

3.14 Implement Sustainable Snow Management

5 – 60 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

Promote sustainable management of snow and ice to prioritize public safety while also optimizing salt usage to protect the environment and public health.

What to Do

1. Educate municipal staff, residents, and businesses about promoting and managing sustainable winter operations.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

a. Have at least one snow removal or winter operations staff member participate in a [Connecticut Training & Technical Assistance Center \(T2 Center\)](#) training on sustainable snow management practices. This training relies on the Connecticut “Green Snow Pro: Sustainable Winter Operations” guide for municipalities. The training must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

Submit: The names and titles of the individuals who attended the training, date of attendance, and a certificate of completion for the training (The T2 Center will provide attendees with a certificate of completion).

b. Host an event or workshop to educate residents and/or businesses on how to reduce salt usage, balancing public safety with environmental and economic sustainability concerns. The event or workshop must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

Submit: An overview of your event or workshop (5 sentences maximum), including target population (if any) and date of event, and at least one example from among the materials disseminated, 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).

2. Develop and adopt a winter operations plan that includes the following elements: **(10 points)**
 - A consideration of the impacts of salt on public health, water quality, and/or other environmental considerations.
 - Operations standards on anti-icing (including through pre-wetting with brine or other liquid material), material storage and maintenance, and calibrating equipment (including gravity flow equipment and hydraulic-run spreaders).
 - An application rate chart that includes salt and sand usage (total and per lane mile), weather conditions and temperature range at the time of application, total snow accumulation, routes taken and number of runs. See [Appendix A](#) for a blank salt usage chart template and [Appendix B](#) for a blank storm report chart template that can be used for your municipality’s application rate chart and winter operations plan.
 - A description of where the application rate charts will be placed in plow trucks and how operators will be

trained to use them.

- A description of how operators will be trained on the new plan and plan implementation (including use of the application rate charts, as described above).

Submit: A copy of your municipality's officially adopted winter operations plan; a completed [worksheet 1](#); and evidence of the plan adoption (such as meeting minutes, an internal memo, or similar verification). If your plan was adopted more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

3. Implement sustainable snow management operations. **(up to 40 points)**

The more you do, the more points you earn.

- Conduct annual inspection of salt storage facilities to ensure that they are in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's [best management practices](#) for road salt storage. **(10 points)**
- Calibrate sand and salt dispersal equipment annually to ensure accurate application of material. Calibration should be done on each individual vehicle and records kept with the vehicle. **(10 points)**
- Update your municipal fleet and ancillary equipment to be able to control usage of materials for winter operations (including but not limited to salt and sand) and adjust the amount of material applied. Updates to a portion of your fleet may still be considered for points. **(15 points)**
- Follow [state best management practices](#) for snow accumulation disposal **(15 points)**
- Adopt a municipal policy for requiring and documenting annual training for all municipal snow plow operators (including those contracted by the town). **(20 points)** **Note:** The training of snow plow operators may be an annual training provided internally by the municipality or provided by an external party.

Submit: A statement of the strategy or strategies implemented, and documentation showing the implementation of the selected strategies. All documentation must show that the strategy is current and actively used by your municipality. This may be copies of contracts with the portion highlighted that includes the requirement for contracted plow operator training; documentation of annual salt storage facility inspection and compliance with best management practices; calibration records; proof of purchase by the municipality of updated equipment to allow more precise measurement and distribution of materials for sustainable winter management; evidence of policy adoption; or other documentation specifically tailored to the strategy selected above.

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

Include local elected officials and other representatives from your municipality's governing body in implementing this Action, as well as any public works or engineering staff, public health professionals, planners, environmental commissions, residents, businesses, downtown districts, schools, and private snow management contractors.

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.

- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Green Snow Pro: Sustainable Winter Operations. A Guide for Municipalities.](#)
- [Connecticut T2 Center: Sustainable Winter Operations Resource Page](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Connecticut Training and Technical Center of the UCONN Transportation Institute](#)
- [UCONN Center for Land Use, Education and Research \(CLEAR\)](#)
- [Salt Smart](#)
- [Wisconsin Salt Wise](#)

Why This Matters

Sustainability in winter operations is more important than ever. With environmental impacts increasing and budgets continuing to decline, towns must employ best practices to minimize salt use and maximize their operations for both fiscal and environmental stewardship.

Benefits

Benefits include:

- Protection of potable water supplies
- Protection of biodiversity by minimizing salinization of marine and aquatic ecosystems
- Reduction of municipal costs, while still supporting safe driving conditions

CT Success Stories