



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Connecticut Certification Report of Canaan (Falls Village), a Sustainable Connecticut bronze certified applicant.

Canaan (Falls Village) was certified on November 01, 2021 with 220 points. Listed below is information regarding Canaan (Falls Village)'s Sustainable Connecticut efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Connecticut contact for Canaan (Falls Village) is:

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Canaan (Falls Village) was approved for in 2021 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Canaan (Falls Village), and Sustainable CT makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the submission, beyond that an individual reviewer approved at least some elements of the action for certification. Further, standards for actions below may have changed, and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Finally, approved actions here may include some documents and descriptions in support of action elements that were not approved, in addition to elements that were approved. In preparing your own application, please rely only on the action write-ups for the current certification year to guide your submission. Please contact info@sustainablect.org with specific questions.

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 Optimize for Equity – REQUIRED

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.1 Equity toolkit (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [EQUITY SURVEY-FV RES. 8-12-20](#)

WORD: [RACE HOMEWORK.DOCX](#)

PDF: [1.3. ONLINE DISCUSSION ON EQUITY STATEMENT](#)

PDF: [1.3. COMMUNITY MEMBER ENGAGEMENT LIST](#)

IMAGE: [1.3. REPUBLICAN AMERICAN ARTICLE 6-14-21](#)

IMAGE: [1.3 SURVEY 1](#)

IMAGE: [1.3. SURVEY 2](#)

IMAGE: [1.3. SURVEY 3](#)

IMAGE: [FVEQUITYTRAININGEVAL-2-27-21.JPEG](#)

PDF: [1.1. NARRATIVE](#)

IMAGE: [EQUITY ARTICLE REPAM_6_2_21](#)

PDF: [1.3. NARRATIVE](#)

Documentation Details: Sample Articles and Surveys are attached to provide an overview on the type of community engagement used and for the public's reaction to this equity action.

Partners: Falls Village Community Development Corporation Carol Taylor, Certified Anti-Racism Facilitator DM Hunt Library hosted Equity Workshops Falls Village Housing Trust

Additional Information: Falls Village is a 99% Caucasian town. We wanted to both support our nation and the Black Lives Matter movement and explore how our beliefs and actions may be contributing to the lack of diversity in our town. We were fortunate to have a resident who is both African American and a certified anti-racism facilitator. She modified a program that she has been doing for twenty years for our town. We spoke with our town library about having a prominent display of both literature by non-whites and specific anti-racism titles available and prominently displayed in the library. We also requested that the library make a DVD available RACE: The Power of and Illusion for check out. We created a survey, that can be done anonymously or can be returned with name and contact information, for all residents. This was designed to get a better understanding of our community and provide an opportunity to participate in an Equity Workshop if desired. The survey contains instructions for both self-study or group study. We held a number of workshops with small groups 4-8 people following their review of the DVD. Carol Taylor served as the facilitator. This work is ongoing, and we now have a young woman who is assisting Carol in facilitating the workshops.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.2 Implement Sustainable Purchasing

5 Points

Approved Information: 2.2.1: Participate in a sustainable procurement training (5 points)

Documentation Details: 2.2.1. Linda Paviol who serves as the town Treasure and does purchasing and bookkeeping for the Town of Canaan (Falls Village) completed an online Sustainable Purchasing webinar on 8/12/21. Felicia Jones who serves as the Economic Development Director completed the Sustainable CT Sustainable Purchasing Webinar training module on 8/10/21.

Partners: Sustainable CT training webinar from April 2, 2020

Additional Information: For future training, the Economic Development Director will hold a sustainable procurement lunch & learn training with the Town crew.

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

15 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.1. Map of Retail (5 points). 2.3.2. Develop a "buy local" campaign (10 points).

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [2.3. WORKSHEET](#)

IMAGE: [2.3.1. MAP OF LOCAL BUSINESSES](#)

EXCEL: [2.3.1. INVENTORY OF LOCAL BUSINESSES](#)

PDF: [2.3.2. BUY LOCAL PROMOTIONAL FLYER](#)

Documentation Details: 2.3.1. Map of Local Businesses 2.3.1. Inventory of Local Businesses 2.3.2. 2.3 Worksheet

Partners: Town of Canaan (Falls Village) La Bonne's Markets Adamah Farm Husky Meadows Farm Mountain View Farm Churchill Builders

2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

5 Points

Approved Information: 2.4.1: Host a business roundtable (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE AGENDA](#)

PDF: [2.4.1. ROUNDTABLE SURVEY](#)

PDF: [2.4.1. ROUNDTABLE PROMOTIONAL FLYER](#)

PDF: [2.4.1. WORKSHEET](#)

Documentation Details: 2.4.1. Business Roundtable Agenda- basic overview of meeting goals 2.4.1. Survey-feedback from local businesses to communicate their needs to municipal officials

Partners: 2.4.1. Falls Village Community Develop Corp

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.5.1: Natural Resource Inventory, (10 points), updated 8/21/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.5.1 NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY](#)

Documentation Details: Natural Resource Inventory includes the land, water and animals that make up the ecosystem of Falls Village.

