3.6 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 updated 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

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:

   - Utilize WaterSense labeled toilets, urinals, bathroom faucets, showerheads, and pre-rinse sprayers in all new municipal construction; and
   - 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).

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

   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 hyperlinks and screenshots of the relevant webpage(s) on your municipal website with utility and state drought information.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

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.

Timeframe for Credit: Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

Timeframe for Credit

Actions can either be "New" or considered for "Rolling Credit."

New Action Credit. Any action completed within the past three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification) is eligible for potential certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you may not claim New Action Credit for items that previously received credit.

Rolling Credit. For any action older than three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification), you must demonstrate ongoing, currently relevant, and meaningful impact in your community to be considered for certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you must apply for Rolling Credit for any item that previously received credit, even if it was completed within the past three years.

View the "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for detailed submission requirements.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

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

If available, 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 Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- Municipal Grant Program (MGP)
- 2021 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

- Glastonbury - Oct 2018 Certification
- Greenwich - Oct 2018 Certification
- New Britain - Jun 2020 Certification
- Simsbury - Oct 2019 Certification
- New Britain - Oct 2020 Certification