9.1 Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste

5 – 105 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.

Objective

Establish baseline municipal data by tracking and calculating the amount of residential municipal solid waste disposed per capita, educate the public by disseminating that data, and ultimately, reduce residential solid waste.

Complementary Actions:

- Implement Unit-Based Pricing
- Recycle Additional Materials
- Reduce and Compost Organic Waste

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Review Materials Management Data **(5 points)**

   All elements must be completed to receive credit.

   a. Identify your town's staff member(s) responsible for collecting data on municipal solid waste and recycling and reporting that data to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), under Section 22a-207 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Please ensure that your municipality is up-to-date with submitting the annual municipal recycling report to DEEP. Reporting information is available here.

   b. Use this required worksheet 1 to calculate residential solid waste disposed per capita. If your municipality collects solid waste directly, or through a municipal contract, you already have the data required. If your municipality registers haulers to operate as a subscription service for residents, gather data from each hauler that operates in your community. If your municipality does not register haulers (as required under Section 22a-220a of the Connecticut General Statutes), contact DEEP for resources on how to do so. You may opt to register only haulers that agree to provide residential solid waste and recycling data to your municipality. Haulers that collect from multiple municipalities or that combine residential and commercial waste can provide good-faith estimates apportioning the total haul residential waste by town. Please ensure the accuracy of your calculation; only realistic calculations will receive credit.

   c. Make publicly available annual data for residential solid waste disposed per capita for at least two full years of data within the past three years. Data for each year runs from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the following year (the fiscal year). You might refer to DEEP's webpage (forthcoming) on statewide metrics for a more complete understanding of the importance of tracking per capita disposal and the statewide averages for comparison purposes.

   Submit: Your completed worksheet 1 on residential solid waste disposed per capita for two full years of data within the past three years; and evidence that you publicly disseminated the residential solid waste disposed

per capita for two full years of data on your community's website, through municipal social media or through any other platform appropriate for your municipality. Only the final calculated solid waste disposed per capita for the year needs to be posted. It is not necessary to post the completed worksheets or the DEEP reporting forms, though you may. To document posting of your data online, please provide the electronic file or a screenshot and a link. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation.

2. Reduce residential solid waste disposed per capita by at least 10%, compared to a baseline year within the past 5 years. Establish or identify a baseline year of data for residential municipal solid waste disposed per capita. Using data from the most recent fiscal year at the time of submission, calculate the percent change of residential municipal solid waste disposed per capita from the established baseline. To calculate residential solid waste disposed per capita, use the required worksheet 1, also provided in this Action. 10 points will be awarded for each 10% reduction in municipal solid waste disposed per capita. **(up to 100 points)**

   Submit: A completed worksheet 1 for your community's residential solid waste disposed per capita for the baseline year, the most recent, complete fiscal year within the past three years, and a statement of the percent change between the two reported numbers, and a completed worksheet 2 describing a brief summary of the actions taken by your municipality to reduce waste. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT Climate Leader Designation.

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

The municipal recycling coordinator and/or the Public Works director are critical to implementing this action, in collaboration with waste collectors, including any private haulers, solid waste facilities and construction and demolition facilities. A list of recycling coordinators for each Connecticut municipality can be found here, as well as in the Resources section below.

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

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- Municipal Recycling Reporting Requirement and Form
- Solid waste and recycling data collection reports DEEP
- US EPA Sustainable Materials Management Program Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022
- A list of Municipal Recycling Coordinator's by CT town

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- US Environmental Protection Agency

Why This Matters

Information regarding the origin, types, amounts, and destinations of municipal solid waste disposed and recycled is essential to establishing baseline data against which reductions in residential solid waste can be measured.

Benefits

Waste reduction efforts decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, resulting from methane production and emissions from incinerating waste. These positive environmental impacts can increase the health and wellness of your community members. Waste reduction can also save your municipality money and promote economic well-being.

CT Success Stories

- Mansfield - Oct 2022 Certification
- Bristol - Oct 2024 Certification
- Vernon - May 2025 Certification
- Manchester - Oct 2025 Certification
- Mansfield - Oct 2025 Certification