



Collaborate with Other Municipalities on Sustainability Actions

Action Updates

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

This action is required for Gold level certification.

Objective

Collaborate with other municipalities and actively participate in regional initiatives to broaden engagement and increase the impact of sustainability actions.

Complementary Actions

- [Engage in a Sustainable CT Mentorship with Other Municipalities](#)

What to Do

1. Lead new initiatives that result in implementation of Sustainable CT actions regionally or in collaboration with other municipalities. Critical elements of this action include:
 - **Leadership** – Your town must lead or actively participate in the project which includes initiating, hosting, or dedicating funding to the project;
 - **New initiative** – The new project must be implemented within the past three years (eligible for new action credit only, see more details below);
 - **Implementation** – The project must focus on the creation of a new service or physical project. Events and outreach campaigns; inventories, plans, and assessments; and policy changes are not eligible for points; and
 - **Sustainable CT action** – The project must involve implementation of a Sustainable CT action (see examples below). Regional initiatives that are not tied to Sustainable CT actions are not eligible for points; and
 - **Multi-town collaboration** - Collaboration may be through existing regional organizations (such as COGs, health districts) or through a new connection of two or more municipalities (yours and at least one other).

For each Sustainable CT action completed as a result of leading a multi-town collaboration, your town is eligible for points under this Action in addition to points for the action implemented. Each project implemented under this Action is eligible for **15 points, up to 45 points**.

Examples and suggested Sustainable CT actions include:

- Lead multi-town implementation of a Sustainable CT action that is included in a regional plan (e.g., regional Plan of Conservation and Development, regional affordable housing plan, regional food systems plan) or a Sustainable CT action identified in multiple, distinct municipal planning documents (applies to any Sustainable CT action).
- Initiate, host, or dedicate funding for a regional program or project to advance strategic materials management, including composting (Sustainable CT Action 9.3, [Recycle Additional Materials](#), and Sustainable CT Action 9.4, [Reduce and Compost Organic Waste](#)).
- Initiate or provide funding for a project to promote stormwater management in shared watersheds (Sustainable CT Action 3.3, [Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration](#)).

- Initiate or provide funding for a renewable energy installation that provides clean energy in multiple towns (Sustainable CT Action 13.1, [Implement Your Own Sustainability Action](#)).
- Create and fill a new shared staff position for a sustainability project or initiative, such as hiring a shared Recycling Coordinator (Sustainable CT Action 13.1, [Implement Your Own Sustainability Action](#)).
- Create a shared space for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, such as electric school bus parking and charging stations (Sustainable CT Action 6.4.5, [Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment](#)).
- Initiate creation of or dedicate funding for regional shared mobility services, such as shared bicycles, scooters, or electric vehicles (Sustainable CT Action 6.5.6, [Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies](#)).
- Initiate or provide funding for a project to build climate resilience (Sustainable CT [Action 5.7.2, Plan for Long-Term Recovery](#); Sustainable CT Action 5.8, [Promote Cool Roofs](#); Sustainable CT Action 10.6, [Plan and Prepare for Extreme Heat](#); Sustainable CT [Action 13.1, Implement Your Own Sustainability Action](#)).
- Initiate, host, or dedicate funding for a regional youth-led project (Sustainable CT Action 8.7, [Engage with Youth on Community Sustainability](#)).

Note: Collaboration must occur through a joint initiative between two or more municipalities and result in implementation of a Sustainable CT action. “Lead or actively participate in” means initiating a project, providing funding to establish a new multi-town initiative, spearheading the implementation of a regional initiative, and/or coordinating the efforts of multiple participating towns. Soft collaboration, such as event cross-promotion or conducting outreach on behalf of another municipality, or participation in a regional working group or project is not eligible.

Submit: A completed [worksheet 1](#). Each regional action must be documented separately (up to three entries per worksheet).

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. For additional information, please see the Partners Guidance Document.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Councils of governments, health districts, and other regional organizations; municipal staff from all departments as well as representatives from existing local commissions, committees, or community organizations; civic leaders, representatives from neighborhood organizations, seniors and youth; and community members who rely on or are impacted by public services and amenities, including transportation, built infrastructure, local municipal operations, planning, natural resources, land conservation, economic development and retention, housing, arts and culture, food systems, public health, community engagement, equity, etc. may be helpful in implementing this action.

Why This Matters

Municipal collaboration fosters regional cohesion, knowledge sharing, cost savings, and project and planning partnerships that can help advance sustainability across Connecticut efficiently. Many cross-cutting issues benefit from taking a regional approach, including transportation, community development, housing, open space acquisition, and many more. Working across town lines can effectively help communities achieve outcomes that are mutually beneficial to all participants, as well as the region at large.

Benefits

Municipal collaboration fosters regional cohesion, knowledge sharing, cost savings, and project and planning partnerships that can help advance sustainability across Connecticut efficiently. Many cross-cutting issues benefit from taking a regional approach, including transportation, community development, housing, open space acquisition, and many more. Working across town lines can effectively help communities achieve outcomes that are mutually beneficial to all participants, as well as the region at large.

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](#).