

## 2.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use

5 Points

10 Points

15 Points

### Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last update 2020)

### Objective

Plan for and implement projects to improve water efficiency in municipal buildings and public spaces (including Board of Education buildings) and enhance drought communication and coordination.

### What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities or other stakeholders to implement this Action, please describe the partnership in the “partners” box of your submission. Please also consult this [guidance document](#) to help your municipality earn points for actions pursued in partnership. Regional collaboration and other forms of partnership are highly encouraged.

*The more you do, the more points you earn.*

#### 1. Reduce Municipal Water Use & Create a Drought Communications Plan **(10 points)**

*All elements must be completed to receive credit.*

**a.** Establish a formal or informal policy to:

- o Utilize WaterSense labeled toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse sprayers in all new municipal construction;
- o Replace all toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse spray valves in municipal buildings (Board of Education buildings included) with WaterSense labeled equivalents upon their scheduled or unscheduled replacement.

**Submit:** A copy of your formal policy or documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes WaterSense labeled products (e.g., procurement contract, a list of installations).

**b.** Develop a drought communications plan to inform residents about voluntary and mandatory drought restrictions declared by your local water utility and/or the governor. Update your municipal website with links to information about water conservation, drought information and status, which may be found on your local water utility website, local health district website, and state water status website.

**Submit:** A copy of your Drought Communications Plan and links on municipal website with utility and state drought information.

#### 2. Pass a Drought Restriction Ordinance **(5 points)**

**a.** In consultation with your local water utility (if applicable), develop and pass a drought restriction ordinance that integrates your water utility drought plans with the state drought plan. It may be helpful to also engage with the Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup as you develop your ordinance.

**Submit:** A copy of the drought restriction ordinance.

## Credit for Past Action

For spring certification, count back from February 1st of the current year. For fall certification, count back from August 1st of the current year. For further clarification on determining if your prior work is eligible to earn points, [click here](#).

- Your formal policy will not expire. If dated, informal policy documentation must be dated within the past 5 years. The Communications Plan and drought ordinance must have been reviewed and updated within 3 years.

## Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Staff from the planning and zoning, public works, and purchasing departments could be helpful in implementing this action.

In addition, your inland wetlands commission, conservation commission, local water utility, local health district, council of governments, Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup could help implement 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 \(MGP\)](#)
- [2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)

## Resources

### *Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents*

- [State of Connecticut Water Status](#)
- CT Department of Public Health, "[Water Conservation](#)"
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "[Water Conservation](#)"
- CT Audubon, "[Conserve Water](#)"
- US Department of Energy, "[Net Zero Water Building Strategies](#)"

### *Organizations and Relevant Programs*

- [Connecticut Water](#)
- [Regional Water Authority](#)
- [Aquarion Water Company](#)
- [The Metropolitan District](#)
- [Connecticut Conservation Districts](#)
- US Environmental Protection Agency, "[WaterSense](#)"
- American Water Works Association, [Connecticut Section](#)

## Why This Matters

Water is a precious natural resource. Connecticut typically receives ample precipitation, however, occasional droughts can have widespread impacts on water availability, which is especially detrimental for produce growers and thus availability of locally-grown food. Overuse of surface and groundwater systems can also

stress aquatic environments.

## **Benefits**

Water conservation preserves and protects water resources, keeping more water in reservoirs, streams, and rivers, thus supporting human health and aquatic habitats. Conservation also keeps aquifers charged, so more water is available during times of drought than otherwise would be available.

By making water conservation the norm, rather than an emergency response, you empower your community to survive, and even thrive in a time of drought.

## **CT Success Stories**

- [2018 Glastonbury - Drought Communications Plan](#)
- [2018 Greenwich - List of Renovated Facilities](#)
- Greenwich, CT: ["Water Supply and Conservation"](#)