

## 2.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use

5 Points

10 Points

15 Points

### Objective

Improve water efficiency in municipal buildings (including Board of Education buildings) and enhance drought communication and coordination with any municipal water providers.

### What to Do

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

#### **Reduce Municipal Water Use & Create a Drought Communications Plan (10 points)**

*All elements must be completed to receive credit.*

1. Establish a formal or informal policy to:
  - a. Utilize WaterSense labeled toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse sprayers in all new municipal construction; and
  - b. Replace all toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse spray valves in municipal buildings (Board of Education buildings included) with WaterSense labeled equivalents upon their scheduled or unscheduled replacement.

**Submit:** A copy of your formal policy or documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes WaterSense labeled products (e.g., procurement contract, a list of installations).

2. Develop a drought communications plan to inform residents about voluntary and mandatory drought restrictions declared by your local water utility and/or the governor. Update your municipal website with links to information about water conservation, drought information and status, which may be found on your local water utility website, local health district website, and state water status website.

**Submit:** A copy of your Drought Communications Plan and links on municipal website with utility and state drought information.

#### **Pass a Drought Restriction Ordinance (5 points)**

1. In consultation with your local water utility (if applicable) and the [Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup](#), develop and pass a drought restriction ordinance that integrates your water utility drought plans with the state drought plan.

**Submit:** A copy of the drought restriction ordinance.

### Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning and zoning, public works, and purchasing departments could be helpful in implementing this action.

In addition, your inland wetlands commission, conservation commission, local water utility, local health

district, council of governments, Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup 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*

- [State of Connecticut Water Status](#)
- CT Department of Public Health, "[Water Conservation](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Water Conservation](#)"
- CT Audubon, "[Conserve Water](#)"
- US Department of Energy, "[Net Zero Water Building Strategies](#)"

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [Connecticut Water](#)
- [Regional Water Authority](#)
- [Aquarion Water Company](#)
- [The Metropolitan District](#)
- [Connecticut Conservation Districts](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, "[WaterSense](#)"
- American Water Works Association, [Connecticut Section](#)

## Why This Matters

Water is a precious natural resource. Connecticut typically receives ample precipitation, however, occasional droughts can have widespread impacts on water availability, which is especially detrimental for produce growers and thus availability of locally-grown food. Overuse of surface and groundwater systems can also stress aquatic environments.

## Benefits

Water conservation preserves and protects water resources, keeping more water in reservoirs, streams, and rivers, thus supporting human health and aquatic habitats. Conservation also keeps aquifers charged, so more water is available during times of drought than otherwise would be available.

By making water conservation the norm, rather than an emergency response, you empower your community to survive, and even thrive in a time of drought.

## CT Success Stories

- Greenwich, CT: "[Water Supply and Conservation](#)"

## Credit for Past Action

- Your formal policy will not expire. If dated, informal policy documentation must be dated within 5 years prior to application submission. The Communications Plan and drought ordinance must be reviewed and updated as needed every 3 years prior to application submission.