Partners: Abigail Wilson, a young woman who grew up in Falls Village and is attending college in New Hampshire was home due to pandemic. She is an Environmental Science major and was a tremendous asset in completing this action.

3.8 Implement Low Impact Development

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.8.1a: Educational Resources on LID (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [FALLS VILLAGE POCD 2013.PDF](#)

WORD: [2.8.1 LID WEB LINK](#)

IMAGE: [2.8.1 WEBSITE PAGE](#)

Documentation Details: On pages 20-21, Falls Village notes their commitment to sustainability, and details one of their driving goals for the future to be to "protect clean water resources". This is planned to be accomplished by various strategies, however the application of Low Impact development in relation to stormwater is specifically cited as one of the planned actions moving forward with their goal. The POCD also outlines an action to review and update the stormwater regulations to make sure that they are still effective. The town also has provided educational resources for its residents on LID practices, and linked many sites that detail low impact development so that they can learn more about it.

Partners: NA

3.9 Manage Woodlands and Urban Forests

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.9 Established a Forestry Advisory committee (FAC) 5 points 3.9 Assemble and review existing municipal policies regarding trees and forests within the municipality. (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [INLAND WETLAND MINUTES THAT NOTE ESTABLISHMENT OF FAC](#)

WORD: [TIMBER HARVEST FORM](#)

PDF: [FOREST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE LIST](#)

Documentation Details: 3.9 Manage Woodlands and Forests. Minutes of Inland Wetlands Commission, who has been overseeing some tree care and forest management, formalized and established a FAC on July 19, 2021. Committee member list with short bios are attached. Timber Harvest Form was created after reviewing existing municipal policies regarding trees and forests within the municipality.

Partners: Falls Village Wetlands Commission & Conservation Committee

Additional Information: Susan Kelsey, who serves as the Secretary on the Inland Wetlands Commission is a Connecticut Licensed Forester.

3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.2 Create pollinator gardens and education the public about the importance of pollinators to society (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [2019 BEFORE/DURING VOLUNTEER PLANTING PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [2019 AFTER PHOTO - MAIN STREET POLLINATOR GARDENS](#)

IMAGE: [2020 BEFORE AND AFTER TOWN HALL PHOTOS](#)

IMAGE: [2019 BEFORE/AFTER MAIN STREET ISLAND](#)

IMAGE: [2020 NEW POLLINATOR PATHWAY GARDEN ON RAILROAD ST.](#)

IMAGE: [2021 REPAIR OF MAIN STREET POLLINATOR GARDEN](#)

IMAGE: [2021 THRIVING REFRESHED MAIN STREET POLLINATOR GARDEN](#)

Documentation Details: 3.12 Various photographs from 2019-2021 of our various Pollinator Pathway Gardens.

Partners: Local gardeners and municipal staff worked together to create a pollinator garden on municipal property in front of Town Hall and various road dividers along Main Street. On second year pollinator gardens expanded to road islands on Railroad Street.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

10 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.1: Cultural Map with local tourist sites and businesses, (5 points), updated 7/8/20
4.1.2. CTVisit link to municipal webpage, (5 points), updated 6/10/20

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.1.2 CT VISIT LINK](#)

IMAGE: [3.1.1 MAP OF CULTURAL ASSETS](#)

WORD: [3.1.1- LIST:UPDATES.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: The document for 4.1.2 contains a link to the CTvisit webpage for the Town of Falls Village, with a selection of various areas of cultural importance of facts about the town. The 4.1.1 Map document contains the Map for the Town's cultural sites and businesses. This was done through collaboration with other towns in the region, and is available through a physical copy to all residents of Falls Village. The list/updates document provides an explanation of how the map is updated each year, and contains a list of the sites represented, complete with contact information and a brief description of their function.

Partners: 4.1.1: Businesses and Assets from Cornwall, North Canaan, Goshen, Warren, and Norfolk are all included, however the Falls Village businesses and assets were all contacted by the Town and their information was compiled by members of the municipality.

