

7.6 Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) Program

5 – 40 Points

Objective

Reduce residential trash generation.

Complementary actions:

- [Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste](#)
- [Recycle Additional Materials](#)
- [Develop A Food Waste Reduction Campaign](#)

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Build a SMART Task Force or use your Sustainability Team to facilitate the completion of the steps needed for ultimate SMART program implementation. **(5 points)**

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

a. Designate a person(s), agency(ies), or committee to lead the SMART Task Force. Potential membership is outlined in the Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators section below and may begin with your existing Sustainability Team. The purpose of the SMART Task Force is to facilitate community engagement and education regarding a SMART program, identify real and perceived barriers to SMART program adoption, and discuss potential strategies and solutions.

b. Reach out to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for partnership, guidance and support, which may include funding assistance.

c. Your municipality may choose to use SMART Worksheets when creating the timeline for achieving goals related to implementation of a SMART program. ([See Worksheets under "Guidebooks"](#))

Submit: A list of members of the SMART Task Force; the date of the most recent SMART Task Force meeting; and the contact information of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection liaison who is supporting your efforts to implement a SMART program.

2. Conduct research, an analysis, and a process of community engagement and education regarding SMART program adoption. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. **(15 points)**

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

a. Research how other municipalities have implemented SMART.

b. Analyze municipal collection methods, hauler requirements, contract expiration dates, the distance municipal waste is being hauled and cost structure for collection.

c. Calculate the projected cost savings or new municipal revenue you would gain as a result of

implementing a SMART program.

d. Organize a series of meetings to educate community members on the SMART program, identify potential barriers to SMART program adoption, and provide a forum for community discussion and collaboration about opportunities and barriers associated with SMART program adoption.

Submit: A list of your research and analyses into other municipalities' efforts to implement SMART; the projected cost savings or new municipal revenue; and the dates of any public engagement and education meetings organized.

3. By municipal resolution, ordinance, or another implementation mechanism, adopt a SMART program that has a linear or near-linear rate structure and uses a bag, a tag, or variable-sized carts; and cart pricing that increases significantly with size, to incentivize waste reduction. *Note:* An overflow program that charges residents for "extra" trash is not considered a SMART rate structure. SMART rate structure works whether your community has curbside collection or a community transfer station, and you may mandate it for residential subscription haulers through their permitting process. **(20 points)**

Submit: Documentation showing the implementation of SMART. This may be a resolution or ordinance formally adopted by your governing body, meeting minutes or a letter from your chief elected official or legislative body.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

SMART Task Force Members suggested by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection SMART guidebook include elected officials, one or members of the public works department, or recycling coordinator, local haulers, local business representatives, community organizations and members of the public. [For additional information, please click here.](#)

Funding

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

- [Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Funding Opportunities](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection SMART \(Pay-as-You-Throw\) Implementation Handbook](#)
- [State of Massachusetts Pay-As-You-Throw: An Implementation Guide for Solid Waste Unit-Based Pricing Programs](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Smart Programs in Connecticut](#)
- [payasyouthrow.org](#)
- [Northeast Recycling Council](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Waste Prevention - King County, WA](#)

Why This Matters

Waste-to-energy facilities contribute to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases. Reducing, reusing, re-purposing, recycling, and composting keep items out of these facilities. Comparison studies show that

“SMART” towns recycle more and dispose of less waste than neighboring communities.

A key to making SMART work is providing opportunities for people to do something with their trash other than throwing it out. Waste reduction programs, reuse facilities, expansion of curbside collection services, and yard and other organic waste composting programs are complementary activities that enhance the impact of SMART (See the [Recycle Additional Materials](#) and the [Develop A Food Waste Reduction Campaign](#) Actions.)

Benefits

When you implement SMART, your town will be measurably reducing waste generation. This Action produces environmental benefits, greenhouse gas reductions, improved community health and wellness, municipal and residential cost savings, and potentially enhanced economic well-being.

CT Success Stories

- [Stonington Pay-By-the-Bag Program](#)
- [Mansfield as a leader in unit-based pricing](#)

Credit for Past Action

- Any task force will be considered for points so long as the most recent meeting occurred within 1 year prior to application submission.
- Research must be completed or updated within 1 year prior to application submission. Meetings must have occurred within 1 year prior to application submission.
- Any SMART program will receive points as long as it includes the outlined elements and is in place during the year prior to application submission.