

6.5 Develop a Municipal Energy Plan

10 Points

20 Points

Objective

Manage your municipal energy consumption with the goals of efficiency, economy, environmental responsibility, and resiliency. Enable cooperative actions such as establishing microgrids and broad-scale adoption of renewable energy. Include the residential and business sections.

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

For the Municipal Energy Plan (10 points)

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

1. Adopt an energy use reduction pledge. You may use your [Clean Energy Community pledge](#). If you do not have Clean Energy Communities pledge, or would like to update your energy use reduction pledge, set a new goal for municipal energy use.

Submit: Your energy use reduction pledge.

2. Develop a plan to fulfill your energy use reduction pledge or to set more ambitious energy goals for your community. Your plan must include energy tracking and management, energy reduction goals and actions, clean energy production goals and actions, and peak demand reduction goals and actions. Your plan might also include topics where overlap with energy consumption occurs, for example: fleet management, clean energy supportive zoning (including an assessment of existing regulations for any barriers to clean energy development, and/or establishment of new regulations to facilitate the deployment of clean energy technology), residential and commercial energy education, brownfield development, Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE), sustainable economic development, housing, and other relevant energy issues.
 - o Fleet management
 - o Clean energy supportive zoning (including an assessment of existing regulations for any barriers to clean energy development, and/or establishment of new regulations to facilitate the deployment of clean energy technology)
 - o Residential and commercial energy education
 - o Brownfield development
 - o Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)
 - o Sustainable economic development
 - o Housing
 - o Other relevant energy issues

Your plan should demonstrate a way to reduce the energy burden of low- and moderate-income residents (for example, by providing information sessions on utility bill payment services, fuel banks, energy efficiency programs, etc.). Per [Public Act 11-80, Section 125](#), municipalities may request aggregate usage by customer class from utility companies. This information may be helpful to include in the plan.

Submit: A copy of the Municipal Energy Plan.

3. Formally adopt the Municipal Energy Plan through a municipal process.

Submit: Proof of adoption by a municipal process.

For the Residential and Business Energy Plan (10 points)

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

1. Complete and adopt your Municipal Energy Plan.
2. Identify how your municipality will track residential and business sector energy use.

Submit: A description of how you will measure and track residential and business sector energy use on an ongoing basis.

3. Calculate current residential and business sector energy use and renewable energy generation potential.

Submit: Your current residential and business sector energy use and renewable energy generation potential.

4. Adopt a target for energy use reduction in the residential and business sectors of your community (minimum target is 10%).

Submit: Your energy use reduction target for the residential and business sectors.

5. Develop a plan to fulfill your pledge or to set more ambitious goals for your community, including energy tracking and use, and renewable energy generation.

Submit: A copy of the Residential and Business Energy Plan.

6. Formally adopt the *Residential and Business Energy Plan* through a municipal process.

Submit: A copy of the Residential and Business Energy Plan and proof of formal municipal adoption.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the following departments could be helpful in implementing this action: planning department, public works, engineering, purchasing departments.

In addition, the following committees, community groups or agencies could help implement this action: planning and zoning, or energy commissions could be helpful in implementing 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, General Information

- [Eversource manual on automated data transfer to Portfolio Manager](#)
- [United Illuminating \(UIL\) Integration with ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager](#)
- [Clean Energy Communities Program](#)
- Per [Public Act 11-80 \(An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Planning for Connecticut's Energy Future\)](#), utilities are required to provide to municipalities annual energy use by customer class.
- Acadia Center, "[Community Energy Vision, Action Guide for Connecticut](#)"
- [CT Green Bank](#): No-cost technical assistance

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Sierra Club's [Ready for 100](#) program
- CT Green Bank, [Solar Power Purchase Agreement](#)
- [People's Action for Clean Energy](#)

Why This Matters

Municipal energy planning is a process whereby towns actively set goals and action items to achieve energy reduction, demand response, and clean power production.

Key steps in energy planning include:

- Benchmarking current energy use (See Energy Tracking and Management Action).
- Establishing efficiency and sourcing goals.
- Establishing action steps through time that achieve those goals.

Benefits

A Municipal Energy Plan will help your community better understand its energy use and trends, opportunities for savings, and opportunities for switching to renewable fuels, which will enable your community to plan for long-term energy transitions and investments. While capital outlays are required at the outset, in the long run, such investments will save your community money.

Reducing energy use, alone, or in combination with sourcing energy via renewably generated power will also reduce carbon pollution as well as other air pollutants, and ultimately benefit both your local ecosystem and the global environment.

CT Success Stories

- Fairfield, CT: ["Clean Energy Action Plan"](#)
- West Hartford, CT: ["Comprehensive Energy Plan"](#)

Credit for Past Action

- Municipal Energy Plan: 10 years prior to application submission on cycle with the POCD. Plan must be updated when it is time to recertify.
- Residential and Business Energy Plan is 10 years on cycle with the POCD. Your plan must be updated when it is time to recertify.