



Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings

Beginning in 2021, Sustainable CT has adopted a new numbering system for its actions. To translate between the new and prior numbering schemes, please visit our website to view a numbering translation guide.

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 2021)

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); or 2) hyperlink for your building on ENERGY STAR Labeled Buildings and Plants webpage.

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).

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).

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

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.

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.

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](#).