Complete Energy Audits of Municipal Buildings

Action Updates

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

The action Complete Energy Audits of Municipal Buildings replaced the previous action 7.8, Benchmark Energy and Water Use for Multifamily Housing, which was retired at the end of 2022. An archived copy of the retired action can be viewed here.

Objective

Complete audits of municipal buildings to identify opportunities to improve building energy performance, save money, and reduce carbon emissions.

Complementary Actions:
- Benchmark and Track Energy Use
- Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings

What to Do

1. Complete an energy audit of a municipal building that uses more than 20,000 kwh per year of electricity. **(10 points per building, maximum of 40 points)**

   All elements must be completed to receive credit.

   a. Successfully complete Sustainable CT Action 7.1.1, Benchmark and Track Energy Use (Track Energy Use in Municipal and Board of Education Buildings).

   Submit: Proof of successful completion of Action 7.1.1, Benchmark and Track Energy Use, which can be achieved by responding to the SCT Portfolio Manager data request. 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 "Data Tracking/Benchmarking and Meeting Performance Metrics" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

   b. Complete an ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers) level 2 or level 3 energy audit of a municipal building to identify and prioritize energy savings opportunities.

   Submit: Proof of a completed ASHRAE level 2 or level 3 audit, in the form of a copy of the audit report for each municipal building. 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 "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessment, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

Timeframe for 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 following municipal departments could be helpful in implementing this action: planning, building, public works, engineering, and purchasing. In addition, the following committees or community groups could help implement this action: energy commission and planning and zoning commission.

Benefits

Energy efficiency has many benefits, including:
- Saving money by reducing utility bill costs and operations and maintenance costs;
- Improving public health through reduction of greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants;
- Reducing reliance on finite natural resources; and
- Improving indoor air quality, working conditions, and public health.

There are a number of positive energy efficiency actions a municipality can take to lower energy costs, operations and maintenance costs, and harmful emissions while improving working conditions and extending the useful life of municipal infrastructure.