



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

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

Town of Groton was certified on November 01, 2021 with 260 points. Listed below is information regarding Town of Groton'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 Town of Groton 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 Town of Groton, 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- 6.5.3 Optimize for Equity. One ToolKit Applied to Community Walk Audit (10 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [6.5.3 GROTON PEDESTRIAN WALK AUDIT.PDF](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 AARP WALK AUDIT FLYER \(SPANISH\).PDF](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 AARP WALK AUDIT FLYER\(ENGLISH\)](#)

PDF: [1.1- 6.5.3 TOWN OF GROTON EQUITY TOOLKIT.PDF](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 AARP WALK AUDIT PRESENTATION.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 1.1 Optimize for Equity. One ToolKit for Action 6.5.3 - Completed Equity Toolkit that was applied to Action 6.5.3. - Supporting Documents for Action 6.5.3 * Groton Walk Audit Document * Groton Walk Audit Advertisement Flyer in Spanish * Groton Walk Audit Advertisement Flyer in English * Groton Walk Audit Presentation

Partners: 1.1- 6.5.3 (Equity Toolkit Applied to Community Walk Audit): The Groton Senior Center was used as an event space for the walk audit presentation and as an event advertising location. One member of the Sustainability Committee Attended a "Walk with Ease" program, a community group sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation.

1.2 Participate in Equity Training

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.2 Participate in Equity Training (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [TOWN OF GROTON 2020 EQUITY TRAINING EMAIL.PDF](#)

PDF: [ACTION 1.2 PARTICIPATE IN EQUITY TRAINING. NARRATIVE AND ATTENDEE INFORMATION](#)

Documentation Details: 1. Town of Groton Equity Training Email. 2. Narrative and Attendee Information.

Partners: 1.2 Participate in Equity Training. The Town partnered with Thought Partner Solutions - this is the same organization that offered equity trainings through Sustainable CT.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.2 Develop, implement and maintain an ongoing “buy local” campaign (10 points).

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.3.2 EAT LOCAL- WIN LOCAL FLYER](#)

PDF: [2.3.2 EAT LOCAL- WIN LOCAL FLYER 2](#)

WORD: [2.3.2 INVENTORY AND PROMOTE LOCAL RETAIL OPTIONS WEBSITE LINKS.DOCX](#)

WORD: [2.3 WORKSHEET_EAT LOCAL, WIN LOCAL.DOCX](#)

Partners: 2.3.2 (Buy Local Campaign): None

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.4.3 Open Space Plan (10 points) 3.4.4d Establish an Open Space Acquisition Fund (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.4.3 OPEN SPACE PLAN](#)

EXCEL: [3.4.1 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY SPREADSHEET](#)

PDF: [3.4.4D GROTON OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION FUND RESOLUTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.4.4D GROTON OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION BALANCE 2019.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [3.4.1 OPEN SPACE INVENTORY SPREADSHEET WORKING COPY. UPDATED JULY 2021](#)

WORD: [3.4.3 WORKSHEET](#)

PDF: [3.4.3 OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR GROTON CONNECTICUT - ADOPTED 2021](#)

Documentation Details: - Open Space Plan has been cut out of the 2016 POCD. All pages apply. -For inventory, see pages 2-13 and 2-14 of the Open Space Plan (2016 POCD) - Since 2019, The Town of Groton Conservation Commission has produced a new Open Space Conservation Plan that was adopted by the Town in 2021. This along with their working open space inventory has also been included. All pages apply. Specific references are noted in the worksheet.

Partners: 3.4: None

3.8 Implement Low Impact Development

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.8.2b LID in POCD and Zoning Regulations (15 Points). Updated 2016 and 2019.

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [POCD EXERT - LID SOLUTIONS](#)

PDF: [ZONING REGULATIONS EXERT - SECTION 7.3 LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS](#)

PDF: [ZONING REGULATIONS EXERT - SECTION 7.1 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL REGULATIONS](#)

WORD: [3.8.2.B WORKSHEET COMPLETED](#)

PDF: [ZONING REGULATIONS EXERT -SECTION 8.2 OFFSITE PARKING AND LOADING REGULATIONS](#)

Documentation Details: 3.8.2b LID Exert from 2016 POCD. All pages apply. 3.8.2b LID Exert from Zoning Regulations 2019, Sections applicable include 7.1 Erosion and Sediment Control, 7.3 Low Impact Development, Section 8.2 Offsite Parking and Loading Revised and adopted in 2019. All pages apply.

