

2.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

5 Points

Objective

Educate and empower all businesses and residents to reduce their water use.

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.

1. Provide education on water conservation **(5 points)**

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

a. Sponsor or host a water conservation education workshop that targets local businesses and residents in your community (whether they tap municipal water or use a private well) and goes above and beyond current campaigns required to attain the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. Your local water company, council of governments or health district may be able to assist. Workshops may be coordinated with neighboring municipalities.

Submit: A description of your water conservation education workshop.

b. Identify and disseminate water conservation educational materials to businesses and residents through multiple communications channels, such as online, at events, printed materials (at libraries, grocery stores, restaurants, in tax bills, town booklets), etc.

Submit: An overview of your outreach strategy (5 sentences maximum), including target populations (if any) and at least one example from among the materials disseminated.

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](#).

- The action must have been completed within the past year.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

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

In addition, your inland wetlands commission, conservation commission, or local water-focused organizations could help implement this action.

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.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Municipal Grant Program \(MGP\)](#)
- [2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)

- [Coca-Cola Foundation Community Support Grants, Rolling Deadline](#)

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents, General Information

- 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"](#)
- [Project Wet \(Water Education Teachers\)](#)
- US Department of Energy, ["Net Zero Water Building Strategies"](#)
- Alliance for Water Efficiency, ["Home Water Works"](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [Connecticut Water](#)
- [Regional Water Authority](#)
- [Aquarion Water Company](#)
- [The Metropolitan District](#)
- American Water Works Association, [Connecticut Section](#)
- [Alliance for Water Efficiency](#)

Why This Matters

Less than 1% of the Earth's freshwater is readily accessible for human use. Many people use more water than they need without knowing it. The average American family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day. Excess water often strains sewage systems and contaminates groundwater as dirty water seeps from the sewage system and into the ground. Contaminated groundwater pollutes swimming water and soil, resulting in low quality food crops grown in area gardens or farms.

Benefits

Inform residents about how they might be using more water than needed for any given task, and how they can cut the waste without sacrificing comfort or performance.

Empower and motivate people to conserve water with information about relatively simple and cheap methods. By employing these easy practices, like shortening showers or dumping leftover ice on plants instead of down the drain, residents can save money and make a difference.

Water conservation keeps water in aquifers, reservoirs, streams, rivers, etc., where it can support aquatic habitats and be available for produce growing. This also better prepares the state and communities for future droughts, by having more of this invaluable resource in reserve, and by making water conservation the norm, rather than an emergency measure.

CT Success Stories

- [2018 Stamford - Municipal Website](#)
- Greenwich, CT: ["Water Conservation Presentation"](#)