



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Connecticut Certification Report of New Canaan, a Sustainable Connecticut bronze certified applicant.

New Canaan was certified on October 27, 2020 with 220 points. Listed below is information regarding New Canaan's Sustainable Connecticut efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Connecticut contact for New Canaan is:

Name:	ROBIN BATES-MASON
Title/Position:	TOWN COUNCILOR / TOWN COUNCIL
Address:	77 MAIN STREET NEW CANAAN, CT 06840
Phone:	203-554-1115

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which New Canaan was approved for in 2020 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by New Canaan, and Sustainable CT makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the submission, beyond that an individual reviewer approved at least some elements of the action for certification. Further, standards for actions below may have changed, and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Finally, approved actions here may include some documents and descriptions in support of action elements that were not approved, in addition to elements that were approved. In preparing your own application, please rely only on the action write-ups for the current certification year to guide your submission. Please contact info@sustainablect.org with specific questions.

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 Optimize for Equity – REQUIRED

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.1.1: Optimize for Equity, (10 points), updated 8/10/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.1.1.OPTIMIZEFOREQUITYNEWCANAANFARMERSMARKETNEWSLETTER](#)

PDF: [9.1.1.OPTIMIZEFOREQUITYNEWCANAANFARMERSMARKET](#)

Documentation Details: The process and questions addressed by the Equity Toolkit have been addressed in the document titled "9.1.1.OptimizeForEquityNewCanaanFarmersMarket" above. A new version of the New Canaan Farmers Market newsletter that is now being sent to market patrons is included in the document entitled "9.1.1.OptimizeForEquityNewCanaanFarmersMarketNewsletter".

Partners: Partners in the completion of the equity toolkit included: New Canaan Sustainability Team, New Canaan Lapham Senior Center, Staying Put, Schoolhouse Apartments, New Canaan Human Services, New Canaan Farmers' Market, and Get About travel services.

Additional Information: A new version of the New Canaan Farmers Market newsletter is being included for reference.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.3.1: Inventory Local Retail Options (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [TEDAC COMMITTEE MINUTES APRIL 16, 2020 SPECIAL.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [1.3A--NEW CANAAN](#)

Documentation Details: 1.3.1 - Link on town site of to Chamber website with store finder and parking in town: https://www.newcanaan.info/community/experience_new_canaan.php. 1.3.1 - map of downtown and list of stores. <http://newcanaanchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/New-Canaan-Town-Map.pdf> 1.3.3 - Buy Local campaign during Covid - a series of three Zoom webinars which were put on by New Canaan Library with live stream and recording of program available on public access Channel 79 as well as town website. Program highlighted stores and restaurants open during Covid and to promote local businesses during the tough business situation. Three Zoom programs were held on April 29th, May 6th and May 13th. <https://vimeo.com/426392644> 1.3.3 - Event publicized in local papers and online - <https://news.hamlethub.com/newcanaan/events/5253-new-canaan-s-allison-williams-helps-chamber-kick-off-zoom-downtown-on-wednesday-register-now>

Partners: New Canaan's Tourism & Economic Development Advisory Committee (TEDAC) worked with New Canaan Chamber of Commerce and local retailers to promote businesses during Covid restrictions. The Zoom Downtown project was created to highlight stores and restaurants in New Canaan and current offerings. New Canaan Library hosted the Zoom Downtown events which were then replayed on Channel 79.

Additional Information: All retail options are plotted on a map by sector on the explorenewcanaan.com website. Attached are screenshots of the maps and a link to explorenewcanaan.com on the town website: newcanaan.info. Maps of stores are not printed to avoid paper waste and it was deemed that most people searched online. The online feature also for google maps to direct to the retail option.

2.6 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.6.1: Participating in the C-PACE Program (5 points), updated 7/20 1.6.2: Promote C-PACE Program through event (5 points), occurred 7/ /20

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [1.6.2--SCREENSHOT LINK--NEW CANAAN.PNG](#)

PDF: [1.6.1--C-PACE 2014--NEW CANAAN](#)

IMAGE: [1.6.1--CPACE--BUILINGOWNDERLINK--NEW CANAAN.PNG](#)

WORD: [1.6.1--SCREENSHOT LINK--NEW CANAAN.DOCX](#)

WORD: [1.6.2--SCREENSHOT LINK--NEW CANAAN.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: The resolution can be found highlighted on page 3 of 1.6.1 C-PACE Resolution

