

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

5 – 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 projects to protect your community's historic resources.

Complementary Action:

- [Assess Climate Vulnerability](#)

What to Do

Best practices for historic places can be found within the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places](#).

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Identify multiple priority historic assets within your community and actions required to sustain their long-term viability. Actions should be specific to each asset listed. Please include a short description of each location and note if the location is privately or municipally owned. **(10 points)**

Assets may include:

- Historic buildings,
- Parks,
- Natural resources,
- View-sheds,
- Public spaces,
- Stone walls,
- Other

Submit: The list of priority historic resources and the list of actions required to sustain their long-term viability. The [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can help pay for such services. If your list was created more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

2. For at least one historic asset in your municipality, perform a conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places. Include in the assessment the sustainability of each building present, possibility of energy retrofits, vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, etc. You may assess the viability for up to three different assets. **(10 points per asset, up to 3 assets or 30 points)**

Submit: A completed [worksheet](#) and the conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's [Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places](#) for each historic

resource listed in your inventory. The [State Historic Preservation Office](#) can help pay for such services. If your assessment was completed more than three years ago, include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

3. Sponsor or host an educational workshop or program to educate owners of historic homes on how to manage their historic building(s) sustainably (for example, through energy audits or energy efficiency upgrades). Educational workshops must have taken place in the last three years; current, long-term educational programs that provide ongoing information are also eligible for points. **(5 points)**

Submit: A brief overview of outreach (suggested 5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any); date of event (if applicable); 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).

4. Achieve "Certified Local Government" status. See the [Certified Local Government Program](#) on the CT Department of Economic and Community Development website for additional information on how to work towards your certification. **(5 points)**

Submit: Proof of recognition from the National Park Service regarding attainment of *Certified Local Government* status.

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 the planning and zoning, parks and recreation, public works, and economic development departments could be helpful in implementing this action. Your historic preservation commission, planning and zoning commission, energy commission, local historic society, local art league, CT Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Culture and Tourism could help implement this action.

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](#)

Funding outlined below may be beneficial to creating the historic inventory and/or implementing action items listed in your inventory.

- [Historic Restoration Fund Grant](#)
- [Survey and Planning Grants for Historic Inventories](#)
- [Planning and Pre-Development Grants](#)
- [Partners in Preservation Grant](#)

Funding available to communities with Certified Local Government status:

- [Historic Preservation Enhancement Grants \(HPEG\)](#)
- [Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Trust for Historic Preservation, ["Inventory of Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Properties, Connecticut"](#)
- Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, [Connecticut Cultural Resources Information System](#)
- Preservation Connecticut, [Circuit Riders](#)
- National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, ["Sustainability"](#)
- National Park Service, ["NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline"](#)
- National Preservation Institute, ["What are 'Cultural Resources?'"](#)
- [GSA](#)
- Certified Local Governments: [CT Department of Economic and Community Development](#)
- [National Park Service - Certified Local Government Program](#)
- National Park Service, ["The Treatment of Historic Properties"](#)
- [Energize CT](#)
- [Sample Preservation Restriction/Easement](#)
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, ["Climate and Culture"](#)
- National Park Service, ["National Park Service Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy"](#)
- New London Fire Department Headquarters Building, [Conditions Assessment Report](#)
- The First Church of Christ Congregational East Haddam, [Connecticut Conditions Assessment Report](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Trust For Historic Preservation](#)
- [CT Main Street](#)
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, [Office of Culture and Tourism](#)
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, [State Historic Preservation Office](#)
- [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#)
- [American Alliance of Museums](#)
- [National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers](#)
- [National Park Service](#)
- [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)

Why This Matters

Historic resources can be buildings, monuments, art installations, traditional community practices, archaeological sites, public spaces, stone walls, etc.

Benefits

Historic resources perform a vital function in a community by:

- Contributing to local community character,
- Instilling attachment to place,
- Attracting a talented workforce, and
- Encouraging tourism.

By protecting local historic resources from a host of threats, (for instance, climate change), you ensure that present and future generations can enjoy these sites.

CT Success Stories

- [Groton - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Ridgefield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Suffield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Fairfield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Glastonbury - Nov 2021 Certification](#)

- [Greenwich - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Milford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [New Milford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Old Lyme - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Cheshire - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Darien - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Vernon - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Wilton - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Granby - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Marlborough - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Branford - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Old Saybrook - Sep 2023 Certification](#)