

7.10 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

10 – 45 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, educate, and implement policies and projects to improve air quality by reducing smoking and tobacco use and excessive idling of motor vehicles.

Complementary action:

- [Manage Municipal Fleets](#)

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. 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. If the posting of signs is meant to enforce a formally adopted policy, consider instead pursuing points under Action 7.2.3, rather than this Action 7.10.2. **(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. Please note the posting of signs to enforce a formally adopted policy is not also eligible for points under 7.2.2.
- 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

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](#).

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

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 \(MGP\)](#)

- [2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)

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](#)