



Implement Sustainable Snow Management

Action Updates

This action is available for the **current certification cycle** and was newly added in 2023.

Objective

Promote sustainable management of snow and ice to prioritize public safety while also optimizing salt usage to protect the environment and public health.

What to Do

1. Educate municipal staff, residents, and businesses about promoting and managing sustainable winter operations. **(up to 10 points)**

The more you do, the more points you earn.

- a. Have at least one snow removal or winter operations staff member participate in a [Connecticut Training & Technical Assistance Center \(T2 Center\) training on sustainable snow management practices](#). This training relies on the Connecticut "Green Snow Pro: Sustainable Winter Operations" guide for municipalities. **(5 points)**

Submit: The names and titles of the individuals who attended the training, date of attendance, the organization that provided the training, and an agenda or description of the content covered.

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit. This action falls under the action type "Events, Meetings, Trainings" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

- b. Host an event or workshop to educate residents and/or businesses on how to reduce salt usage, balancing public safety with environmental and economic sustainability concerns. **(5 points)**

Submit: An overview of your event or workshop (5 sentences maximum), including target population (if any), and at least one example from among the materials disseminated, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit. This action falls under the action type "Events, Meetings, Trainings" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

2. Develop and adopt a winter operations plan that includes the following elements: **(10 points)**
 - A consideration of the impacts of salt on public health, water quality, and/or other environmental concerns.
 - Operations standards on anti-icing (including through pre-wetting with brine or other liquid material), material storage and maintenance, and calibrating equipment (including gravity flow equipment and hydraulic-run spreaders).
 - An application rate chart that includes salt and sand usage (total and per lane mile), weather conditions and temperature range at the time of application, total snow accumulation, routes taken and number of runs. See Appendix A for a blank salt usage chart template and Appendix B for a blank storm report chart template that can be used for your municipality's application rate chart and winter operations plan.
 - A description of where the application rate charts will be placed in plow trucks and how operators will be trained to use them.
 - A description of how operators will be trained on the new plan and plan implementation

(including use of the application rate charts, as described above).

Submit: A copy of your municipality's officially adopted winter operations plan; a completed [worksheet 1](#); and evidence of the plan adoption (such as meeting minutes or similar verification).

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

3. Implement sustainable snow management operations. **(up to 30 points)**

The more you do, the more points you earn.

- Conduct annual inspection of salt storage facilities to ensure that they are in accordance with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's [best management practices](#) for road salt storage. **(10 points)**
- Calibrate sand and salt dispersal equipment annually to ensure accurate application of material. Calibration should be done on each individual vehicle and records kept with the vehicle. **(10 points)**
- Update your municipal fleet and ancillary equipment to be able to control usage of materials for winter operations (including but not limited to salt and sand) and adjust the amount of material applied. Updates to a portion of your fleet may still be considered for points. **(15 points)**
- Adopt a municipal policy for requiring and documenting annual training for all municipal snow plow operators (including those contracted by the town). **(20 points)**

Submit: A statement of the strategy implemented, and documentation showing the implementation of the selected strategy. This may be documentation of annual salt storage facility inspection and compliance with best management practices; calibration records; proof of purchase by the municipality of updated equipment to allow more precise measurement and distribution of materials for sustainable winter management; evidence of policy adoption; or other documentation specifically tailored to the strategy selected above.

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling 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. For additional information, please see the Partners Guidance Document.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Include local elected officials and other representatives from your municipality's governing body in implementing this Action, as well as any public works or engineering staff, public health professionals, planners, environmental commissions, residents, businesses, downtown districts, schools, and private snow management contractors.

Why This Matters

Sustainability in winter operations is more important than ever. With environmental impacts increasing and budgets continuing to decline, towns must employ best practices to minimize salt use and maximize their operations for both fiscal and environmental stewardship.

Benefits

Benefits include:

- Protection of potable water supplies
- Protection of biodiversity by minimizing salinization of marine and aquatic ecosystems
- Reduction of municipal costs, while still supporting safe driving conditions

For a complete list of funding opportunities, implementation resources, and success stories specific to this action, please visit the full Action write-up on the [Sustainable CT Actions webpage](#).