



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

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

Chester was certified on November 01, 2021 with 315 points. Listed below is information regarding Chester's Sustainable Connecticut efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

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Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Chester was approved for in 2021 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Chester, 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: 1.1 Optimize For Equity - Chester's 13.1 Innovative Vaccine Assistance Project 2020-2021

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [EQUITY TOOLKIT SUBMISSION](#)

PDF: [CHESTER SURVEY](#)

PDF: [CHESTER SURVEY RESULTS](#)

WORD: [REPORT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, SPIRITUALITY, WELLNESS TEAM AUGUST 2020](#)

PDF: [VAMS ACCOUNT GUIDE](#)

PDF: [VALLEY COURIER - LONG TERM RECOVERY ARTICLE](#)

PDF: [VALLEY COURIER - SOCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE](#)

WORD: [SCRIPT - VOLUNTEER TRAINING](#)

WORD: [SCRIPT - 65+](#)

PDF: [DRAFT POSTCARD](#)

PDF: [PARTNER COORDINATION AND TRAINING](#)

WORD: [ACCESS TO COVID-19 VACCINES](#)

PDF: [TOWNWIDE EMAIL 1-26-2021 VACCINE PROJECT](#)

PDF: [TOWNWIDE EMAIL VACCINES](#)

PDF: [TOWN HALLS COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEMOGRAPHIC FOCUS ON RECOVERY](#)

Documentation Details: Chester Equity Toolkit on Action 13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action. Chester Equity Toolkit has summary information. The remaining downloads are supporting documents and examples of work product.

Partners: - Long Term Recovery Team – Social Services, Spirituality and Wellness Subcommittee (now called Chester Community Partnership) - Residents - Masonicare at Chester Village - RiverCOG - ReOPEN Chester Committee - Middlesex Community Foundation - Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek - United Congregational Church – Chester - Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) - Essex Health Director - CT Department of Public Health - Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) - Elected Officials - Regional School District 4 Superintendent - Nutmeg Pharmacy, Higganum - Chester Merchants - Chester Town Clerk and Registrar - Chester Human Services Director - Cherry Hill Senior Apartments Manager/Owner

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

20 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.1 Develop and distribute an inventory of local retail options (5 points for the map and 5 points for the list) 2.3.2 Develop, Implement and Maintain an ongoing 'buy local' campaign (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [CHESTER MERCHANTS' RACK CARD BACK 2.3.1.JPEG](#)

IMAGE: [VISITCHESTERCT.COM WEBSITE LIST OF RETAIL BUSINESSES 2.3.1](#)

PDF: [FIRST FRIDAYS IN CHESTER CT 2.3.2](#)

WORD: [WORKSHEET TO DESCRIBE "BUY LOCAL" CAMPAIGN EFFORTS](#)

Documentation Details: Two of the attached files show an inventory and map of the local retail options in Chester. Every store has a stack and gives them out to visitors and customers as a guide to fully explore all of the options in town and to advertise and promote special events including First Fridays (on the first Friday of every month from 5:00-8:00pm) and the Sunday Farmers Market (season from mid-June to mid-October). Another attached file is a screen shot of the website (VisitChesterCT.com) page where all of the retail business options are listed and described. There is also a page for restaurants and other town attractions.

Partners: The Chester Merchants Group is a group with representatives from each of the retail businesses that gathers once a month on the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 am. This group created this rack card with the list and map of all the businesses to guide visitors. Their goal is to make their businesses as successful as possible. The merchants meet monthly to support each other in various ways including the creation of events to attract new visitors and returning customers.

