



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Connecticut Certification Report of Essex, a Sustainable Connecticut bronze certified applicant.

Essex was certified on November 01, 2021 with 230 points. Listed below is information regarding Essex's Sustainable Connecticut efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Essex 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 Essex, 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

30 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.2: Pollinator Pathway garden in Essex brought to low income residents of Essex Place/Court (6/22/20)) (10 points) 9.3.1: Recycle additional material and Compost Organics (10 points). (4/2020) 8.2.1: Provide Effective Community Communications (10 points) (6/2021).

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [ESSEXPOLLINATORSATESSEXCOURT1.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [ESSEXPOLLINATORSATESSEXCOURT2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [ESSEXPOLLINATORSATESSEXCOURT3.JPG](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 TO 1.1 - POLLINATORPATHWAYTOLOWINCOMEELDERY.DOCX](#)

IMAGE: [ESSEXPOLLINATORSATESSEXCOURT4.JPG](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 TO 1.1ESSEXEVENTS-FOODSCRAPS.PDF](#)

PDF: [TOWNCOMMUNICATIONS-8.2.1TO1.1FINAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [FOODSCRAPS9.3.1TO1.1-FINAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [8.2.1. TO 1.1EFFECTIVECOMMUNITYCOMMUNICATIONS.PDF](#)

Partners: 3.21.1: Partners: Essex Historical Society, Essex Land Trust, Essex Garden Club, River Council of Governments. 9.3.1: Partners: Town of Essex, 8.2.1:Partners: Town of Essex Social Services.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.6 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.6.2 Encourage local building owners to access C-PACE financing by organizing an educational event (5 points) 2.6.3 Earn credit for C-PACE projects (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [C-PACE EVENT AD.PDF](#)

PDF: [ESSEX CPACE MUNI AGREEMENT FULLY EXECUTED \(1\).PDF](#)

WORD: [INTO TO C-PACE EVENT AND NICHOLAS ZUBA.DOCX](#)

PDF: [CROSS ISLAND PROVISIONS CLOSES ON C-PACE FINANCING FOR SOLAR PV _ CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK.PDF](#)

Partners: We partnered with the CT Green Bank for this presentation and notified clean energy task forces in nearby towns of the event by email, inviting them to attend and bring any interested parties

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.9 Manage Woodlands and Urban Forests

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.9.1 Established a Forestry Advisory committee, Tree Committee (5 points) 3.9.2 Map forest cover (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [ESSEX ACTIVE TREE INVENTORY](#)

PDF: [ESSEX FOREST LAND COVER](#)

EXCEL: [TREE INVENTORY PLANTED THROUGH 2015](#)

WORD: [ESSEX TREES APPROVED FOR PLANTING](#)

PDF: [ESSEX LAND TRUST BULLETIN](#)

PDF: [ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN](#)

PDF: [ESSEX TREE COMMITTEE OVERVIEW](#)

WORD: [2.9 COVERLETTER - ATTACH 1.DOCX](#)

Additional Information: Objective: Develop clear policies and goals for the trees and forests in your municipality, and develop plans that will lead to effective implementation of these policies. Points requested: 10 1.Establish a Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC). An existing forestry commission or similar entity may serve as the FAC, but should consider broadening representation to include the stated list. · The Sustainable Essex Committee proposes that the existing Tree Committee for the Town of Essex be considered to be equivalent to a FAC. The mission of the Essex Tree Committee (ETC) is to inventory, preserve and replace street trees in Essex. It has been in existence since 1990. Members are appointed by

the Board of Selectmen and the committee reports to the town selectman. Committee members include local business owners and other volunteers. Members of the Tree Committee (FAC): Ken Bombaci, Nancy Hudson, Susan Malan, John Molly, Augie Pampel (tree warden), Mark Pratt, Judy Saunders. Most recent meeting 9/18.18 (meets bi-monthly). · Additionally, in Essex there are two more organizations (Essex Conservation Commission and the Essex Land Trust) whose work broadens the scope of the work done by the Essex Tree Committee and addresses the objectives necessary for completion of action 2.9. ·

