

7.3 Train Municipal Commissions

5 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

Increase the knowledge-base and effectiveness of your local boards and commissions.

What to Do

1. Send at least one commissioner from both your Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commissions, as well as two commissioners from other active commissions (or committees) of your choice, to an equity training session or another training session that is relevant to their commission. The training may be online, or in-person, in your community or a neighboring community. You may partner with neighboring towns to invite your council of government to provide a training session. The type of training can be loosely interpreted to meet the needs of your municipality; whether it's an event, workshop, webinar, conference, etc. Activities that are used to earn points toward this Action may not be used to earn points toward any other Sustainable CT Action (i.e., no "double-counting"). Commissioners serving as Alternates are eligible to attend a training under this action. In total, 4 different commissions or committees from your community should have a member receive training.

Submit: The name of each commissioner and their associated commission, who attended a training, as well as the name and date of the training (month and year will suffice).

Credit for Past Action

- This action must be completed within 24 months prior to application submission.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning and zoning, and economic development departments and representatives from the agriculture, conservation, energy, inland wetlands, planning and zoning, historic preservation commissions, etc. 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.

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

Resources

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, [CCM Municipal Training Workshops](#)
- UConn CLEAR, [Land Use Academy](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, [Training for Municipal Inland Wetlands Agencies](#)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, [Aquifer Protection Area Program Technical Training for Municipal Officials](#)
- CT Department of Economic and Community Development, [Local Historic District/Commission Training](#)
- [Connecticut Association of Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commissions](#)
- Connecticut Economic Resource Center, [Municipal Training](#)
- [Connecticut Conservation Districts](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, [Watershed Academy](#)

Why This Matters

All cities and towns rely on volunteers to serve any on commissions. Some commissions, like Inland Wetlands, are required by State Statute, while others are created by the town to pursue interests and goals of citizens and municipalities alike. Commissions are made up of volunteers, who often are neither subject area experts, nor conversant with the laws and regulations they are asked to uphold. As such, Commissioners may not have all of the tools necessary to make the informed decisions they are often required to make.

Benefits

Providing training opportunities for commission members will improve their effectiveness, and enable them to stay abreast of changing laws, new techniques, case studies, etc. in the field of the commission.

By attending a training session, a Commissioner may gain clarity in purpose, motivation, and actionable options for interacting with the public. Commissioners who do not attend the training will still benefit through peer learning from their trained colleague(s).

CT Success Stories

- [2018 Old Saybrook - Clear Commitment](#)