7.3 Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings

5 – 140 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

Reduce energy use in individual municipal buildings or unique facilities (water and wastewater facilities).

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

Achieve an Energy Efficiency or High Performance Target in Buildings (up to 50 points for 1 and 2; plus up to 40 points for 3)

1. Achieve a score of 75 or above for at least one municipal/Board of Education building in ENERGYSTAR Portfolio Manager and achieve Energy Star certification by the US Environmental Protection Agency. **(5 points per building)**

   Submit: Proof of ENERGY STAR Building certification by uploading one of the following: 1) documentation from a Licensed Professional confirming Energy Star building certification (year) for each building (showing building name, address, year of certification, and Energy Star score); 2) hyperlink for your building on ENERGY STAR Labeled Buildings and Plants webpage; or 3) equivalent documentation. Please also submit a short narrative describing the building and the approach taken to making it high-performance/energy-efficient.

   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).

   OR

2. Achieve LEED Silver (or higher) certification for at least one municipal/Board of Education building. **(5 points per building)**

   Submit: Proof of LEED Silver (or higher) status by uploading one of the following: 1) documentation from the US Green Building Council confirming LEED silver (or higher) status (showing building name, location, certification date, certification level); 2) hyperlink for your building on US Green Building Council website; or 3) equivalent documentation.

   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).

   Note: LEED Silver (or higher) buildings may be submitted each time certification is sought.

   OR

3. Achieve LEED Zero status for at least one municipal/Board of Education building, demonstrating one or more

any one of the following: net zero carbon emissions, net zero energy use, net zero water use, or net zero waste. **(20 points per building)**

Submit: Proof of LEED Zero status by uploading one of the following: 1) documentation from the US Green Building Council confirming LEED Zero status (showing building name, location, certification date, certification level); 2) hyperlink for your building on US Green Building Council website; or 3) equivalent documentation.

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).

Note: LEED Zero buildings may be submitted each time certification is sought.

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, building, public works, water/wastewater, purchasing departments, and representatives from the planning and zoning, and energy commissions could be helpful in implementing 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

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Energy Saving Performance Contracting Program

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents, General Information

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), US Green Building Council
- The Advanced Energy Design Guide—Achieving Zero Energy series
- Map of CT LEED Certified Buildings
- The Connecticut Green Building Council
- Visit ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager and use the "Licensed Professional Finder" (box on right) to find professionals that provide certification for Energy Star buildings (some provide free verification)
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Energy Efficiency"
- US Environmental Protection Agency, "Energy Efficiency in Water and Wastewater Facilities"
- US Environmental Protection Agency, "Energy Efficiency for Water Utilities"
- Acadia Center, "Community Energy Vision, Action Guide for Connecticut"
- Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership, "Zero Energy Schools Toolkit"
- Common energy efficiency measures that can be implemented to help individual buildings achieve certification and recognition include, but are not limited to, LED lighting and lighting controls, high efficiency HVAC equipment and controls, building envelop improvements to reduce air infiltration and improve insulation, plug load controls, renewable generation or co-generation, and energy efficient appliances and equipment.
- Common energy efficiency measures that can be implemented to help water or wastewater treatment facilities include, but are not limited to: High efficiency pumps, motors, and blowers as well as controls; Efficient operations (for example: set aeration pumps and compressors to variable speed and ensure plant sensors are accurate and set to optimal levels); SCADA System to improve process operation; Operational improvements; and Modifications to facility buildings as noted above.

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Energize CT
- Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund
- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)
- ENERGY STAR
- CT Green Building Council
- US Green Building Council, LEED

Why This Matters

This action enables you to earn Sustainable CT points for energy efficiency reductions in:

- Individual buildings (as opposed to the Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings Action which rewards energy use reductions across the entire municipal building stock), or
- Municipal water treatment facilities, which are typically measured by different metrics than other municipal buildings and have been excluded from the Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings Action. Water and wastewater treatment plants are typically energy intensive, with 24/7 operations, and in many municipalities are the single largest energy users.

Benefits

Through this action, you can:

- Lower your municipality's energy, operations, and maintenance costs;
- Reduce your municipality's harmful emissions;
- Improve working conditions, indoor and outdoor air quality, and public health through reducing greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants;
- Extend the useful life of your municipal infrastructure; and
- Reduce your community's reliance on finite natural resources.

You can also shift focus to individual certified buildings, which may enhance their desirability as venues for events and meetings.

CT Success Stories

- Bristol - Jun 2020 Certification
- New Haven - Oct 2018 Certification
- Bristol - Oct 2020 Certification