Conservation Commission: Its mission is to manage three Town-owned preserves with the purpose of protecting native plants and wildlife. The Conservation Commission works with the Essex Land Trust and the town and other land use commissions to make recommendations on the status of conservation and development. Members: Adreinne Forrest, Richard Helmecki, Jeffrey Lovelace, Kathleen Tucker (chair), Frank Hall, Mark Reeves, James O'Brien, Roger Field. Last meeting 12/13/2018. Meets twice a month. · Essex Land Trust. The mission of the Essex Land Trust is to acquire, preserve and enhance our community's open spaces and natural resources to protect the environment and the small town character of the villages of Essex, Ivorytown, and Centerbrook. Members: Nancy Rambeau (president), Bob Nussbaum, Goody LeLash, Mike Carlucci, Joel Anik, Chester Arnold, Jim Denham, Cynthia Field, Geoff Furtney, Paul Greenberg, Tom Rutherford, Judy Saunders, Barbara Sarranonio. Last meeting 12/2019 (monthly). 2. The FAC must complete one or more activities from the following list: · Assess the tree cover within the municipality. - (see attached document that includes the map assessing the town's tree cover – produced by River COG using satellite imagery from CLEAR and/or LANDSAT.) Also, see two attached spreadsheets with inventory of trees in Essex with their type and location. · Establish general categories to describe trees in sites where your governing body and tree warden have direct responsibility. - For the "town" trees, please see two attached spreadsheets that document the 1,736 inventoried trees in Essex (including type of tree and location). · Assemble and review existing municipal policies regarding trees and forests within the municipality. Determine whether your community needs to develop additional policies... - Municipal policies (FAC) regarding trees within the municipality are to remove and dead or damaged trees from the town's streets or parks and replace them with a new tree (same type that was removed or suitable native alternative). The mission statement of the Essex Tree Committee is to "inventory, preserve, and replace the trees of Essex". Essex is a small town and the resources of the Tree Committee are sufficient for it to achieve its goals. · Establish a tree planting program based on the specific goals the FAC stated. - As described above, the Essex Tree Committee's tree planting program is to remove dead or dying trees in the town's streets and parks and replace them with suitable native trees. · Sponsor or host a forestry and woodlands education campaign. - Through the combined efforts of The Essex Land Trust and the Essex Historical Society many forestry and woodlands educational activities take place throughout the year (see attached Essex Land Trust "Woods and Waters" bulletin (published three times a year), Essex Historical Society bulletin). - The mission of the Essex Land Trust is to "preserve and enhance our community's open space and natural resources for the benefit of future generations". Essex Land Trust manages 650 acres of woodlands. It has developed trails and trail maps, addressed invasive species, and cleared damaged trees. In 2017/2018 it held 22 educational events for the community including lectures on invasive plants, geologic history of the CT River, monarch butterflies and their habitat. For 2019, educational events include "Amphibian habitat in CT: Is there enough for populations to persist?" and a collaborative effort with the Essex Historical Society "Follow the Falls", educates the public about the natural and economic history of the Falls River and how important the Essex Land Trust preserves are to maintaining this rich natural history. This story is available to read online through the Essex Historical Society website (essexhistory.org), through a printed booklet (available online), and special event programs. Lastly, members of the Essex Tree Committee, the Essex Land Trust, and the Essex Conservation Commission informally work together to ensure there is a holistic approach to planning the management and preservation of the Town's woodlands and forests. Attachments: 1) Cover letter pertaining to action 2.9 description of the Town of Essex's activities in this area. 2) approved trees for planting in Essex 3) xcel spreadsheet of inventory of Essex street trees 4) xcel spreadsheet of street trees planted in Essex 5) map of Essex forested land cover 6) Essex Tree Committee 7) Essex Land Trust 8) Essex Historical Society

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

5 Points

Approved Information: Submitting for 5 points under 2.10 (Residential Education), workshop on 6/18/19

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.10 OVERVIEW](#)

WORD: [INVASIVE SPECIES LINKS ON SUSTAINABLE ESSEX WEBSITE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [2.10 WORKSHOP FLYER](#)

Documentation Details: See "2.10 Overview" for a description of what was covered at the workshop. See "2.10 Workshop Flyer" for the title and date of the workshop.

Partners: The workshop included speakers from the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station Department of Environmental Sciences, Department of Energy and Environmental Protections Boating Division, and RiverCOG.

