8.6 Collaborate with Other Municipalities on Sustainability Actions — REQUIRED for Gold Certification

15 Points | 30 Points | 45 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2024. The previous version of this action is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

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 Action:

- 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;
- **Implementation** – The project must focus on the creation of a new service or physical project, and the aligning Sustainable CT action must be classified as an "implementation projects" action. You can view action types in the Action Overview Worksheet (click to download spreadsheet). Events and outreach campaigns; inventories, plans, and assessments; and policy changes are not eligible for points;
- **Sustainable CT action** – The project must involve implementation of a Sustainable CT action (see examples below). To earn credit under this Action, your municipality must also submit under the aligned Sustainable CT Action. 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). 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.

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 7.4.2, Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings).
- 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).
- Initiate, host, or dedicate funding for a regional youth-led project (Sustainable CT Action 8.7, Engage with Youth on Community Sustainability).

Submit: A completed worksheet 1. Each regional action must be documented separately (up to three entries per worksheet). ***Please note:*** You must also submit for the new action(s) to which the collaboration was applied in the corresponding submission page(s).

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. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. 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.

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
- Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- State Funding Readiness Project

Resources

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Regional Councils of Governments
- CT Regional Health Districts
- Water Utility Coordinating Committees
- Regional Education Service Centers
- Regional Workforce Development Boards
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in CT Agriculture Working Groups
- CT Governor's Council for Agricultural Development
- UCONN Cooperative Extension

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.

CT Success Stories

- Chester - Sep 2023 Certification
- Bristol - Sep 2023 Certification
- New Haven - Sep 2023 Certification
- Glastonbury - Oct 2024 Certification
- Vernon - May 2025 Certification