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan

25 Points

Approved Information: 2.4.1 Complete an open space inventory, (5 points), February 2018 2.4.2 Prioritize resources for protection, (5 points) 2.4.3 Develop an open space plan, (10 points), 2014 2.4.4b Protect open space - increase open space in your community, (5 points), 2020

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [1.ADOPTED_POCD_-_EFFECTIVE_04-01-2016.PDF](#)

PDF: [2018 OPEN SPACE IN NEW CANAAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.PDF](#)

PDF: [OPENSACELANDACQUISITION.PDF](#)

PDF: [POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2020.PDF](#)

PDF: [LAF.PDF](#)

PDF: [LAF SUSTAINABLECT.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 2.4.1 - 2018 Open Space in New Canaan Executive Summary pdf - New Canaan Conservation Commission worked with New Canaan Land Trust to inventory current open space and better identifying possible open space acquisitions. 2.4.3 - 2016 POCD Effective 4-01-2016.pdf pages 18-21 discuss plans to prioritize acquisitions, connect open space parcels and offer recreational benefits. 2.4.3 - Openspacelandacquisition.pdf - Conservation Commission meeting addressing open space and open space Land Acquisition Fund needed to quickly act to purchase available open space 2.4.3 - Police Commission Minutes February 19,2020.pdf - Minutes of Police Commission meeting approving a request to the state to create a crosswalk on Oenoke Ridge Road to complete the the Green Link Trail connecting Irwin Park to New Canaan Nature Center to town and back to Irwin Park. 2.4.3 - Creation of first part of Green Link Trail with cross walk installed by town on Weed Street to connect Irwin park to Land Trust land with walk trail which connects to New Canaan Nature Center. <https://newcanaanlandtrust.org/greenlink-irwin-nature/> 2.4.4.b - LAF.pdf - Land Acquisition Fund Resolution created to allow to save for open space acquisitions when they arise. 2.4.4.b - LAF SustainableCT.pdf - Letter from New Canaan Conservation Commission indicating continuation of the Land Acquisition Fund and balance of \$52,000 from town and private donations.

Partners: The town partnered with New Canaan Land Trust to help create the open space inventory and priority list as well as help create the first leg of the Greenlink to connect New Canaan parks and open spaces via sidewalks and walking trails.

3.7 Provide Education on Water Conservation

5 Points

Approved Information: 2.7.1: Provide Education on Water Conservation Program (5 points), 7/10/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [ACTION2.7.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: Description of program, links to program video link on New Canaan's Conservation Commission Page and program flier.

Partners: New Canaan Library partnered with the Conservation Commission to present this program using their Zoom account and setting up the webinar format.

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

5 Points

Approved Information: 2.10.2 Municipal Removal of Invasive Species, (5 points), updated 7/23/20

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [2.10.2A INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

Partners: Partners included the New Canaan Garden Club and the New Canaan Community Fund, the municipality supported this project through financial and promotional support.

3.11 Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.11.1: Complete the Hyperlinked Inventory (10 points) 8/20/20 2.11.2.a Best Management Practices (BMP) - Utilize an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Standard (5 points) 8/2020

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [BOS MINUTES - 08-18-20.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [FIELD SHEET 8-2020.XLSX](#)

WORD: [IPM PLAN MARCH 2018 HS FINAL VER 3.0 ADMIN INPUT.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: Field sheet 8-2020.xlsx - completed inventory by Parks Dept. BOS Minutes-8-18-20.pdf page 3 - Discussion of IPM model used by Parks Dept. to treat playing fields IPM Plan March 2018 HS Final ver 3.0 Admin Input.docx - IPM plan used for High School (exempt from State law). T

Additional Information: Mr. Howe explained at the BOS meeting on 8/18/20 that the town use to treat the fields four times a year but with the newly implemented IPM model followed by Parks, the treatments are now once a year. The IPM plan attached is for NCHS but is followed by the parks department for park land - as per the BOS minutes.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.1.2: Update CT Visit Page (5 points) updated 7/23/20

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.1.2 ACTION WRITEUP CTVISIT.DOCX](#)

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices

10 Points

Approved Information: 4.3.6: Community Gardens (10 points), updated 7/23/2020

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [4.3.6 COMMUNITY GARDEN NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [4.3.6 OVERVIEW FLYER.PDF](#)

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.2 Promote Effective Parking Management

15 Points

Approved Information: 5.2.2.a: Implement non-regulatory parking management strategies (15 points) 9/2018 and currently used.