Additional Information: We have also added a Businesses section to the town website www.canaanfallsvillage.org and have intentionally reached out to all local businesses, store fronts and home-based to promote them and engage in conversations to find innovative ways to support our local businesses.

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.1 Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development

20 Points

Approved Information: 5.1.1b. Sustainability Concepts in POCD (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [FALLS VILLAGE POCD 2013.PDF](#)

WORD: [5.1.1.B. WORKSHEET 2](#)

Documentation Details: The attached worksheet outlines the various sustainability concepts mentioned and planned in the POCD.

Partners: n/a

5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices

5 Points

Approved Information: 5.3.2 Community Garden on Municipal Land at Kellogg Elementary School, (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [KELLOGG SCHOOL K, 1 AND 2 STUDENTS PLANTING GARDEN.](#)

IMAGE: [KELLOGG SCHOOL K,1 AND 2 STUDENTS ACTING OUT LESSONS THEY WERE LEARNING](#)

IMAGE: [KELLOGG SCHOOL GARDEN PRE HARVEST](#)

IMAGE: [KELLOGG SCHOOL STUDENT IDENTIFYING VEGETABLE](#)

Documentation Details: 5.3.2 Various photographs of the Kellogg students during planting, outdoor classroom and growing of community garden.

Partners: Adamah Farm provided education for youths and helped to maintain the garden.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.1 Implement Complete Streets

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.1.2. Complete Streets Training (5 points), 8/23/20

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [COMPLETE STREET ATTENDANCE](#)

IMAGE: [6.1.6. COMPLETE STREETS PICTURE 1](#)

IMAGE: [6.1.6. COMPLETE STREETS PICTURE 2](#)

Documentation Details: 6.1.2. Complete Streets Training Attendance Sheet 6.1.6. Pictures of Main Street Sidewalks, Seating, and Street Lights

Partners: 6.1.2. Sustainable CT provided Complete Streets Training on 8/23/20 6.1.6. Implement Complete Streets with Small Town Economic Advancement Program (STEAP) in 2015

Additional Information: Fred Laser, Chairman of the Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission and Ruth Skovron, P&Z Commissioner both participated in a Complete Streets webinar that was held by Sustainable CT on 8/23/2020

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting

5 Points

Approved Information: 7.6.2 Convert street lights (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [6.7.3 LED PROGRAM STATS](#)

PDF: [6.7.3 OVERVIEW OF LED PROGRAM](#)

PDF: [LETTER RE EVERSOURCE.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: These documents show an overview of the Town lighting that is being converted into LED. These lights are owned and managed by the Town of Falls Village- documentation is seen through the budget records of the installation of the newer lighting methods. The Town Hall, Garage, and Day Care were the main target of the switch towards the energy efficient lighting. Additionally, the Town installed 9 LED street lights in conjunction with STEAP.

Partners: Small Town Economic Advancement Program

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Support and hold a sustainability event (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1_TOWN OF CANAAN \(FALLS VILLAGE\).XLSX](#)

PDF: [FORUM REPORT_OCT2019.PDF](#)

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

40 Points

Approved Information: 9.7.1: Books, paint, textiles, non-CED electronics recycling (40 points), updated 7/20/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.7- PAINT INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [7.7 BOOKS INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [7.7 NON CED ELECTRONICS INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [7.7- CLOTHING RECYCLING INFORMATION](#)

WORD: [7.7 MATTRESS RECYCLING INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [7.7- MAILER FOR ALL TOWN RESIDENTS](#)

Documentation Details: 9.7 Mailer for Town residents was a informational mailer sent to all town residents to inform them of the various recycling programs that the town participates in and to show all that can be recycled. The town's website regarding the transfer station also repeats this information on each of the various items that are recycled. Each information document includes the pictures of the information provided at the transfer station, as well as a picture of the actual site, and a contract that states the town's connection to the organization that aids in the recycling process.

Partners: 9.7.1. Tracey Wilson at the Falls Village Transfer Station worked with the municipality to complete this action.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1. - Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [10.4.1. WORKSHOP W/ STUDENTS](#)

IMAGE: [10.4.1. GARDEN MAINTENANCE](#)

IMAGE: [10.4.1. SAMPLE OF GARDEN PRODUCTION](#)

IMAGE: [KELLOGG SCHOOL GARDEN PRE HARVEST](#)

Partners: The Town worked with Kellogg Elementary School to develop and promote a garden. This garden is used for educational purposes by the school and is maintained by students and other community members.