3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.1: Provide education to residents to improve pollinator habitat. (5 points) 3.12.2: Create a pollinator garden (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [VALLEYCOURIERPOLLINATORPATHWAYARTICLE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [ESSEXEVENTSESSEXPOLLINATORSVC.PDF](#)

WORD: [WILDFLOWER SEED PACK-2.DOC](#)

IMAGE: [POLLINATORPATHSEEDPACKETFRONT.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [SEEDPACKETBACK.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [POLLINATORPATHWAYGARDENBEFORE.JPEG](#)

IMAGE: [POLLINATORPATHWAYGARDENINPROGRESS.JPEG](#)

IMAGE: [POLLINATORPATHWAYGARDENINPROGRESS2.JPEG](#)

IMAGE: [POLLINATORPATHWAYGARDENINJUNE.JPEG](#)

[3.12.1: POLLINATOR PATHWAY OUTREACH: SIGNAGE OUTSIDE THE HISTORIC PRATT HOUSE IN ESSEX \(PP GARDEN IS ON THE PROPERTY\)](#)

WORD: [VALLEYCOURIERARTICLEPOLLINATORGARDENJUNE24,202.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.12POLLINATOR-PATHWAYGARDEN.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.12.1:POLLINATOR PATHWAY OUTREACH.DOCX](#)

WORD: [POLLINATOR PATHWAY POSTER.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.21.2: POLLINATOR PATHWAY GARDEN OBJECTIVE](#)

Documentation Details: The submitted document to be read first is 3.21.2: Pollinator Pathway Garden objective which describes the project.

Partners: Essex Garden Club Essex Historical Society Essex Land Trust River Council of Governments

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

5 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.2: Update your profile on CTVisit (5 points) updated 8-20-19

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.1.2 UPDATE YOUR PROFILE ON CTVISIT.DOCX](#)

PDF: [ESSEX CTVISIT PAGE SHOWING EDITS & PICTURES ADDED 8-20-19.PDF](#)

PDF: [ESSEX LOGIN PAGE ON CT VISIT.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: The town updated its seasonal photos and Facebook connection on 8-20-19. The Instagram link was also loaded but is not visible. According to Jean Hebert at CTVisit, Facebook is blocking it and apparently there is nothing that can be done to make the Instagram link visible. The Town of Essex does not have a Twitter account.

Partners: We worked with two municipal employees: Mary Ellen Barnes, Park and Recreation Director and Betsy D'Amico, Administrative Assistant for the First Selectman's Office. They are responsible for updating and maintaining the town's municipal profile on the CTVisit website as well as curating the photos that are uploaded. Jean Hebert, Online and Print Listing Editor for CTVisit, provided guidance about how to interface with their website. The Essex Board of Trade (BOT) manages "Downtown Essex" which feeds into the Essex CTVisit page. The BOT is responsible for removing businesses that move out of Town or go out of business. Businesses in town manage their own events and advertisements - the town is not involved. The link to the Board of Trade on the Essex CTVisit site is <http://essexct.com/>

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.4 Assess Climate Vulnerability

20 Points

Approved Information: 5.4.1 Perform a Climate Vulnerability Assessment. (10 points), updated 8/14/19 5.4.2 Identify how the secondary impacts of climate change are likely to affect your community. (5 points), updated June 2017 5.4.3 Special consideration in assessments (5 points), updated 10-3-19

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [4.4.2_LCRVCOG_FLOOD RESILIENCE STUDY_ESSEX](#)

WORD: [4.4 1-3 OVERVIEW OF ESSEX REVISED 10-3-19.DOCX](#)

PDF: [ESSEX CRB SUMMARY OF FINDINGS REPORT - FINAL - SEPTEMBER 2019.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: See "4.4.1-3_Overview of Essex revised 10-3-19". Additionally, the Nature Conservancy is sending Sustainable CT a report for the August 14th CRB workshop that will cover 4.4.1-3.

Partners: Essex worked with the Nature Conservancy on a Community Resiliency Building workshop on August 14th and will be creating a report of findings. The RiverCOG prepared the Flood Resilience Study. Essex's partnership with the Lower CT River COG for the study includes: - Municipal Representative. Each town in the region appoints a representative to the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments. - Funding. The Town subscribes for these services as a member of the Regional Council of Government. - Education and Outreach. The region conducted three workshops throughout the process of the study.