2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.4.1 Host one or more business roundtables (5 points) 2.4.4 Toolkit for Resiliency (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [2.4.1 MONTHLY MERCHANTS MEETING](#)

PDF: [2.4.4 REOPEN CHESTER - TOOLKIT FOR RESILIENCY](#)

PDF: [2.4.1 WORKSHEET CHESTER MONTHLY BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES](#)

IMAGE: [2.4.1 PROMO. FLYER - JUNE IN CHESTER - EMAIL BLAST FROM THE MERCHANTS OF CHESTER](#)

IMAGE: [2.4.1 PROMO. FLYER - MAY IN CHESTER - EMAIL BLAST FROM THE MERCHANTS OF CHESTER](#)

PDF: [2.4.4 TOOLKIT FOR RESILIENCY.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: Business roundtables are held once a month (the first Wednesday morning of every month at 8:30am) hosted by the Chester Merchants Group, where the merchants gather to support each other in dialogue and topics that include but are not limited to the needs and opportunities to build and expand business development in the community. In addition to the merchants, the First Selectwoman, a representative from the local Economic Development Committee, as well as other relevant participants attend.

Partners: The ReOpen Chester Group (ROCG) was formed and led by Susan Wright (Chairwoman of the Economic Development Committee) and Suzie Woodward (Chester Business Owner), as a town wide, volunteer effort with support from Chester's First Selectwoman's Office. All decisions and directives about safely reopening our downtown businesses are made by our town leadership, directed by Selectwoman Lauren Gister, and our public safety and emergency management teams. Other volunteers included The Chester Imagineers - the Imagineers committee of various skilled thinkers and doers will bounce ideas, create, and collaborate to redefine how we experience life in Chester. The fluidity of ideas is our model for reimagining our new normal. Creating is perpetual, not linear. The Chester Imagineers: Carol LeWitt, Chair, Michael Cressman, Scientist, Rebecca Joslow MacGregor, Artist/Designer, Priscilla Martel, Food Impresario, Ed Meehan, Former First Selectman and experienced Town Planner, Michelle Paulson, Communications, John Schroeder, Architect/Developer, and Erica Udoff, Designer.

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1 Provide Watershed Education

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.1.1 b Implement and maintain a signage program that highlights key watershed issues (5 points) updated 12/19/20 3.1.1 a Sponsor or host a program to educate residents and business owners in your community about the value of watersheds and the importance of protecting and restoring them. (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.1.1B_STORMDRAIN MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF LABELED STORMDRAINS.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [3.1.1B_CATCH BASIN SIGNAGE.JPG](#)

PDF: [3.1.1.A_ARTICLE IN TOWN NEWSLETTER FOR EDUCATION AND SUPPORT FOR STORM DRAIN STENCILING PROGRAM](#)

IMAGE: [3.1.1A_POSTCARDS MAILED TO RESIDENTS IN 2019 AND 2020](#)

Documentation Details: 3.1.1a Postcards were mailed to residents and businesses in Chester in 2019 and 2020. Photo shows front and back sides. Even though the Cedar Lake Watershed Commission is primarily concerned with protecting Cedar lake and all of Pattaconk brook downstream, the cards were mailed to all residents. 3.1.1 b Map source can be viewed at <http://arcg.is/1Puzfu>. One can pan and zoom different areas of the online map to see more detail. Also included is a picture of the signage being painted. The map shows all catch basins throughout the entire town; Stenciling was and is being specially targeted for those catchbasins which a) are in areas where improper disposal would be most likely, and b) in areas frequented by pedestrians. (Chester is a "walking" town.

Partners: Labeling was performed by the Cedar Lake Watershed Commission, and the Chester Conservation Commission. Postcards were designed by a member of the Cedar Lake Watershed Commission. The Town of Chester provided funding to mail postcards and for roadway paint. Juliana Barrett from the DEEP helped design the program on riparian buffers.

