

7.10 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

10 – 45 Points

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **2019 certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Improve air quality by reducing smoking and tobacco use and excessive idling of motor vehicles in your municipality.

Complementary action:

- [Manage Municipal Fleets](#)

What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities to implement this Action, each municipality will receive points.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Gather local and regional data in your community on tobacco use, tobacco cessation, health consequences and costs, and local vendors and points of access. Tobacco use includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, electronic cigarettes and smokeless tobacco (such as snuff and chew). Where possible, compare it to state and national metrics. One potential source of tobacco data is your local governmental public health department or district. Research effective educational and policy strategies to reduce smoking and tobacco use in your municipality. **(10 points)**

Submit: A summary of the data outlined above; and a list of educational and policy strategies your municipality will consider to reduce smoking and tobacco use.

2. Implement or maintain a smoking and tobacco use reduction campaign. For example, conduct ongoing smoking and tobacco reduction education in schools, or place smoke-free and tobacco-free signage in public recreation areas. **(10 points)**

Submit: Depending on the specific strategy or combination of strategies you chose, submit a list of names of any educational events and the dates that they were held; photographs of signage; or any other documentation that verifies your municipality's ongoing efforts to reduce smoking and tobacco use.

3. Adopt one or more policies designed to reduce tobacco use in your municipality. The strategies below are illustrative, but other innovative strategies not listed will also be considered. Strategies already required by Connecticut law, such as providing a smoke-free environment for municipal employees or children in schools, will not be considered for points. **(15 points; credit for one policy per certification cycle):**

- Prohibit smoking and tobacco use in outdoor public places, such as parks, recreational facilities, and at public events. Publicize the prohibition to the community. Post signs to educate the

public, and appropriately enforce the prohibition.

- Use licensing to place conditions on tobacco retailers, such as restricting the use of coupons and regulating the placement of products or advertising.
- Use zoning ordinances to require tobacco retailers to be located in zones that do not contain facilities frequented by youth, or to lower the density and quantity of retailers by requiring tobacco retailers to be located a certain distance from one another, limiting the total number of retailers allowed in the area, or prohibiting the transfer or expansion of existing tobacco retailer building.

Submit: A resolution or, ordinance formally adopted by your governing body, or a letter from the municipal chief elected official or legislative body to document implementation of one or more policies to reduce tobacco use in your municipality.

4. Implement or maintain a strategic campaign to prevent excessive idling of motor vehicles. For example, post “no idling” signs, distribute educational materials at municipal events and centers, or provide ongoing training to relevant municipal employees, such as school bus drivers, police officers, or public works vehicle drivers, among other potential strategies. **(10 points)**

Submit: Depending on the specific strategy or combination of strategies you chose, submit photographs of signage; a list of names of any trainings for municipal staff and the dates that they were held; or any other documentation that verifies your municipality’s efforts to reduce excessive idling of motor vehicles.

Credit for Past Action

- Data analysis and the list of policy strategies must have been created or updated within 1 year prior to application submission.
- Education materials must have been distributed within 1 year prior to application. Events or meetings should have been held within 1 year prior to application submission.
- Any tobacco policy will be considered for points regardless of when it was adopted as long as it meets the requirements and continues to be enforced within 1 year prior to application submission.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from your public health department or district, and local health experts, educators, experts in law and health policy and other interested stakeholders could be helpful in implementing this Action, as well as local youth groups and other community health groups.

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.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)
- [CHEJ Small Grants Program](#)
- [Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- [Department of Public Health, Smoke-Free Signs](#)
- [Tobacco-Control Legal Consortium](#)

- [Anti-Idling Efforts in Connecticut](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Connecticut Department of Public Health](#)
- [American Lung Association](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)

Why This Matters

Even brief exposure to secondhand smoke or emission from idling motor vehicle engines can potentially harm the respiratory and cardiovascular systems.

Benefits

Adopting smoke and tobacco-free policies will improve the health of people who live, work, and play in your community by improving air quality.

CT Success Stories

- [2018 Coventry - Extensive Tobacco Policies](#)
- [Montville Tobacco-Free Ordinance](#)