Additional Information: The town of Essex is applying the "Equity Toolkit" to Master Action 4.4. See Master Action 9.1 for details.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

20 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.1: support or host ZEV event (5 Points) 6.4.2: municipal staff attend training related to electrification of municipal vehicles (10 Points) 6.4.4: ZEV assessment (5 Points) 6.4.5: Host at least one charging station (5 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [SUPPORTZEROEV.DOCX](#)

PDF: [EVSELETTER.PDF](#)

PDF: [EVSE2.PDF](#)

PDF: [EVPOSTER3.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [ESSEX EVENTS MAGAZINE - VOLUME 24, QUARTER 4 2020. SUSTAINABLE ESSEX COMMITTEE EV PROJECT.](#)

IMAGE: [ESSEX EVENTS MAGAZINE, VOLUME 24 QUARTER 2020 - ESSEX FOUNDATION GRANT FOR EV CHARGING STATION](#)

PDF: [PATRONICITY FUNDRAISING CAMPAING - TOWN OF ESSEX FIRST ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION](#)

PDF: [VALLEY COURIER 12/22/2020 "ESSEX WELCOMES A NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION"](#)

WORD: [ELECTRIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL FLEET TRAINING](#)

Documentation Details: 6.4 - Support Zero Emissions Deployment: discussion of the process of determining where to put an EV charging station in the town of Essex (6/22/2020) 5.4.3. EVSE documentation 5.4.3. EVSE documentation 6.4 fundraising documentation 6.4 education documentation 6.4. Photos 6.4 usage graph

Partners: 6.4 - EVSE LLC - Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment 6.4 - Town of Essex Public Works Department 6.4 - Bonner Electric (installation of equipement) 6.4 - Town of Essex official - Maria Lucarelli

6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

5 Points

Approved Information: 5.5.1 Promote Public Transportation (5 points), updated 7/9/19

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [5.5.1 PROMOTE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION](#)

PDF: [5.5.4 OVERVIEW ESSEX](#)

PDF: [5.5.1 FLYER ESSEX](#)

Documentation Details: See "5.5.1 Promote Public Transportation" for an overview of outreach and see "5.5.1 Flyer" for the flyer distributed on page 1. The Senior Transportation Guide on page 2-3 was recently created on 7/10/19 and distributed to the First Selectmen/Selectwoman, Directors of Estuary Transit, and Middletown Area Transit at the RiverCOG/MPO (Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization) meeting on 7/24/19 for review with plans to distribute the brochure soon. See "5.5.4_Overview_Essex" for where required components are referred to. Due to their size, we were unable to upload and submit the transportation studies referred to under 5.5.4. Please see "5,5,4_Overview_Essex" for links or see here: Volume I: https://www.essexct.gov/sites/essexct/files/file/file/essex_trans_study_vol_1.pdf Volume II: https://www.essexct.gov/sites/essexct/files/file/file/essex_trans_study_vol_2.pdf Volume III: https://www.essexct.gov/sites/essexct/files/file/file/essex_trans_study_vol_3.pdf

Partners: Estuary Transit started the XtraMile program

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.7 Implement a Community Energy Campaign

10 Points

Approved Information: 7.7.1-3: Implement a Community Energy Campaign (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [6.8.2 ESSEX- INVENTORY RECEIPT FROM TECHNIART](#)

EXCEL: [6.8.3 ESSEX- IMPACT: ESTIMATED SAVINGS REPORT FROM TECHNIART](#)

WORD: [6.8.1-3 ESSEX- IMPLEMENT A COMMUNITY ENERGY CAMPAIGN](#)

Documentation Details: 6.8.1-3 Essex- Implement a Community Energy Campaign: This document includes all required submission details for Action 6.8. 6.8.2 Essex- Inventory Receipt from TechniArt: This document details the action took in purchasing light bulbs for the event. 6.8.3 Essex- Impact: Estimated Savings Report from TechniArt: This document shows calculations of estimated cost savings.

