

7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting

10 Points

15 Points

25 Points

Action Updates

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

Objective

Light your community with the most efficient bulbs available, either by getting your utility company to convert or by converting your municipally-owned exterior lighting.

What to Do

1. Create a streetlight inventory and perform a lighting needs assessment, detailing what to light, when to light, and at what level. Your inventory and assessment should include the locations and light fixture type or description for all streetlights. **(10 points)**

Submit: A copy of your streetlight inventory and lighting needs assessment. If your streetlight inventory was created more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

2. Convert Town-Owned Decorative Street Lights and Exterior Park Lighting: Convert ALL municipally owned exterior decorative lighting and exterior park lighting (excluding athletic facilities) to LEDs. Lights must have been converted in the last three years. **(15 points)**

Submit: Documentation of conversion of all exterior decorative lighting and park lighting (excluding athletic facilities). This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

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, building, public works, and purchasing departments, energy commission, planning and zoning commission, and utility companies could be helpful in implementing 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](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. "[Energy Efficiency](#)"
- US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "[Street Lighting and Blue Light](#)"
- US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "[Street Lighting and Blue Light FAQs](#)"
- Acadia Center. "[Community Energy Vision, Action Guide for Connecticut](#)"

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Energize CT](#)
- [Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund](#)
- [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy \(ACEEE\)](#)
- [Energy Star](#)
- [International Dark-Sky Association](#)

Why This Matters

Street lights are often a high energy cost to Connecticut's cities and towns. Currently, the utility companies are engaged in a multi-year effort to replace street lights under their ownership with LED bulbs at no cost to the town. However, municipalities select when to opt-in. If your community owns the street lights, you are not required to transition to LED bulbs, but you may select to replace your lights with more efficient bulbs to reduce your energy use and save money.

Benefits

LED bulbs use about 70% less energy than traditional bulbs. Relamping can save both energy and money, and presents a wonderful opportunity to educate your citizens on real dollar savings.

Saving energy improves public health by reducing greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants and reduces reliance on finite natural resources.

CT Success Stories

- [Chester - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Suffield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Fairfield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Old Lyme - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Waterford - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Middletown - Sep 2023 Certification](#)