7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting

5 – 40 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

Light your community with the most efficient bulbs available, either by getting your utility company to convert or by converting your municipally-owned exterior lighting.

What to Do

1. Create a streetlight inventory and perform a lighting needs assessment, detailing what to light, when to light, and at what level. Your inventory and assessment should include streetlights, exterior decorative lighting and park lighting. **(10 points)**

   Submit: A copy of your streetlight inventory and lighting needs assessment.

   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. Convert Municipally and Utility-Owned Street Lights

   a. ***If a utility company owns your community's street lights***, initiate the conversion process with the utility. **(5 points)**

   Submit: Documentation of utility-ownership of street lights and proof that your representative initiated the conversion process with the utility.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit. This action falls under the action type "Implementation Projects" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

   b. ***If you own your own street lights***, replace lights with the most efficient, currently available bulbs (at a minimum, the approved bulbs utilized in the Eversource Energy/United Illuminating conversion process, currently 3000k LED bulbs). **(15 points)**

   Submit: Proof of street light replacement (for example, billing records, contracts, etc.).

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit. This action falls under the action type "Implementation Projects" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

   Note: If you have a mix of utility-owned and municipality-owned streetlights, you may complete one or both of the actions and receive full credit for each.

3. Convert Town-Owned Decorative Street Lights and Exterior Park Lighting

   a. Convert ALL municipally owned exterior decorative lighting and exterior park lighting (excluding athletic facilities) to LEDs. **(10 points)**

Submit: Documentation of conversion of all exterior decorative lighting and park lighting (excluding athletic facilities).

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit. This action falls under the action type "Implementation Projects" (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, building, public works, and purchasing departments, energy commission, planning and zoning commission, and utility companies 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

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, "Energy Efficiency"
- US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "Street Lighting and Blue Light"
- US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "Street Lighting and Blue Light FAQs"
- Acadia Center, "Community Energy Vision, Action Guide for Connecticut"

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Energize CT
- Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund
- American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

- Energy Star
- International Dark-Sky Association

Why This Matters

Street lights are often a high energy cost to Connecticut's cities and towns. Currently, the utility companies are engaged in a multi-year effort to replace street lights under their ownership with LED bulbs at no cost to the town. However, municipalities select when to opt-in. If your community owns the street lights, you are not required to transition to LED bulbs, but you may select to replace your lights with more efficient bulbs to reduce your energy use and save money.

Benefits

LED bulbs use about 70% less energy than traditional bulbs. Relamping can save both energy and money, and presents a wonderful opportunity to educate your citizens on real dollar savings.

Saving energy improves public health by reducing greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants and reduces reliance on finite natural resources.

CT Success Stories

- Groton - Oct 2019 Certification
- Madison - Oct 2018 Certification
- Norwich - Oct 2019 Certification
- Ridgefield - Oct 2018 Certification
- Bristol - Oct 2020 Certification
- Meriden - Oct 2020 Certification
- Old Lyme - Oct 2020 Certification
- Wethersfield - Oct 2020 Certification