

7.7 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

10 Points

20 Points

30 Points

40 Points

Objective

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

What to Do

1. Create infrastructure to recycle additional materials that Connecticut law has not designated as mandatory recyclable items. Such items include rigid non-HDPE and non-PETE plastic containers, textiles, and items covered under the Connecticut Product Stewardship program*. You may also include organics as non-mandated materials, through organics composting or organics biodigestion. In this case, you may send [source-separated organics](#) to a [permitted food waste composting facility](#) or you may operate an [on-site composting program at a municipal facility](#)** You may target education and implementation to specific populations, such as residents or schools, for example. In all cases, be mindful of any potential barriers to participation. For each additional material recycled, you must provide educational materials to the population served. You will receive 10 points for each non-mandated material recycled, up to 40 points.
 - o *[The Connecticut Product Stewardship](#) program makes producers responsible for end-of-life management (including recycling and/or disposal costs) of materials they originally produced, including mattresses, paint, plastic bags and plastic films, and electronics. The program incentivizes municipal and retail collection of these materials for proper management, at no cost to your residents.
 - o **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. If your town actively promotes backyard composting by residents or composting at work, these activities are eligible for points under action [7.8 Develop a Food Waste Reduction Campaign](#) (and not this action 7.7).

Submit: Evidence of implementation of each item-specific recycling initiative, which could be in the form of a municipal ordinance, contract, or approved meeting minutes of your legislative body. If you collaborated with a nonprofit or business to develop or implement the item-specific recycling program, you must also submit a partnership letter or alternative documentation of the partnership. Please also include examples of materials used to engage in public education, including flyers, articles, or letters that clearly describe the collection process for that item. Please note if your outreach targeted residents, schools or other specific populations.

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

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.

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

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection – 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](#)

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.

Local CT Success Stories

- [East Hartford, Additional Materials Recycled](#)
- [Mansfield, "How to Get Rid of Waste" Search Box, example of public outreach](#)

Credit for Past Action?

- Any initiative will receive points for this action as long as the program is active and ongoing and education efforts have occurred within the year prior to application submission.