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [PARKING COMMISSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 DRAFT.PDF](#)

PDF: [PARKING COMMISSION MINUTES SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 DRAFT.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: Parking Commission Minutes September 11, 2018 Draft.pdf - page 2 - description of Boxcar program Newcanaanite article on new Boxcar program. <https://newcanaanite.com/selectmen-approve-lease-agreement-boxcar-to-launch-parking-service-for-60-spaces-at-st-as-next-week-73644> Boxcar info for town website: https://www.newcanaan.info/departments/parking_bureau/boxcar_commuter_parking_service.php

Partners: St. Aloysius Church, New Canaan

Additional Information: Introduction of Boxcar parking, beginning Sept. 2018 and still in use. Residents and non-residents alike can download app to pay for daily parking. Parking at St. Aloysius Church parking lot which is diagonally across from the New Canaan Train Station on the corner of Park Street and Cherry Street. Parking is \$7 daily and the office of the First Selectman sought out this arrangement to help alleviate parking by the train station and as an option for residents still on the municipal parking lot wait list for annual parking pass.

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 Points

Approved Information: 5.4.4 Municipal Electric Charging Station (5 points), updated 7/2020

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [5.4.4 IMAGE 1 OF ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION](#)

IMAGE: [5.4.4 IMAGE 2 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION](#)

IMAGE: [5.4.4 IMAGE 3 ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION](#)

WORD: [5.4.4 LINK TO ELECTRIC CHARGING STATION PROFILE](#)

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting

10 Points

Approved Information: 6.7.3: Convert Town Owned Decorative Street Lights and Exterior Park Lighting (10 points) 3/21/2017 -

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [BOS_AGENDA_170321.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: BOS agenda_170321.pdf - page 2 - Lampost project - installation of LED lights and astronomical timer for all town owned light posts.

Additional Information: DPW entered into a contract to have all light bulbs switched to energy efficient LED lightbulbs and astronomical timers installed.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

15 Points

Approved Information: 7.1.1: Hold a Sustainability Event Completed Worksheet (15 points), updated 7/24/20, Equity action updated 8/10/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.1.1.HOLDASUSTAINABILITYEVENTWORKSHEET](#)

PDF: [7.1.1.OPTIMIZEFOREQUITYNEWCANAANFARMERSMARKET](#)

Documentation Details: The Hold a Sustainability Worksheet Template as provided by Sustainable CT in the action description for Action 7.1.1 has been filled out and includes 13 farmers market events held in the town of New Canaan. This information can be found in the document titled "7.1.1.HoldASustainabilityEventWorksheet". The 9.1 Optimize for Equity Actions was applied to action 7.1.1. The Equity Toolkit submission has been included in the 7.1.1 submission in document titled "7.1.1.OptimizeForEquityNewCanaanFarmersMarket".

Partners: Partners for the weekly farmers' markets include: Planet New Canaan, New Canaan Health Department, and New Canaan Human Services

Additional Information: The Action 9.1 Optimize For Equity and Equity Toolkit was applied to the New Canaan Farmers Market (Action 7.1) The completed Equity Toolkit narrative is included here, as well as in the submission for Action 9.1.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

40 Points

Approved Information: 7.7.1 Recycling of textiles, Christmas trees, plastic bags, corks (40 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [08.13.20 CC MINUTES \(CHRISTOPHER SCHIPPER\) \(CHRISTOPHER SCHIPPER\).PDF](#)

PDF: [PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES MAY 13, 2020.PDF](#)

PDF: [PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES MAY 13, 2020.PDF](#)

PDF: [PAPERSHREDDING.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 8.13.20 CC Minutes.pdf - page 2 - Conservation Commission endorses additional recycling of textiles, Christmas trees, plastic bags and corks. Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes May 13, 2020 - page 2 - Christmas Tree Recycling approved Paper shredding.pdf - picture and communication from Town's Instagram page of shredding program.

