Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.

7.6 Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) Program

5 Points   10 Points   20 Points   25 Points   30 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

Reduce residential trash generation.

Complementary actions:

- Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste
- Recycle Additional Materials
- Develop A Food Waste Reduction Campaign

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. Build a SMART Task Force or use your Sustainability Team to facilitate the completion of the steps needed for ultimate SMART program implementation. **(5 points)**

   All elements must be completed to receive credit. and outlined in the worksheet provided.

   a. Designate a person(s), agency(ies), or committee to lead the SMART Task Force. Potential membership is outlined in the Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators section below, may begin with your existing Sustainability Team and should include diverse stakeholders representing at least three different sectors (e.g., local elected officials, municipal staff, community stakeholders, etc.).

   b. Reach out to and meet with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for partnership, guidance and support, which may include funding assistance.

   c. Complete the remainder of this Worksheet to guide the SMART Task Force's initial efforts.

   Submit: A list of members (including titles/professional affiliations) of the SMART Task Force; the date of the most recent SMART Task Force meeting; the contact information of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection liaison who is supporting your efforts to implement a SMART program; and a completed SMART Task Force Worksheet.

2. Conduct research, an analysis, and internal education regarding SMART program adoption. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. **(5 points)**

All elements must be completed to receive credit.

a. Analyze municipal collection methods, hauler requirements, contract expiration dates, the distance municipal waste is being hauled and cost structure for collection.

b. Calculate the projected cost savings or new municipal revenue you would gain as a result of implementing a SMART program.

c. Research how other municipalities have implemented SMART, including a visit to at least one municipality with a SMART program. Using residential solid waste generation per capita as a benchmark, compare SMART to other waste reduction strategies, such as education programs, reward programs, and overflow programs.

d. Educate elected officials in small groups to explore internal support for SMART.

Submit: Your analysis of municipal collection methods, hauler requirements, contract expiration dates, and distance waste is being hauled and cost structure for collection; and the projected cost savings or new municipal revenue that could be generated from implementing a SMART program; and your research on implementation of SMART in other municipalities and a comparison to other waste reduction strategies.

3. By municipal resolution, ordinance, or another implementation mechanism, adopt a SMART program consistent with the following framework: **(20 points)**

   - Has a linear or near-linear rate structure for disposal (collection can be a flat fee)
   - Uses a bag, a tag, or variable-sized carts;
   - Has cart pricing that increases significantly with size, to incentivize waste reduction.

   Additional Notes:

   - For a program at a community transfer station, collection must occur by the bag (not weight) with an initial bag size of no larger than 15-30 gallons.
   - Any curbside variable sized cart program must offer a small unit size option of no larger than 15-30 gallons, in addition to at least two larger sizes offered, and ideally should utilize monthly or quarterly billing to incentivize waste reduction.
   - Any curbside bag (including bag in a cart) program must offer a small unit size option of no larger than 15-30 gallons, in addition to larger sizes offered.
   - An overflow program that charges residents for "extra" trash is not considered a SMART rate structure.

You may mandate a SMART rate structure for residential subscription haulers through their permitting process. SMART is an effective pathway to achieving reductions in residential solid waste generation per capita, eligible for points under [7.5. Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste](#).

Submit: Documentation showing the implementation of SMART. Documentation may be a resolution or ordinance formally adopted by your governing body, meeting minutes or a letter from your chief elected official or legislative body.

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.](#)

- Any task force will be considered for points so long as the most recent meeting occurred within the past year.

- Research must have been completed or updated within the past year.

- Any SMART program will receive points as long as it includes the outlined elements and was in place within the past year.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

SMART Task Force Members suggested by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection SMART guidebook include elected officials, one or members of the public works department, or recycling coordinator, local haulers, local business representatives, community organizations and members of the public. Additional information.

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)
- SMART Grants

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Funding Opportunities

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection SMART (Pay-as-You-Throw) Implementation Handbook
- State of Massachusetts Pay-As-You-Throw: An Implementation Guide for Solid Waste Unit-Based Pricing Programs

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Smart Programs in Connecticut
- payasyouthrow.org
- Northeast Recycling Council
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Waste Prevention – King County, WA

Why This Matters

Waste-to-energy facilities contribute to climate change by emitting greenhouse gases. Reducing, reusing, re-purposing, recycling, and composting keep items out of these facilities. Comparison studies show that "SMART" towns recycle more and dispose of less waste than neighboring communities.

A key to making SMART work is providing opportunities for people to do something with their trash other than throwing it out. Waste reduction programs, reuse facilities, expansion of curbside collection services, and yard and other organic waste composting programs are complementary activities that enhance the impact of SMART (See the Recycle Additional Materials and the Develop A Food Waste Reduction Campaign Actions.)

Benefits

When you implement SMART, your town will be measurably reducing waste generation. This Action produces environmental benefits, greenhouse gas reductions, improved community health and wellness,

municipal and residential cost savings, and potentially enhanced economic well-being.

CT Success Stories

- [Stonington Pay-By-the-Bag Program](#)