, most of which are free to visit. (John Long / Hartford Courant)

A recent study from the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association found that the green industry contributed \$4.7 billion to the state's economy in 2017, representing a 27% increase from 2012.

"Because its business activities are so diverse and widespread, the green industry is often underestimated in the public eye as a driver of the economy" said the association in a written statement Thursday. "Particularly in a northeastern, relatively urban state, such as Connecticut, the contributions of the green industry are often overlooked."

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The green industry includes Connecticut’s nurseries, garden centers, landscapers, nursery and perennial growers, and landscape designers. According to the United Nations, the term “green industry” is also used to refer to environmentally-friendly policies and investments that reduce carbon emissions for “a sustainable and economically viable future.”

The association’s study was conducted by UConn’s Chris Laughton in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Dr. Rigoberto A. Lopez, a professor of Agricultural Economics. It was funded by grant from Farm Credit East, a financial company that provides credit and loans to those in the agricultural industries.

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The study also found that the industry employed about 32,000 people in 2017, contributing about \$263 million in state and local taxes and approximately \$467 million in federal taxes. It estimated a total impact on state output that amounts to over \$1,300 per state resident.

“The results of the study point to the key role of the Connecticut green industry as a driver of economic growth and employment in both the state agricultural economy as well as the state economy,” said the association. “Beyond the monetary impact and the scope of this study, the industry provides significant environmental benefits that enhance the quality of life of state residents.”

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The association is expected to hold a press conference to further explain the results of the study on Friday at 12:30 p.m. in the Legislative Office Building.



Amanda Blanco



Amanda Blanco is a general assignment reporter. Before coming to The Courant, she interned at Newsday in Long Island under the Dow Jones News Fund. She is a graduate of Columbia Journalism and studied sociology during her undergraduate years at Princeton.

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