

### 9.3 Recycle Additional Materials

10 Points

20 Points

30 Points

40 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

Reduce residential solid waste and increase recycling of non-mandated materials and organics composting.

Complementary Action:

- [Reduce and Compost Organic Waste](#)

#### What to Do

**Note:** This action does not include non-mandated organic material and food waste. Your municipality can earn points for those materials under Sustainable CT Action Reduce and Compost Organic Waste. Recycling of leaves is mandatory in CT, and grass clippings are banned from disposal, so programs for either of these items are not eligible for points.

1. Create infrastructure to recycle additional materials that Connecticut law has not designated as [mandatory recyclable items](#) and provide education to promote participation in these recycling programs. Non-mandated items include rigid non-HDPE and non-PETE plastic containers, textiles, non-mandated batteries, and items covered under the Connecticut Product Stewardship program.\* You may target education and implementation to specific populations, such as residents or schools, being mindful of any potential barriers to participation. You will receive **10 points for each non-mandated material recycled, up to 40 points**

Additional considerations for your municipal recycling programs:

- [The Connecticut Product Stewardship](#) or [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\)](#) programs make producers responsible for end-of-life management (including recycling and/or disposal costs) of materials they originally produced. Connecticut currently has EPR programs in place for electronics, paint, mattresses, and mercury thermostats; an EPR program for gas cylinders will be fully operational by October 1, 2025. EPR programs incentivize municipal and retail collection of these materials for proper management, at no cost to your residents. Recycling of covered electronic devices (CEDs) – which include televisions, computers, monitors and printers – is mandatory in CT and thus is not eligible for points. However, recycling of electronics not covered by the EPR program (non-CEDs) could receive points, if the municipality can show that non-CEDs are actually being recycled, not just collected and disposed of.
- Municipal reuse programs such as swap shops that allow for the donation of gently used items are eligible for points under this Action, so long as collections are long-term, available to residents year-round, and allow for collection and exchange of a broad range of items.
- Household hazardous waste collection programs are helpful in keeping these materials out of the waste stream but are not eligible for points under this Action, which focuses on reuse and recycling. Household hazardous waste collection days may, however, be eligible for points under the Sustainable CT Action [Hold a Sustainability Event](#).

**Submit:** A completed [worksheet 1](#) and evidence of implementation for each non-mandated material recycled

(such as a municipal contract, ordinance, partnership letter, website hyperlink with screenshot, or annual report listing your municipality as a recycling program participant, or other documentation). If you collaborated with a nonprofit or business to collect or recycle the recycled material, you must submit a partnership letter or alternative documentation of the partnership that specifies that services to recycle the material have been provided within the past three years (please describe in the “partners” box of your submission). Alternative documentation could include a website hyperlink and screenshot of the website or annual report of the partner organization which lists your town as participating in the recycling program.

## 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

As the first point of contact, the municipal recycling coordinator or other appropriate municipal staff involved in materials management should be involved in the implementation of this action. In addition to the recycling coordinator, a team of municipal staff and volunteers typically supports the municipality’s recycling coordinator’s waste reduction and recycling efforts. The coordinator should work to standardize the program(s) and, if possible, grow the program(s) with additional tonnages. A list of recycling coordinators for each Connecticut municipality [can be found here](#).

## 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.

- [Recycle CT Grant Programs](#)
- [Resource Rediscovery RFP](#)

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents*

- [CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – List of Items Mandated for Recycling](#)
- [CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection- Product Stewardship](#)
- Mattress Recycling Council, [Connecticut Mattress Recycling Program for Municipalities](#)

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [Recycle CT](#)
- [Connecticut Product Stewardship Council](#)
- [Northeast Recycling Council](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Simple Recycling](#)
- [Mattress Recycling Council](#)
- [PaintCare](#)
- [Thermostat Recycling Corporation](#)
- [Call2Recycle](#)
- [Center for EcoTechnology](#)

## Why This Matters

The development of new or more comprehensive municipal recycling programs is essential to Connecticut achieving its goals of recycling 50% of the municipal solid waste stream and 60% of the total solid waste stream

by 2024.

## **Benefits**

Successful non-mandated recycling programs decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that stem from methane production and waste incineration emissions. Cleaner air leads to better health and wellness of community members. Waste reduction can also net your community significant financial savings and promote economic well-being.

## **CT Success Stories**

- [Canaan \(Falls Village\) - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Essex - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Glastonbury - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [New Milford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [West Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Westport - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Lyme - May 2022 Certification](#)
- [Darien - Oct 2022 Certification](#)
- [Middletown - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification](#)