

7.5 Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste

5 – 55 Points

Objective

Establish baseline municipal data by tracking and measuring (as required by state law) the amount of residential municipal solid waste generated and recycled per capita, educate and engage the public by disseminating that data, and ultimately, reduce residential solid waste.

Complementary actions:

- [Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash Program](#)
- [Recycle Additional Materials](#)

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. Identify your town's staff member(s) responsible for collecting data on municipal solid waste and recycling and reporting that data to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), under Section 22a-207 of the Connecticut General Statutes. [Reporting information is available here](#). Make publicly available annual data for residential solid waste generated per capita for at least the last three years. Data for each year runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following year (the fiscal year). If your municipality collects solid waste directly, you already have the data required. If you use a subscription service, gather data from each hauler that holds a permit to collect waste in your community. One strategy for obtaining this data is to issue permits only to haulers that agree to provide residential solid waste and recycling data. Haulers that collect from multiple municipalities can provide good-faith estimates apportioning the total haul by town. [Use this link](#) to complete the required worksheet to calculate residential solid waste generated per capita. You can view an example of a completed form [here](#). **(5 points)**

Submit: Contact information of the person(s) responsible for collecting and reporting waste and recycling data; the required data noted above; the [completed worksheets](#) on residential solid waste generated per capita for each year; and evidence that you publicly disseminated the data on your community's website or elsewhere. To document posting of your data online, please provide the electronic file or a screenshot, not a link.

2. Reduce residential solid waste generation per capita by at least 10%, compared to a baseline year within the past 5 years. Establish or identify a baseline year of data for residential municipal solid waste generation per capita. Using data from the most recent fiscal year at the time of submission, calculate the percent change of residential municipal solid waste generation per capita from the established baseline. A 10%+ reduction in municipal solid waste generation per capita earns 10 points; a 20%+ reduction earns 20 points; a 30%+ reduction earns 30 points; a 40%+ reduction earns 40 points, and a 50%+ reduction earns 50 points. **(10-50 points)**

Submit: A report of your community's residential solid waste generation per capita for the baseline year, for the most recent complete fiscal year at the time of submission, and the percent change between the two reported numbers.

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](#).

- Required annual data must be reported for each of the last 3 complete years. The population data and website link must be current and active.
- The community's waste reduction must be demonstrated by comparing to a baseline year within the past 5 years.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

The municipal recycling coordinator and/or the Public Works director are critical to implementing this action, in collaboration with waste collectors, including any private haulers, solid waste facilities and construction and demolition facilities. A list of recycling coordinators for each [Connecticut municipality can be found here](#), as well as in the Resources section below.

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

- [Municipal Recycling Reporting Requirement and Form](#)
- [Solid waste and recycling data collection reports DEEP](#)
- [US EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022](#)
- [A list of Municipal Recycling Coordinator's by CT town](#)

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- [CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#)
- [US Environmental Protection Agency](#)

Why This Matters

Information regarding the origin, types, amounts, and destinations of municipal solid waste disposed and recycled is essential to establishing baseline data against which reductions in residential solid waste can be measured.

Benefits

Waste reduction efforts decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, resulting from methane production and emissions from incinerating waste. These positive environmental impacts can increase the

health and wellness of your community members. Waste reduction can also save your municipality money and promote economic well-being.

CT Success Stories

- [Mansfield data reporting and residential waste reduction](#)