



Recycle Additional Materials

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last updated 2023)

Objective

Reduce residential solid waste and increase recycling of non-mandated materials.

Complementary Actions

- [Reduce and Compost Organic Waste](#)

What to Do

Note: This action does not include non-mandated organic material and food waste. Your municipality can earn points for those materials under Sustainable CT Action [Reduce and Compost Organic Waste](#).

1. Create infrastructure to recycle additional materials that Connecticut law has not designated as mandatory recyclable items and provide education to promote participation in these recycling programs. Non-mandated items include rigid non-HDPE and non-PETE plastic containers, textiles, non-mandated batteries, and items covered under the Connecticut Product Stewardship program*. You may target education and implementation to specific populations, such as residents or schools, being mindful of any potential barriers to participation. You will receive **10 points for each non-mandated material recycled, up to 40 points.**

- [*The Connecticut Product Stewardship](#) or [Extended Producer Responsibility \(EPR\)](#) programs make producers responsible for end-of-life management (including recycling and/or disposal costs) of materials they originally produced. Connecticut currently has EPR programs in place for electronics, paint, mattresses, and mercury thermostats. Additionally, Public Act 2227 authorized the creation of an EPR program for gas cylinders, which will be fully operational by October 1, 2025. EPR programs incentivize municipal and retail collection of these materials for proper management, at no cost to your residents. Recycling of covered electronic devices (CEDs) – which include televisions, computers, monitors and printers – is mandatory in CT and thus is not eligible for points. However, recycling of electronics not covered by EPR program (non-CEDs) could receive points, if the municipality can show that non-CEDs are actually being recycled, not just collected and disposed of.
- Municipal reuse programs such as swap shops that allow for the donation of gently used items are eligible for points under this Action, so long as collections are long term, available to residents year-round, and allow for collection and exchange of a broad range of items

Note: Household hazardous waste collection programs are helpful in keeping these materials ~~items~~ out of the waste stream but are not eligible for points under this Action, which focuses on reuse, ~~Collection~~ and recycling. Household hazardous waste collection days may, however, be eligible for points under the Sustainable CT Action Hold a Sustainability Event.

Note: If non-mandated materials recycling is only available to residents who drive the materials to the local transfer station, these recycling services are limited to residents with cars and surplus time. Municipalities operating a composting program can promote accessibility by having curbside service or other easily accessible collection locations.

Submit:

- a) Evidence of implementation of a program for each non-mandated material recycled, which could be

in the form of a municipal ordinance, contract, or approved meeting minutes of your legislative body,

b) If you collaborated with a nonprofit or business to collect or recycle the recycled material, submit a partnership letter or alternative documentation of the partnership that specifies that services to recycle the material have been provided within the past three years (please describe in the “partners” box of your submission). Alternative documentation could include a website hyperlink and screenshot of the website or annual report of the partner organization which lists your town as participating in the recycling program, and

c) Examples of outreach materials, such as flyers, articles, events, or links to town website pages that clearly describe how your constituents can participate in the program to recycle the material.

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

As the first point of contact, the municipal recycling coordinator or other appropriate municipal staff involved in materials management should be involved in the implementation of this action. In addition to the recycling coordinator, a team of municipal staff and volunteers typically supports the municipality's recycling coordinator's waste reduction and recycling efforts. The coordinator should work to standardize the program(s) and, if possible, grow the program(s) with additional tonnages. A list of recycling coordinators for each Connecticut municipality [can be found here](#).

Benefits

Successful non-mandated recycling programs decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that stem from methane production and waste incineration emissions. Cleaner air leads to better health and wellness of community members. Waste reduction can also net your community significant financial savings and promote economic well-being.

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](#).