Partners: Planet New Canaan New Canaan Nature Center Acme Supermarket New Canaan DPW

Additional Information: <https://www.ncadvertiser.com/news/article/New-Canaan-Nature-Center-and-Planet-New-Canaan-15044342.php#photo-19027198> <https://www.ncadvertiser.com/news/article/Textile-recycling-now-at-the-New-Canaan-transfer-14048012.php> <https://www.ncadvertiser.com/news/article/Transfer-station-library-markets-have-14049024.php> Town has textile recycling bins which are picked up by Bay State Textile recycling and are open to all residents at the Transfer Station - no pass needed. Town also has plastic bag recycling receptacles at the Transfer Station, New Canaan Library Lobby, New Canaan Nature Center Lobby and South School. Town's DPW picks up when full and delivers to ACME supermarket where they are sent off for recycling. Town has also approved Christmas Tree recycling which will be run by Planet New Canaan volunteers and mulching will be performed by NC DPW. The mulch will then be distributed on New Canaan Nature Center trails. Cork recycling bin currently located at New Canaan Nature Center for all residents and sent off to ReCork for recycling. Town holds a paper Shredding Day twice a year which is open to all residents. Shredded paper is not allowed in the Single Stream recycling but paper shredded on Shredding Day, by Oak Ridge Waste and Recycling is recycled as not combined with other materials. The last "Shredding Day" was held on June 20th and the one before that was on 9/28/2019.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

10 Points

Approved Information: 7.10.4 Excessive Idling Program (10 points) 8/20

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [IMG_2786TRAINTRAIN.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6714EASTSCHOOL.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6713LIBRARY.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6697WESTSCHOOL.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6712SOUTHSCHOOL.PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6723 \(WESTSCHOOL\).PDF](#)

PDF: [IMG_6696HIGHSCHOOL.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: IMG_6697westschool.pdf - is actually Saxe Middle School PDFs of all the schools in town as well as train station and library

Partners: New Canaan Library - purchased their own signage

Additional Information: A link to the state's no idling law is listed on the New Canaan Conservation Commission Page: <https://www.newcanaan.info/government/commissions/conservation.php> New Canaan DPW has placed multiple signs at school facilities as well as at New Canaan train station on 8/20. All these areas, as well as New Canaan Library are deemed high idling locations.

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 - Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment 8/18/20 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [PSC_2018HSGPROFILE_NEW CANAAN.PDF](#)

WORD: [REVISED_HOUSING WORKSHEET 8-13-20 REVISED.DOCX](#)

PDF: [BOS MINUTES - 08-18-20.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: PSC 2018 HsgProfile_NewCanaan.pdf - New Canaan Housing Profile
Revised_Housing_Worksheet8-13-20 REVISED.docx - worksheet 2 filled out by New Canaan Town Planner Lynn Brooks Avni and presented to Board of Selectman BOS Minutes-8-18-20.pdf - minutes from New Canaan Board of Selectmen meeting where housing assessment and read and discussed.

Partners: Town Planner's Office prepared the report and presented to Board of Selectmen

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

25 Points

Approved Information: 10.1.1: Innovation Action, Reusable Bag Designed and Sold (10 points), completed 4/2020 10.1.1: Innovation Action, Pollinator Pathway Project Implemented (15 points), launched June 2019, ongoing programs and events to present

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [10.1.1.INNOVATIONACTIONNEWCANAANREUSABLEBAGS](#)

PDF: [10.1.1.INNOVATIONACTIONPOLLINATORPATHWAYPROJECT](#)

PDF: [10.1.1.INNOVATIONACTIONPOLLINATORPATHWAYPROJECTARTICLE](#)

Documentation Details: Description and images of Reusable Bag project can be found in document titled "10.1.1.InnovationActionNewCanaanReusableBags" Description and images of Pollinator Pathway Project can be found in document titled "10.1.1.InnovationActionPollinatorPathwayProject" Article from the New Canaan Advertiser describing launch of Pollinator Pathway Project can be found in document titled "10.1.1.InnovationActionPollinatorPathwayProjectArticle"

Partners: For the reusable bag project, partners included: Planet New Canaan, New Canaan Community Fund, New Canaan Nature Center, Walter Stewart's Market, and Nurenu Marketing For the Pollinator Pathway project, partners included: Grace Farms Foundation, New Canaan Beautification League, New Canaan Garden Club, New Canaan Nature Center, New Canaan Library, New Canaan Department of Public Works, New Canaan Land Trust, The Glass House, Planet New Canaan, and Norwalk River Watershed Association