1.3 Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity — REQUIRED for Gold Certification

20 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2025. The previous version of this action is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

This action is required for Gold level certification.

Objective

Promote community cohesion and representation by creating and adopting a shared vision for equity in your municipality.

Resources and assistance are available for this action. Visit our "Equity Resources" page for more information.

Complementary Actions:

- Optimize for Equity
- Participate in Equity Training

What to Do

1. Develop, adopt (through municipal governing body and/or board of education), and publicly share a statement on your community's shared vision for equity. Your statement should be unique to your town, written through a lens that addresses both the town's specific history with inequity/injustice and the current challenges being faced. You should consider current municipal processes that promote inclusion and cohesion, and ensure adequate representation of all community members. **(20 points)**

   You must include the following concepts within your town's equity statement or corresponding plans:

   - Recognition of a need for systemwide change, historic and current weaknesses in systems in place, and the need for a more equitable path going forward;
   - Your town's commitment to protecting current and future residents, with special consideration for marginalized communities; and
   - A vision for future municipal processes that will address past and current inequities.

   Forming a committee to address equity issues is insufficient on its own to earn points under this Action.

   Submit: Your town's equity statement, the date it was adopted by the municipal governing body or board of education, and documentation of the equity statement's adoption (such as meeting minutes, a copy of the municipal zoning regulations with relevant portions highlighted, a link to municipal ordinances, or similar verification).

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

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.

Funding

If available, below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the Sustainable CT Grants Portal, which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- State Funding Readiness Project

- If applied to Sustainable CT Action Conduct Health Impact Assessments: Connecticut Health Foundation

Resources

- Sustainable CT x Though Partner Solutions, Belonging, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workshop
- Sustainable CT Equity Support
- Glastonbury's Resolution
- Simsbury's Resolution

Why This Matters

Building inclusive and equitable communities is a process that recognizes the intrinsic value of each member of a community and the need to connect; and is achieved when social, economic, and political opportunities are not predicted based upon a person's race, gender, age, or sexual identity. To build communities that embrace equity, Sustainable CT cities and towns will create a table where diverse relationships are welcomed and valued, where decisions are made collectively, and where success will be measured by having a variety of perspectives and experiences represented. Sustainable CT encourages cities and towns to include marginalized voices in their decision-making processes, and to specifically identify barriers to access for marginalized residents in order to identify and respond to community priorities.

CT Success Stories

- West Hartford - Nov 2021 Certification
- Litchfield - Oct 2024 Certification
- Milford - Oct 2024 Certification