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.10.3 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.10.3.A MUGWORT FACT SHEET](#)

PDF: [3.10.3.A LESSER CELADINE FACT SHEET](#)

PDF: [3.10.3.A BLACK SWALLOW-WORT FACTSHEET.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.10.3.A COMMON MUGWORT FACT SHEET.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.10.3.A TREE OF HEAVEN FACTSHEET.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.10.3.B PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION ON HYDRILLA.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [3.10.3.A CC INVASIVE PLANTS WEBPAGE.JPG](#)

Documentation Details: 3.10.3.a Invasive species education resources that outline identification and removal techniques are being added to the Town of Chester website under the Conservation Commission's page. An image of the page has been uploaded. <http://chesterct.org/town-government/conservation-commission/> 3.10.3.a PDFs of invasive plant fact sheets developed by the Conservation Commission's Native and Invasive Plants Subcommittee are attached 3.10.3.b Public Information Session on Hydrilla.pdf - this documents a public workshop on hydrilla, an invasive aquatic plant that the town is trying to keep out of Cedar Lake and other waterbodies in Chester. The session was held at the Chester Meeting House on June 24, 2021 and also was broadcast via Zoom. About 20 people attended in person and an unknown number participated via Zoom, including State Representative Christine Palm.

Partners: 3.10.3.a. Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District provided information on commonly found invasive plants along with information on how to remove them from your property. 3.10.3.a The University of Connecticut Extension Center at Haddam provided background information. 3.10.3.b The CT Agricultural Experiment Station

Additional Information: Last year (2020) the Conservation Commission established a Native and Invasive Plants Subcommittee staffed by commission members and volunteers from the community. The subcommittee is preparing a series of fact sheets about invasive plants commonly found in Chester along with information about how to control them. As the fact sheets are prepared, articles about the specific invasive plants are published in the quarterly Chester Events magazine mailed to all Chester households.

3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.1 Provide education to residents and local businesses (5 points) 3.12.2 Create pollinator gardens (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.12.1 POLLINATOR GARDEN HANDOUT.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 POLLINATOR GARDEN PLANTED IN CHESTER MAY 2020](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2 TOWN OF CHESTER POLLINATOR GARDEN PHOTO1](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2 TOWN OF CHESTER POLLINATOR GARDEN PHOTO2](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2 POLLINATOR GARDEN AT END OF SEASON \(OCTOBER 2020\)](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.2 TOWN OF CHESTER POLLINATOR GARDEN PHOTO3](#)

Documentation Details: 3.12 Although there is no documentation for the distribution of handouts, copies were given to Camp Hazen YMCA (which is planning a pollinator garden at their facility) and to the Chester Girl Scouts.

Partners: 3.12 University of Connecticut Extension Center, Haddam CT has supplied excellent advice and services. 3.12. Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester is interested in incorporating this into their program and is planning to install a pollinator garden on-site. (see "additional information" below.)

Additional Information: 3.12. As a result of the distributed information and the demonstration garden on Water Street, Camp Hazen YMCA applied for, and was given a grant by the Rockfall Foundation (Middlefield CT) to construct a pollinator garden near the camp office this fall.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

10 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.1a, 4.1.1b, 4.1.1c, 4.1.1d: Map Tourism and Cultural Assets (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [4.1.1 CHASING SQUIRRELS OUT WEST V4.PDF](#)

PDF: [4.1.1 CHASING SQUIRRELS UP NORTH V4.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.1C SCREEN SHOT 1 - CHASING SQUIRRELS ON CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.1C SCREEN SHOT 2 - CHASING SQUIRRELS ON CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.1C SCREEN SHOT - ATTRACTIONS PAGE ON VISITCHESTERCT.COM](#)

WORD: [4.1.1D MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR UPDATING THE DYNAMIC TOURISM AND CULTURAL ASSET WEB RESOURCES](#)

WORD: [4.1.1A AND B WORKSHEET FOR TOURISM AND CULTURAL ASSETS](#)

WORD: [4.1.1C CHASING SQUIRRELS WEB-BASED TOURISM RESOURCES](#)

WORD: [4.1.1.D. MAINTAINING HISTORICAL INFORMATION](#)

Documentation Details: Please see the following websites that are referenced via Screen Shot documents attached: <https://www.visitchesterct.com/attractions> <http://chesterhistoricalsociety.org/chasing-squirrels-walks> <http://chesterct.org/about-chester/attractions-social-events/>

Partners: 4.1.1 Chester Historical Society provided historical information on each of the sites 4.1.1 Chester Imagineers turned what was a collection of separate data sets into a walkabout and saw that this was publicized on the Town website.

