

## 2.1 Provide Watershed Education

5 Points

10 Points

### Objective

Improve the health of your watershed.

### What to Do

Collaborate within your community or take a regional approach by collaborating with regional partners and local watershed groups to enhance watershed education.

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

#### 1. Citizen & Business Owner Education (Max 5 points)

- Sponsor or host a program to educate citizens and business owners in your community about the value of watersheds and the importance of protecting and restoring them. **(5 points)**

**Submit:** An overview of your education program (5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any) and at least one example from among materials disseminated. If you collaborate with a Partner to carry out the program [please complete a Municipal Partner Checklist](#).

- Implement and maintain a signage program that highlights key watershed issues. For example, describe low impact development practices or [stencil storm drains](#) in high foot-trafficked areas. **(5 points)**

**Submit:** Maps, promotional materials, or photos of educational signage.

- Promote and encourage citizens and business owners to take a watershed health pledge [\(example\)](#). **(5 points)**

**Submit:** Examples of pledges taken (first remove all contact information of residents and business owners).

#### 2. Citizen Science (5 points)

- Institute a local monitoring program related to watershed functions or health to be conducted by citizen groups such as local nonprofits or K-12 students.

**Submit:** Description of monitoring program and photos of monitoring in progress.

### Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from your community's planning or public works departments, engineering, GIS, or water pollution control authorities could be helpful in implementing this action.

In addition, the inland wetlands commission, planning and zoning commission, conservation commission, and watershed organizations could help implement this action.

## Funding

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 [Sustainable CT Resources for Certification](#) page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents*

- [Riversmart Resources](#)
- [Project WET \(Water Education for Teachers\)](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [Storm Drain Stenciling](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Impaired Waters and TDMLs: Resources, Tools and Databases"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Nonpoint Source: Volunteer Monitoring"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["National Aquatic Resource Surveys"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Tools to Assist States and Tribes to Reduce Nutrient Pollution"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Polluted Runoff: Nonpoint Source Pollution"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [Watershed Academy](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [WATERS \(Watershed Assessment, Tracking & Environmental Results System\)](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Green Infrastructure"](#)
- US Department of Energy, ["Net Zero Water Building Strategies"](#)
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District, ["The Backyard Water Resources Guide"](#)
- Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District & North Central Conservation District, ["How to Create a Streamside Buffer Garden"](#)

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [CT Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials \(NEMO\)](#)
- [Connecticut Conservation Districts](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [Climate Ready Estuaries](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, ["Healthy Watersheds Protection"](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [National Estuary Program](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) Stormwater Program](#)
- [Center for Watershed Protection](#)

## Why This Matters

A watershed is the area of land that drains or sheds water into a specific receiving waterbody, such as a lake or a river. As rainwater or melted snow runs downhill in the watershed, it collects and transports sediment and other materials and deposits them into the receiving waterbody. All waterbodies are part of a watershed. [Connecticut has eight major watersheds](#) but your town or city only needs to plan for local watersheds.

Watershed management is the practice of planning for and implementing strategies to maintain or improve the health and water quality of a watershed system. Since watersheds are, essentially, large areas of land that are the pathways for water flow in a region, there are many opportunities for pollutants to enter the system. Thus a thorough plan that includes an education component is important to protect the long-term health of the system. Watershed health is a barometer for health of the surrounding environment.

## Benefits

Your community will have a water quantity and quality that is both fishable and swimmable.

You will help sustain drinking water levels for your citizens and surrounding populations.

By managing stormwater properly and minimizing point-source and non-point source pollution you will be able to sustain healthier watersheds and healthier wetlands, forests, meadows, etc. - creating healthier places for people to live, work, and play.

### **CT Success Stories**

#### **Credit for Past Action**

- Action must be completed within 12 months prior to application submission.