5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

5 – 55 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

Educate on, plan for, and implement projects to protect your community's historic resources.

Complementary Action:

- Assess Climate Vulnerability

What to Do

Best practices for historic places can be found within the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Identify multiple priority historic assets within your community. Inventories containing fewer than 5 assets may earn 5 points, those with 5-10 assets may earn 10 points, and those with more than 10 assets may earn 15 points. Actions should be specific to each asset listed. Please include a short description of each location, and note if the location is privately or municipally owned. Assets may include: **(up to 15 points)**

    - Historic buildings,
    - Parks,
    - Natural resources,
    - View-sheds,
    - Public spaces,
    - Stone walls,
    - Other

    Submit: The list of priority historic resources and the list of actions required to sustain their long-term viability. The State Historic Preservation Office can help pay for such services.

    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. For one historic asset included in your priority list, assess its viability and long-term health. Include in the assessment the sustainability of each building present, possibility of energy retrofits, vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change, etc. You may assess the viability for up to three different assets. **(10 points per asset, up to 3 assets or 30 points)**

Submit: A completed worksheet and either the conditions assessment, feasibility study, or long-term maintenance plan that uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places for each historic resource listed in your inventory. The State Historic Preservation Office can help pay for such services.

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).

3. Sponsor or host an educational workshop or program to educate owners of historic homes on how to manage their historic building(s) sustainably (for example, through energy audits or energy efficiency upgrades). **(5 points)**

   Submit: A description of outreach (5 sentences maximum); documentation of educational programming at least one example from among materials disseminated; number of historic buildings in municipality; and estimated number of property owners reached through education program.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

4. Achieve "Certified Local Government" status. See the Certified Local Government Program on the CT Department of Economic and Community Development website for additional information on how to work towards your certification. **(5 points)**

   Submit: Proof of recognition from the National Park Service regarding attainment of ***Certified Local Government*** status.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (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, parks and recreation, public works, and economic development departments could be helpful in implementing this action. Your historic preservation commission, planning and zoning commission, energy commission, local historic society, local art league, CT Department of Economic and

Community Development, Office of Culture and Tourism 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.

- Historic Restoration Fund Grants
- Urban Act Grant Program
- Municipal Grant Program (MGP)
- 2021 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- Restoration & Resilience COVID Recovery Fund

Funding outlined below may be beneficial to creating the historic inventory and/or implementing action items listed in your inventory.

- Historic Restoration Fund Grant
- Survey and Planning Grants for Historic Inventories
- Planning and Pre-Development Grants
- Partners in Preservation Grant

Funding available to communities with Certified Local Government status:

- Historic Preservation Enhancement Grants (HPEG)
- Supplemental Certified Local Government Grants

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Trust for Historic Preservation, "Inventory of Local Historic Districts and Local Historic Properties, Connecticut"
- National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, "Sustainability"
- National Park Service, "NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline"
- National Preservation Institute, "What are 'Cultural Resources'?"
- GSA
- Certified Local Governments: CT Department of Economic and Community Development
- National Park Service
- National Park Service, "The Treatment of Historic Properties"
- Energize CT
- Sample Preservation Restriction/Easement
- National Trust for Historic Preservation, "Climate and Culture"
- National Park Service, "National Park Service Cultural Resources Climate Change Strategy"
- New London Fire Department Headquarters Building, Conditions Assessment Report
- The First Church of Christ Congregational East Haddam, Connecticut Conditions Assessment Report

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Trust For Historic Preservation
- CT Main Street
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, Office of Culture and Tourism
- CT Department of Community and Economic Development, State Historic Preservation Office
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- American Alliance of Museums
- National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers
- National Park Service
- National Trust for Historic Preservation
- National Endowment for the Humanities

Why This Matters

Historic resources can be buildings, monuments, art installations, traditional community practices, archaeological sites, public spaces, stonewalls, etc.

Benefits

Historic resources perform a vital function in a community by:

- Contributing to local community character,
- Instilling attachment to place,
- Attracting a talented workforce, and
- Encouraging tourism.

By protecting local historic resources from a host of threats, (for instance, climate change), you ensure that present and future generations can enjoy these sites.

CT Success Stories

- Greenwich - Oct 2018 Certification
- Groton - Oct 2019 Certification
- Milford - Oct 2018 Certification
- New London - Oct 2019 Certification
- Avon - Oct 2020 Certification
- Cheshire - Jun 2021 Certification
- Milford - Jun 2021 Certification