Partners: Techni-Art supplied the bulbs and submitted savings calculations (See 6.8.2 Essex- Inventory Receipt from TechniArt). Energize Connecticut's Clean Energy Communities (CEC) program provided a \$4,500 grant to support the event. Eversource staffers entertained children and talked about other energy-saving equipment. Vendors and representatives at the event included: Competitive Resources, Ameri Group, Southern Connecticut Gas, Benedetto Heating & AC, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and the Public Utility Regulation Authority (PURA). Essex Senior Housing held the second part of this event and Essex worked to donate the leftover bulbs and explain the cost-saving benefits of LED lights.

Additional Information: Event Summary: This event took place at the Essex Town Hall on 4/9/16 was the result of a \$4500 grant that was received from the Clean Energy Communities program due to the town's participation which included reducing the amount of energy utilized by the Town's municipal buildings. This event was advertised on the town website and a letter was sent to all residents by the First Selectman. A total of 1800 LED bulbs were purchased of which 1208 bulbs were distributed to 230 residents. Through this event, we were able to reach about 8% of the households in the town and save an estimated 112.900 kWhs annually. Followup meetings were scheduled in May 2016 and October 2018 at the senior housing location to educate the management on the energy and labor saving benefits of using LED bulbs and to donate the bulbs remaining from the April 2016 events to the senior housing complex.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

5 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Support and hold a sustainability event (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [2018-10. ACTION 7.1 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT .DOCX](#)

EXCEL: [7.1 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT - EXCEL TEMPLATE.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: Presentation on Climate Change on Sunday, October 21, 2019 Ivoryton Library: Science teacher Patty Sisson gave a free illustrated talk on the basic science of global warming, from 4-5 pm on Sunday, October 21st. The presentation focused on why global warming is an urgent problem, patterns of fossil fuel usage, the far-ranging effects of climate change, the newly released IPCC Special Report on Global Warming, and hopeful news about wind and solar energy, and actions people can take to help solve the global warming crisis.

Partners: The Ivoryton Library hosted the event and a PowerPoint presentation created by the Climate Change Project was used.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

40 Points

Approved Information: Mattress Recycling (10 points), Began 7/1/18 -still Active Paint Recycling (10 Points). Began 7/10/13 - still Active Textile Recycling (10 Points). Began 4/17/19 - still Active Electronic Recycling (10 Points) Begin 2011 - still Active

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.7_OVERVIEW_ESSEX](#)

PDF: [7.7_TRANSFER STATION BROCHURE_ESSEX](#)

PDF: [7.7_BAY STATE TEXTILES CONTRACT 4-1-19_ESSEX](#)

PDF: [7.7_TAKE2 CONTRACT 7-7-14_ESSEX](#)

PDF: [7.7_PAINTCARE AGREEMENT_ESSEX](#)

PDF: [7.7_WILLIMANTIC WASTE PAPER AGREEMENT 2018_ESSEX](#)

Documentation Details: See "7.7_Overview_Essex" first. Included are 1) a description of the Recycling Services provided at the Essex Recycling Center in "7.7_Transfer Station Brochure_Essex", 2) a summary of those additional materials that are recycled, 3) copies of contracts for each of the additional materials, 4) press releases or screenshot of Essex website, and 4) photos of the collection areas or bins for the additional materials.

Partners: The recycling services above are contracted to: Bay State Textiles, Take2, Paintcare, and Willimantic Waste Paper.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.1 Encourage Healthy and Sustainable Food Networks

10 Points

Approved Information: 10.1.1 Form a local or regional Food Policy Council (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [FOOD POLICY COUNCIL--REVISED.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: None

Partners: None

Additional Information: None

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

40 Points

Approved Information: 11.2.2: Increase amount of affordable housing (40 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2020-AFFORDABLE-HOUSING-APPEALS-LIST.PDF](#)

PDF: [8.2.2 2016 AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS LIST - ESSEX](#)

Documentation Details: The baseline year 2016 percentage is highlighted on page 2 of document "8.2.2 2016 Affordable Housing Appeals List - Essex"

Partners: None

Additional Information: The Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) is required to publish the Affordable Housing Appeals List once a year. This list provides the percentage of affordable units in each municipality based on Census figures for total number of housing units in the particular municipality. According to this list For 8.2.2, Essex saw a growth of 1.35 percentage points in affordable housing from 2016 to 2020. 10 points are awarded for each 0.25% growth in affordable housing units, up to 40 points, so Essex can earn 40 points.