Additional Information: This garden is a “Three Sisters Garden” poly-garden, which means the items grown together support each other and don’t compete for soil nutrients. Corn (Popcorn), Dry Beans and Pumpkins were planted, nurtured and harvested. The municipal involvement was use of town owned land. Farmers from the Adamah Farm at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center in Falls Village helped the Kellogg School children maintain the garden. The produce was sent home with the Kellogg School children for them to enjoy with their families.

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

20 Points

Approved Information: 11.1.1 - Create a housing committee (5 points) In 2021 the town solicited applications for an Affordable Housing Plan Task Team to participate in a 9-month process with a regional planner to create a draft plan for consideration by the Planning & Zoning Commission. There are 8 members in this group. 11.1.2-Town Meeting and Analysis of Housing Data (10 points), updated 7/11/20

Supporting Documentation:

[8.1.1- PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION](#)

WORD: [8.1.1 HOUSING WORKSHEET 2](#)

PDF: [8.1 PARTNER FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES DATA](#)

PDF: [FALLS VILLAGE HOUSING TRUST BOARD BIOS](#)

PDF: [2021 AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLAN TASK TEAM LIST](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #1 MARCH 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #2 APRIL 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #3 MAY 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #4 JUNE 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #5 JULY 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM AGENDA #6 AUGUST 2021](#)

PDF: [AHP TASK TEAM NOTICE IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER](#)

Documentation Details: The town presented its housing data at an open municipal meeting to the public to determine a plan moving forward for Town Projects in 2020. Residents were given an overview of the housing and population demographics, and presented with different options that they could want the town to move in, from fiber-optics to affordable housing. The data and presentation from that meeting has been attached here. The attached worksheet is a brief overview and analysis of the housing data of Falls Village and notes the amount of affordable housing in the community. Falls Village created a 501.c.3 Falls Village Housing Trust in 2016 Board Biographies attached. In 2020 we applied for a grant to hire a facilitator to assist us with the state mandated Affordable Housing Plan. Our draft plan to submit to P&Z will be ready by the end of 2021. Attached is a list of the Task Team members and Agendas from our meetings to date. We placed a notice around town and in the local paper to expand the group and bring in new and diverse members.

Partners: Falls Village Housing Trust Inc. Northwest Hills Council of Governments Housing Enterprises Partnership for Strong Communities LISC DOH Falls Village Planning and Zoning

Additional Information: A group of Falls Villagers has been working diligently to create affordable rental housing in our town. We are very aware that the lack of smaller rental units is contributing to our young people moving away and our seniors living in unsafe and expensive homes. We are deeply engaged in working with the community to address the implicit bias that is a barrier to swift development of urgently needed affordable housing.

11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

10 Points

Approved Information: 11.2.3. Commit dedicated funding to affordable housing development (10 points). The Town of Canaan (Falls Village) is committed to the development of affordable rental housing. This began with creating an Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) to allow for the first multi-family development in our town. The town received IHZ incentive funding from the Department of Housing that it dedicated to this project. The Falls Village Housing Trust Inc. has raised funding through grants, donations and financing for the Site Work, Architectural and Engineering Plans.

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [11.2.3. MUNICIPAL FINANCING](#)

WORD: [CDBG APPLICAITON](#)

PDF: [RESOLUTION FOR CDBG](#)

PDF: [ENVIRONMENTAL SITE REVIEW FVHT](#)

PDF: [AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLIC NOTICE](#)

Documentation Details: 11.2.3 Narrative on the funding process where funds were secured and the town acted as Fiduciary manager and distributed funding to Falls Village Housing Trust.

Partners: The Falls Village Housing Trust, Inc.(FVHT) was formed in 2016. In 2018 it received 501.c.3 non-profit status. In 2018 the FVHT received grants and financing and completed some site work. In 2019 architects were interviewed and a selection was made. Throughout 2019 and 2020 site work was done and architectural and engineering plans were developed. The Town administers funding to this Trust. Throughout 2020 Town meetings occurred and various local agencies (Wetlands Commission, River Commission, Fire Marshal, Planing & Zoning) signed off on the project. Site work will begin in Fall 2020 and construction will begin Spring 2021. Additional partners are: Housing Enterprises, Northwest Hills Council of Governments, NWCT Regional Housing Council, PSC, LISC, SustainableCT

Additional Information: The Town of Canaan (Falls Village) applied for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in June 2021. We expect to hear back by the end of the year. This large funding package will be used to complete the infrastructure for River Road Homes. This is another financial partnership where the Town is Fiduciary and the Falls Village Housing Trust is the recipient.