4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture

10 Points

Approved Information: 4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture (10 Points) 4.2.3 Commit dedicated funding for the arts 4.2.6 Establish an Arts and Culture Liaison

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [4.2.2. COLLOMORE MUSIC SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2021](#)

PDF: [4.2 SUNDAY FARMERS' MARKET -- MUSICIANS SCHEDULED](#)

PDF: [4.2 EXERPT FROM CHESTER TOWNWIDE EMAIL 6/18/2021 -- FARMERS' MKT PUBLICITY](#)

WORD: [4.2.6 LONG TERM RECOVERY TASKFORCE - ARTS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE 2020](#)

PDF: [4.2 COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL CONCERT JUNE 20,2021](#)

PDF: [4.2.6 ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES - CELEBRATE CHESTER 2020](#)

PDF: [4.2.6 ARTS, CULTURE AND TOURISM COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES - CHESTER PRESTO MOVIES 2020](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 STARRY NIGHTS ART INSTALLATION - TOWN CONTRIBUTED \\$200, INTERACTIVE DISPLAY](#)

Documentation Details: 4.2.2 The Chester Townwide Email publicizes evening activities on the first Fridays of each month. Most, if not all, of the art galleries are open, businesses and restaurants are open. 4.2. Musicians entertain the crowds at the Sunday Farmers' markets in downtown Chester. This is an extremely popular weekly event. Musicians entertain and the art galleries are open. The town provides police coverage and town crews erect sawhorses to keep Main Street pedestrian-only. 4.2.3 Starry Nights Exhibit and Celebrate Chester - Town of Chester contributed \$200 and \$800 respectively for installation, supplies, and payment to band for live music downtown. 4.2.6 Arts Culture and tourism Committee formed in 2020 as part of Long Term Recovery Committee. Activities included scheduled concerts, art and craft activities at town events, movies on the Town Green, etc.

Partners: 4.2 Chester Historical Society and Robbie Collomore Committee Support both visual and performing arts. 4.2. Chester supports The Community Music School ('Essex-based) by providing a venue for summer concerts at the Meetinghouse. 4.2 The Chester Farmers' Market organization: has created one of the most visited and well recognized Sunday markets in this region. Vendors provide an extensive supply of superb, locally-grown food. Entertainment is provided by different performing groups each week. See : <https://chestersundaymarket.jimdofree.com/> Visit Chester CT: <https://www.visitchesterct.com/concerts>

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.1 Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development

25 Points

Approved Information: 5.1.1b Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development (25 points, for four concepts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.1_CHESTER PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT](#)

WORD: [5.1.1B_WORKSHEET2](#)

Documentation Details: 5.1.1b Worksheet 2: Chester's POCD was built with an eye to integrating sustainability throughout the entire document; along with Goal 6 which deals directly with Sustainability and Resiliency. All projects of the town are important to complete with these concepts for a resilient municipal future.

Partners: 5.1. Chester Planning and Zoning Commission, 5.1. RiverCOG (Regional Council of Governments)

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

40 Points

Approved Information: 5.5.1 Inventory Historic Resources (10 points) 5.5.2 Assess Viability of assets (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [ASSET #3: THE UNITED CHURCH](#)

PDF: [5.5.2. ASSET #1 THE MEETING HOUSE](#)

PDF: [5.5.2. CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, FALL 2020](#)

WORD: [5.5.2 ASSET #5 CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY](#)

WORD: [5.5.2. ASSET #2 THE MILL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM](#)

WORD: [5.5.2. HISTORIC ASSETS WORKSHEET](#)

WORD: [5.5.2. ASSET #4: THE CHESTER HOSE COMPANY](#)

WORD: [5.5.1. WORKSHEET: INVENTORY OF HISTORIC ASSETS](#)

WORD: [5.5.2 ASSET #6 THE NORMA TERRIS THEATER](#)

Documentation Details: 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 The "Inventory of Historic Assets" meets the needs of 5.5.1, but some of the information in that document has been updated in the descriptions of the individual assets, e.g. Asset #1, Asset #2, and Asset #3. Specifically, the actions needed to ensure long term viability of each listed asset are included on the respective asset attachments above. 5.5. The Historical Society Newsletter Fall 2020 is page 6 of that publication. 5.5. You will note that the description of each asset is set up in the format of the worksheets. The Long Term Viability and Forward Looking Plan is also included in the individual asset sheets and referenced on the 5.5.2 worksheet for guidance.

Partners: 5.5. The Town of Chester owns and maintains the Meeting house and the Chester Hose Company and worked closely with Sustainable Chester. 5.5. The Chester Energy Task Force was vital in tracking energy use, suggesting improvements, and researching contractors. 5.5 The Chester Conservation Commission made recommendations for plantings emphasizing native species and pollinator-friendly species. 5.5. The Chester Historical Society provided extensive background material for all the buildings. 5.5 The United Church of Chester also provided extensive background material on the building as well as energy information on the solar panels installed on the roof. 5.5 The Goodspeed Theater Foundation provided some background information on the Norma Terris Theater.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.4. Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [6.4.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF SITE SELECTED FOR EV CHARGING STATION](#)

WORD: [6.4.4. MINUTES OF ENERGY TASK FORCE MEETING 9/9/2019](#)

Documentation Details: The discussion of the best site was reported near the bottom of the first page of the Energy Team Minutes. The text has been underlined.

Partners: 6.4.4 None

6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.5.1. Promote Public Transit and other Mobility Strategies (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [6.5.1 MINUTES OF TRANSIT COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 2021](#)

PDF: [6.5 ESTUARY TRANSIT \(9-TOWN TRANSIT\) WEB PAGE LINK](#)

PDF: [FREE TRANSIT RIDE TO COVID VACCINATION SITE 2021](#)

PDF: [9 TOWN TRANSIT FREE WEEKENDS - TOWN NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021](#)

PDF: [9 TOWN TRANSIT SURVEY ADVERTISEMENT](#)

Documentation Details: 6.5.1. The first page of the minutes of the transit committee contains the report of the marketing committee. The remaining documents include outreach and educational materials for 9-town transit.

Partners: 6.5.1. 9-Town Transit Bus Route Service Providing public transit with general public Dial-A-Ride service throughout the twelve town region. CHESTER, CLINTON, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, KILLINGWORTH, LYME, OLD LYME, OLD SAYBROOK, WESTBROOK. Also offering five deviated bus routes from Old Saybrook to Madison, Old Saybrook to Chester, Old Saybrook to New London, Old Saybrook to Middletown and the NEW Madison to Middletown route. Chester Town Representative is Chair of Estuary Transit District Board of Directors

6.6 Manage Municipal Fleets

10 Points

Approved Information: 6.6. Manage Municipal Fleets (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [MUNICIPAL FLEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY](#)

PDF: [2021 CHESTER MUNICIPAL FLEET INVENTORY \(2\)](#)

PDF: [BOS 8-11-2021 FLEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ADOPTION](#)

Documentation Details: 6.6.1. Although the policy for fleet improvement and maintenance has been understood to be town policy for many years, it was formally recognized at the Board of Selectmen's meeting the week of 8/09/2021.

Partners: 6.6. The Chester Sustainability Committee worked with the Board of Selectmen as well as the Public Works department to formalize the plan for continuing maintenance and for fleet energy improvement over time.

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use

5 Points

Approved Information: 7.1.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [UTILITIES 2020.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: 7.1.1 The Excel utilities report is what we use locally to track energy usage in town facilities, and which we use to gather data for inclusion in the EPA Portfolio manager. Since we are a small town, EPA Portfolio manager, which seems to be geared towards large towns and cities, is awkward for our needs, but we continue to keep it up to date as we are a Clean Energy town.. Our first selectman finds the Excel spreadsheet much easier to use, and we are able to generate graphs and easily compare data. You may note that we have ceased entering electrical data because Eversource now uploads that data automatically. 7.1.1. Energy use related to treating our waste water is to be found in the EPA Portfolio manager report as "CTLG_Chester_PumpHouse_MainSt". Chester pumps its wastewater to Deep River, which manages the wastewater treatment plant.

Partners: 7.1 Eversource, EPA. Town of Chester finance office.

7.2 Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings

10 Points

Approved Information: 7.2.1.a Use EPA Portfolio Manager to benchmark municipal buildings 7.2.1.b Achieve an overall 10% energy use intensity reduction (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [7.2.1.A DATAREQUESTFORACTIONS_7.2_7.4](#)

EXCEL: [7.2.1.B EUI REDUCTION SPREADSHEET](#)

Documentation Details: 7.2.1.a Report - Data Request from EPA PM submitted (7.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use previous submitted and approved) 7.2.1.b The EUI reduction spreadsheet includes calculations, highlighted in yellow, that show a 14.69% reduction of weather normalized site energy use for Chester's 6 municipal buildings from the baseline year ending 6/30/17 to the comparison year 3/31/20.

Partners: 7.2.1.b Chester Energy Team, Chester Dept. of Public Works, Chester Selectmen's Office, Eversource (building audits and energy efficiency improvements)

Additional Information: none

7.4 Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings

10 Points

Approved Information: 7.4. Increase use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings. (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [DATA REQUEST_SUSTAINABLE CT 2021 SUBMISSION FOR ACTIONS 7.2 AND 7.4 CHESTER.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: Supporting information was submitted automatically through the EPA P/M tool. It deals with the success of installing solar panels on the roof of the elementary school and the town hall.

Partners: 7.4 None

7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting

35 Points

Approved Information: 7.6.1 Create a streetlight inventory and perform a lighting needs assessment. (10 points) 7.6.2.b Plan and Convert Municipally-Owned Street Lights: (15 points) created 2/27/18 7.6.3 Convert Town-Owned Decorative Street Lights and Exterior Park Lighting (10 points) created 2/27/18

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.6.1 FINAL INVENTORY OF MODIFIED STREETLAMPS - COBRA HEADS](#)

PDF: [7.6 FINAL INVENTORY OF MODIFIED DECORATIVE STREETLAMPS -- POLE-TOP](#)

PDF: [7.6 FINAL CONTRACTOR'S REPORT ON STREETLIGHT MODIFICATIONS \(TO LEDS\)](#)

PDF: [7.6 LED STREETLIGHT CONVERSION PROJECT - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS](#)

PDF: [7.6.1 E-TEAM MINS A JAN COPY.PDF](#)

PDF: [7.6. INTERACTIVE STREET LIGHT MAP](#)

WORD: [7.6.1 LIGHTING NEEDS ASSESSMENT MODIFIED](#)

Documentation Details: The inventories detail the streetlamps ("cobraheads") as well as decorative lighting (mostly pole-top). There are two inventories to clarify that both streetlights and decoratives were modified. This should meet the separate requirements of category 7.6.1.. The inventories were taken before Chester purchased the lights from Eversource in order to support planning; The physical change of streetlights was not accomplished until late in 2018, and the final stage (" Phase 2") was not completed until 2019. The Final contractor 's report summarizes the LED conversion project. Evidence that the Town purchased its streetlights from Eversource appears on page 4 of 8 of the final contractor's report (third item above) : "The Town was transferred to the municipality-owned billing rate when it acquired its lights in spring 2017, prior to Tanko's involvement." The table above this statement shows that both cobraheads and decoratives were included under the same contract with the contractor (Tanko). The" LED Streetlight Conversion Project, request for proposals" provides further evidence that the streetlights were formerly owned by Eversource. Appendix B presents the cut sheets for the cobrahead lamps, and on pages 46 and 47 of these, the details on the decorative lamps. The minutes from the January 8,2018 Clean Energy Task Force meeting provide further evidence of the purchase of the lights from Eversource. Included as a separate document are the criteria for the review of lighting needs assessment. There is no exterior lighting in any of Chester's parks. This is by design; neighbors to parks appreciate that parks are quiet after dusk.

Partners: 7.6. Tanko Lighting (California)was selected as the project coordinator ; they provided the design and the purchasing of lights. 7.6. RedThread electrical contractors did the actual installation , 7.6. Eversource. supplied the before-conversion inventory of streetlights. 7.6. The Chester Clean Energy Task force coordinated everything for the town, and worked with the Town of Chester Main Street Committee in designing the decorative lighting in the center of town. 7.6. We took field trips to view the newly installed lighting in Old Lyme and in Essex to verify the color temperatures we specified.

Additional Information: 7.6. We have revised some of the documents which may not have been clear in the April submission, e.g. 7.6 Interactive Street Light Map (reloaded on 7/25/2021). The document leads to a link which seems to work well in opening the map. 7.6. Planning for this project started before 2018, under the guidance of the Chester Clean Energy Task Force. The most recently available inventory of exiting streetlights was provided by Eversource and served as the basis of the project. This inventory had not changed in many years. 7.6 See the last sentence under "Documentation Details" for the statement that there is no exterior lighting in any of Chester's parks -- by design.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

15 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Support and hold a sustainability event (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.1 ANNUAL REPORT OF CONSERVATION COMMISSION](#)

PDF: [8.1. GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS AT BULB SWAP AND SUSTAINABILITY FAIR](#)

PDF: [8.1.1.C. WORKSHEET FOR SUSTAINABILITY EVENT](#)

PDF: [8.1.1.B. EVENT LAYOUT IN THE TOWN'S MEETING HOUSE](#)

IMAGE: [8.1 TREE SEEDLING GIVE-AWAY EVENT POSTER FOR EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY 2021](#)

EXCEL: [8.1 WORKSHEET ON SUSTAINABILITY EVENT 2021 - TREE SEEDLING GIVE-AWAY FOR EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY.XLSX](#)

PDF: [8.1 EARTH DAY EVENT HANDOUT 2021, PAGE 2](#)

PDF: [8.1 EARTH DAY EVENT HANDOUT 2021 FRONT SIDE](#)

PDF: [8.1. EARTHDAY TOWN-WIDE TRASH CLEANUP EVENT](#)

PDF: [8.1. JUDGE CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY PRESERVE - CT FREEDOM TRAIL](#)

EXCEL: [8.1.1C WORKSHEET FOR SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS](#)

Documentation Details: Attached is the Conservation Commission's Annual Report that was included in the Chester Annual Report 2018-2019. Our CC report lists the Sustainability Fair as an accomplishment which should provide documentation for SustainableCT. The mention of the Sustainability Fair is in blue near the center of the report. The guidelines indicate what the event was like. The LED bulbs were purchased with funds from a Clean Energy Communities grant which had been awarded to the Chester Clean energy Team. Location was in a town-owned building. (not mentioned on the layout drawing as we are a small town and everyone knows where the Meeting House is. Worksheet for Sustainability Events contains 5 distinct events for 10 points. The Chester Conservation Commission held a sustainability event on April 24, 2021. The event was a tree seedling give-away in celebration of Earth Day and Arbor Day. A table was set up downtown on Main Street where the tree seedlings were given away along with instructions on how to plant and care for them. At this event the Chester Conservation Commission also handed out fact sheets of information about invasive plants growing in Chester that were also given away.

Partners: 8.1.b. Connecticut Clean energy Fund.

8.4 Support Community Match Fund (CMF) Project and Civic Engagement

5 Points

Approved Information: 8.4.1. Support Community Match Fund Project and Civic Engagement (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.4.1 STATUS REPORT ON OPEN AIRCLASSROOM 4/12/21](#)

PDF: [8.4.1. STATUS REPORT ON OA CLASSROOM 7/18/21](#)

EXCEL: [8.4 WORKSHEET FOR THIS ITEM](#)

IMAGE: [8.4.1 OA CLASSROOM EXTERIOR VIEW 8/07/21](#)

IMAGE: [8.4 OPEN AIR CLASSROOM INTERIOR VIEW 8.7.21.JPG](#)

PDF: [8.4.1. ARCHITECT'S RENDERINGS.PDF](#)

PDF: [8.4 INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OPEN AIR CLASSROOM PROJECT](#)

PDF: [8.4.1. STATUS REPORT ON OA CLASSROOM 8/17/21](#)

IMAGE: [8.4.1 \(1\) OPEN AIR CLASSROOM](#)

IMAGE: [8.4.1 \(2\) OPEN AIR CLASSROOM](#)

IMAGE: [8.4.1 \(3\) OPEN AIR CLASSROOM](#)

IMAGE: [8.4.1 \(4\) OPEN AIR CLASSROOM](#)

Documentation Details: 8.4. The first two of these are emails from the project manager, Lol Fearon. The photographs show that the construction is on schedule for completion next week, and will be in time for the opening of school the last week of August. The architectural renderings show what it could look like with furniture. These renderings were also used to support the fundraising campaign.

Partners: 8.4.1. (Open Air Classroom) The idea was generated in the fall of 2020. It began with solicitation of funds directly from citizens of Chester. Community Match Fund support was sought following a recommendation by the Sustainability Committee. The project manager worked closely with the PTO at the school, with school administration, with the town government for necessary permitting. 8.4 An architect from Centerbrook (CT) Architects volunteered her time to produce not only the renderings, but also the construction drawings. 8.4 A letter of appreciation from the project manager, Lol Fearon, read: "Dear Supporters, Thanks to our highly knowledgeable and hard-working contractors, Anthony Bongiovanni (Excavator) and Mike Fox (Heritage Post & Beam) together with his carpenter, Oscar Bongiovanni, we have the site and main frame ready for finishing work. You can see the results of their outstanding work in the attached photos. Over the next few weeks, Kent Nelson (Nelson Painting) will apply a protective sealant to the posts, beams and deck, Top Notch Electrical Services will complete the electrical work and Jim Powers Roofing will attach the roof panels."

8.5 Collaborate With Other Municipalities

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.5.2. Collaborate with other municipalities (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.5.2 WORKSHEET - COLLABORATE WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES](#)

IMAGE: [8.5.2 SEED EVENT IN OUR LOCAL PAPER THE VALLEY COURIER](#)

IMAGE: [8.5.2 SEED EVENT ADVERTISEMENT COPY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA](#)

WORD: [8.5.2 TRI-TOWN DEI BOOK CLUB DESCRIPTION \(CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX\)](#)

WORD: [8.5.2 FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING MEETING NOTES \(CHESTER AND DEEP RIVER\)](#)

EXCEL: [8.5.2 JOINT COLLABORATION FOR HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE](#)

PDF: [8.5.2 REGIONAL HOUSING PLAN PROJECT 2021-2022](#)

WORD: [8.5.2 SUPPLEMENTAL WORKSHEET FOR REGIONAL HOUSING PLAN PROJECT](#)

Documentation Details: 8.5.2 Collaborate with other municipalities: SEED Event 8.1, Tri-Town DEI Book Club 8.1, Food Scrap Recycling 9.3, Regional Housing Plan 11.1, