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13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

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

Innovate and implement meaningful sustainability actions not yet listed on the Sustainable CT action list. Become a model for others!

What to Do

1. Collaborate within your community or take a regional approach to implementing a sustainability action not listed on the Sustainable CT action list. Activities that are used to earn points toward this Action may not be used to earn points toward any other Sustainable CT action. You may submit up to two innovation actions per certification cycle. **(5 – 20 points per submission, depending on impact; up to 40 points for both submissions)**

Note: Points are awarded based on the following structure, applied throughout the Sustainable CT framework: one-time events and similar actions earn 5 points; long-term education campaigns, inventories, plan, reports and similar items earn 10 points; implementation projects earn 15 points; and the creation of new policies, typically, through the passage of an ordinance, earn 20 points.

Submit: Describe your innovative sustainability action, how you accomplished it, who participated, and how it will benefit your municipality(ies). Upload additional materials (documents, photos, weblinks or other information) to substantiate that you have completed the action and provide a model for other municipalities. This subaction is included in the optional Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

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).

Notes: If your proposed action fits better within an existing Sustainable CT action it will not be awarded points under the Innovative Strategies and Practices category. Be sure to look closely at the Sustainable CT list of actions to determine the most appropriate place to submit your work. Criteria used to assess whether an action will be awarded points under this category can be assessed by [clicking here](#).

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

Municipal staff, community organizations, regional organizations.

Benefits

By being innovative you can meet the needs of your community most efficiently while helping to push the envelope of sustainability efforts across the state.

CT Success Stories

- [Killingly - Oct 2020 Certification](#)
- [Old Saybrook - Oct 2020 Certification](#)
- [Wethersfield - Oct 2020 Certification](#)
- [Croton - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Suffield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Trumbull - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Litchfield - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [New Milford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Old Lyme - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Portland - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [West Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification](#)
- [Mansfield - Oct 2022 Certification](#)

- [New Haven - Oct 2022 Certification](#)