

### 10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

10 Points

20 Points

30 Points

40 Points

50 Points

#### Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last updated 2024)

#### Objective

Educate on, plan for, and implement policies and projects to improve air quality by reducing smoking and tobacco use and excessive idling of motor vehicles.

Complementary Action:

- [Manage Municipal Fleets](#)

#### What to Do

*The more you do, the more points you earn.*

1. Gather local and regional data in your community on tobacco use, tobacco cessation, health consequences and costs, and local vendors and points of access. Tobacco use includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (such as snuff and chew). Where possible, compare it to state and national metrics. One potential source of tobacco data is your local governmental public health department or district. Research effective educational and policy strategies to reduce smoking and tobacco use in your municipality. **(10 points)**

**Submit:** A completed [worksheet 1](#). If your data collection and research were completed more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how they are still relevant and used by your municipality.

2. Implement or maintain a smoking and tobacco use reduction campaign. For example, conduct ongoing smoking and tobacco reduction education in schools, or place smoke-free and tobacco-free signage in public recreation areas. The campaign may be ongoing or long-term, but at least one campaign outreach initiative or event must have taken place in the last three years. **(10 points)**

**Submit:** A brief overview of the campaign (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); dates of events; and at least one example of educational materials disseminated in the last three years, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

3. Adopt one or more policies designed to reduce tobacco use in your municipality. The strategies below are illustrative, but other innovative strategies not listed will also be considered. Strategies already required by Connecticut law, such as providing a smoke-free environment for municipal employees or children in schools, will not be considered for points. **(20 points)**
  - Prohibit smoking and tobacco use in outdoor public places, such as parks, recreational facilities, and at public events. Publicize the prohibition to the community. Post signs to educate the public, and appropriately enforce the prohibition.
  - Use licensing to place conditions on tobacco retailers, such as restricting the use of coupons and regulating the placement of products or advertising.

- Use zoning ordinances to require tobacco retailers to be located in zones that do not contain facilities frequented by youth, or to lower the density and quantity of retailers by requiring tobacco retailers to be located a certain distance from one another, limiting the total number of retailers allowed in the area, or prohibiting the transfer or expansion of existing tobacco retailer building.

**Submit:** A copy of the resolution or ordinance formally adopted by your governing body and documentation that the resolution or ordinance has been adopted (such as meeting minutes, a copy of the municipal zoning regulations with relevant portions highlighted, a link to municipal ordinances, or similar verification).

4. Implement or maintain a strategic campaign to prevent excessive idling of motor vehicles. For example, post “no idling” signs, distribute educational materials at municipal events and centers, or provide ongoing training to relevant municipal employees, such as school bus drivers, police officers, or public works vehicle drivers, among other potential strategies. The campaign may be ongoing or long-term, but at least one campaign outreach initiative or event must have taken place in the last three years. **(10 points)**

**Submit:** A brief overview of the campaign (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); dates of events; and at least one example of educational materials disseminated in the last three years, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

## Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the “Partners” box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality’s role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the ["Partners Guidance Document"](#).

## Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from your public health department or district, and local health experts, educators, experts in law and health policy and other interested stakeholders could be helpful in implementing this Action, as well as local youth groups and other community health groups.

## Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the [Sustainable CT Grants Portal](#), which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the [Support for Your Town](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)
- [Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)
- [Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants Program](#)
- [Climate Program Office \(CPO\) Adaptation Sciences Program FY2024](#)
- [Urban Forest Equity Grant Program](#)

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents*

- [Department of Public Health, Smoke-Free Signs](#)
- [Tobacco-Control Legal Consortium](#)
- [Anti-Idling Efforts in Connecticut](#)

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#)
- [American Lung Association](#)

- [American Heart Association](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)

## **Why This Matters**

Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke or emission from idling motor vehicle engines can potentially harm the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

## **Benefits**

Adopting smoke and tobacco-free policies will improve the health of people who live, work, and play in your community by improving air quality.

## **CT Success Stories**

- [Glastonbury - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Milford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Old Lyme - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [West Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [New Haven - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Trumbull - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [New Haven - Sep 2023 Certification](#)