Partners: 3.8.2b (LID in POCD): None

3.13 Promote Dark Skies

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.13.3 Promote Dark Skies Policy (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.13 PROMOTE DARK SKIES. TOWN OF GROTON ZONING REGULATIONS - SECTION 8.5 OUTDOOR LIGHTING](#)

Documentation Details: 3.13.3. Section 8.5 of the Town of Groton Zoning Regulations. Page 2 of 4 under "standards" states "Lighting fixtures for all areas of vehicular and/or pedestrian access must be full cut-off type fixtures or Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) cut-off fixtures". These full cut off design requirements are dark sky compliant fixtures.

Partners: 3.13.3 (Promote Dark Skies Policy): None

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture

10 Points

Approved Information: 4.2, 10 points for three activities: - 4.2.2 Arts and Culture information on website - 4.2.7 Streamlining Approvals for Cultural Events - 4.2.10 Option 1 - Support the arts at the library

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [4.2.7 STREAMLINING CULTURAL EVENTS 2021 UPDATE](#)

WORD: [4.2.10 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE - PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY OPTION 1](#)

WORD: [4.2 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE - 2021 WEBSITE SCREENSHOTS AND HYPERLINKS](#)

Documentation Details: - Link to website for arts and culture summer concert series. https://groton-ct.gov/business_detail_T12_R141.php - Link to website for library events and activities. <http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/G/GROTON/ekp.cfm?curOrg=GROTON>.

Partners: 4.2.2 (Arts and Culture in Municipal Marketing): None 4.2.7 (Streamline Cultural Events): None 4.2.10.1 (Promote Events at Local Library): Groton Public Library

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

15 Points

Approved Information: 5.5.1 Inventory Historic Resources (10 Points), 5.5.4 Certified Local Government. (5 Points).

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.5.1 HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY](#)

PDF: [5.5.1 GROTON HISTORIC DISTRICT REGULATIONS](#)

PDF: [5.5.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN](#)

PDF: [5.5.4 CLG LIST AND DATES-2021 UPDATE](#)

WORD: [5.5.1 HISTORICAL RESOURCES INVENTORY INFORMATION DOCUMENT -OWNERSHIP AND DESCRIPTION 2021\(EDIT TITLE\)](#)

Documentation Details: - Historical Resources Inventory documents historical and cultural resources in the town and methods for future preservation. This inventory was completed in 2014. Note the dates on the associated maps. This is still relevant today and did not need updating. all pages apply. An additional document was added on 8/17/21 proving ownership status and a description of each historic asset identified. - Hazard Mitigation Plan documents how historical and cultural resources can be protected from natural hazards. -Groton Historic District Regulations are a set of standard and guidelines the town uses to preserve historical and cultural resources. - 5.5.4 List of Cities and Towns certified by the National Park Service as a Certified Local Government.

Partners: None

Additional Information: The Historical Resources Inventory was completed in April of 2014 and published as part of Groton's Plan of Conservation and Development in 2016. This is still relevant today and there was no need to update the information.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.5 EV Charging Station on Municipal Property (5 Points).

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [EV CHARGING STATION PHOTOS](#)

IMAGE: [EV CHARGING STATION PHOTOS](#)

IMAGE: [EV TOWN HALL GROTON.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [EV GROTON LIBRARY.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [EV CHARGING STATIONS - GROTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - 35 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD - GROTON, CT - INSTALLED 2020](#)

Documentation Details: 6.4.5 A series of photos were submitted. We have EV charging stations that are open to the public at 3 municipal buildings, the Town Hall Annex, Town Hall, and the library. These were installed and applied in our previous certification. 6.4.5 Since 2019, the Town has installed 12 EV charging stations open to the public. Eight are located at the new Groton Middle School and 4 are located at one of the new elementary schools. These are municipally owned. 6.4.5 EV Charging Stations - Groton Middle School - 35 Groton Long Point Road - Groton, CT - Installed 2020 - Picture added showing EV charging stations that were installed in 2020.

Partners: 6.4.5 (EV Charger): None

6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

25 Points

Approved Information: 6.5.3: Conduct a pedestrian Walk Audit (10 Points). 6.5.6 Support shared mobility services (15 points).

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [6.5.6 MYSTIC COMMUNITY BIKES RENTAL AGREEMENT](#)

PDF: [6.5.6 MYSTIC COMMUNITY BIKES WEBSITE.PDF](#)

PDF: [6.5.6 MYSTIC COMMUNITY BIKES - GROTON DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 GROTON PEDESTRIAN WALK AUDIT SUMMARY, FINDINGS, AND RECOMMENDATION](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 WALK AUDIT POWERPOINT PRESENTATION](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 WALK AUDIT FLYER IN ENGLISH](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 AARP WALK AUDIT FLYER \(SPANISH\).PDF](#)

WORD: [6.5.3 WORKSHEET COMPLETED](#)

Documentation Details: 6.5.6 Support Shared Mobility Services. The Town of Groton has partnered with Mystic Community Bikes, a bike sharing company, by allowing the company to lease town owned space free of charge. -Document added showing how rental space agreement helped establish shared mobility services. 6.5.3 - Comprehensive document describing the walk audit that was preformed at 3 different locations in Town. This audit includes the inventory, assessment, results, and findings and future recommendations for the areas audited. - Walk Audit Flyer in Spanish and English - Walk Audit PowerPoint Presentation - used as a presentation to all walk audit volunteers prior to the activity.

Partners: 6.5.3 (Community Walk Audit): None 6.5.6 (Support Shared Mobility Services): Mystic Community Bikes <http://www.mysticcommunitybikes.org/>

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.7 Implement a Community Energy Campaign

10 Points

Approved Information: 7.7.1: Implement a Community Energy Campaign (10 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.7.1 ENERGY CAMPAIGN FLYER -GROTON PRUDENT POWER FLYER](#)

PDF: [7.7.1 ENERGY CAMPAIGN MEMORANDUM](#)

WORD: [7.7.1 WEBSITE SCREENSHOT AND HYPERLINK](#)

WORD: [7.7.1 SOCIAL MEDIA SCREENSHOT](#)

PDF: [7.7.1 CAMPAIGN LAUNCH EMAIL](#)

Documentation Details: 7.7.1 Energy Campaign Memorandum - Shows information necessary to satisfy 7.7.1 a and b. The memorandum highlights our energy campaign. It includes our target audience, the goal of the campaign, the outline of the campaign and steps that were taken and continue to be taken to achieve the campaign mission. The memorandum also includes a description of how the audience was engaged throughout the campaign, plus information about the number of participants, time period offered, and impact. 7.7.1 Energy Campaign Flyer - Copy of flyer that was distributed in physical locations, via social media, and via email. 7.7.1 Website Screenshot and hyperlink. Screenshot of campaign website and link. 7.7.1 Social Media Screenshot; One example of multiple posts the town made to promote the campaign. 7.7.1 Campaign Launch Email- Email sent to "All Users" - includes 250 plus employees and officials of Groton.

Partners: 7.7.1 (Implement a Community Energy Campaign): Ditty Bag Zero Waste Retail Store & Cafe, Pedego Bikes, and Shore Television and Appliances Inc.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

5 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1: Hold a Sustainability Event (5 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1_TEMPLATE_COMPLETED](#)

PDF: [8.1_FLYER](#)

Documentation Details: 8.1.1 Template completed. Event details, municipal support explained, and number of participants included. 8.1.1 Flyer for event. - Note July 10th date in Groton. Use of municipal building - Fitch High School for event.

Partners: 8.1.1 (Hold a Sustainability Event): SCRRA

8.5 Collaborate With Other Municipalities

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.5.2 Downtown Mystic Parking Study Final Report (10 points).

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.5.2_DOWNTOWN_MYSTIC_PARKING_STUDY_FINAL_REPORT](#)

WORD: [8.5_WORKSHEET_COMPLETED](#)

Documentation Details: 8.5.2 Downtown Mystic Parking Study Final Report - Quote showing town collaboration on page 2.- "the Towns of Groton and Stonington jointly commissioned this study to identify effective parking management strategies that will better organize, manage and improve parking conditions for customers, visitors, employees and residents." All other pages apply as final joint product.

Partners: 8.5.2: Town of Stonington.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.3.1: Recycle Additional Materials (10 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.3.1: RECYCLE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS - 1/20 PUBLIC WORKS REPORT](#)

PDF: [9.3.1: RECYCLE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS - TRANSFER STATION BROCHURE](#)

PDF: [9.3.1: RECYCLE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS - TRANSFER STATION BROCHURE 2021 - 2022](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 DEEP ANNUAL REPORT VERIFYING SERVICES IN GROTON.](#)

Documentation Details: 9.3.1: Recycle Additional Materials - 1/20 Public Works Report - Monthly public works report shows collection data of mattresses, antifreeze, and empty propane tanks. 9.3.1: Recycle Additional Materials - Transfer Station Brochure - Brochure for the Public Works Department showing mattresses as a free recyclable item. Also marked as new. 9.3.1: Recycle Additional Materials - Transfer Station Brochure 2021 - 2022 - Brochure showing continued free collection of mattresses, anti freeze, and other non required items. 9.3.1: DEEP Annual Report verifying services stated in Groton. 2020 report not yet available.

Partners: 9.3.1 (Recycle Additional Materials): SCRRRA

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.3.3 - Town of Groton Smoke Free Places Policy (15 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [SMOKE FREE PLACES POLICY & SIGN EXAMPLE](#)

PDF: [GROTON COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES](#)

IMAGE: [NO SMOKING SIGN](#)

Documentation Details: Groton's Policy on Smoking in Parks is in bold in the document. An example of a sign in Groton can be seen on page 2. Groton prohibits smoking in community gardens. See Page 2 rule number 10.

Partners: 10.3.3 (Smoke Free Places Policy): None

10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1 Develop and Promote Community Grow Spaces (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [10.4.1 PHOTO 1.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [10.4.1 PHOTO 2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [10.4.1 PHOTO 3.JPG](#)

PDF: [10.4.1 GROTON COMMUNITY GARDEN RULES.PDF](#)

PDF: [10.4.1 GROTON COMMUNITY GARDEN LINKS AND SCREENSHOTS.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: - 10.4.1 Groton Community Garden Links and Screenshots provides links to the websites where community garden information and registration is available to the public and screenshots of what those websites look like. The linked website states that residents can register for a plot and may cultivate flowers and vegetables

Partners: 10.4.1 (Community Grow Spaces): None

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

40 Points

Approved Information: 11.2.1 Identify current % of affordable housing, over 10% (10 points), 2020 11.2.2 Grow Affordable Housing 2015- 22.67% 2020- 23.48% increase of 145 units, or .81% (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [11.2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS LIST 2020](#)

PDF: [11.2 AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPEALS LIST 2015](#)

Documentation Details: 2021 update Action 11.2 - Affordable Housing Appeals Summary 2020 - Included to show Groton remains above the 10% (action 11.2.1) and to show the increase of affordable housing over the five year period 2015 to 2020 (11.2.2). Action 11.2 - Affordable Housing Appeals Summary 2015 - Included to show that Groton has increased affordable housing over the five-year period (11.2.2)

Partners: None

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

20 Points

Approved Information: 13.1: Adopted new, electric vehicle (EV) zoning regulation that will ensure new commercial, mixed use and multi-family housing developments and redevelopments include electric vehicle parking spaces and chargers in their proposal (20 points).

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [13.1 TOWN OF GROTON INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE ACTION NARRATIVE](#)

PDF: [13.1 TOWN OF GROTON ZONING REGULATION AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE 8.15.21 - ELECTRIC VEHICLE PARKING INCLUDED](#)

Documentation Details: 13.1 Town of Groton Innovative Sustainable Action Narrative; Narrative including the requested information of the action. 13.1 Town of Groton Zoning Regulation Amendments Effective 8.15.21 - Electric Vehicle Parking Included: A copy of our zoning regulation updates effective August 15, 2021. "Electric Vehicle Off-street Parking Requirements" can be found on pages 74 and 75.

Partners: none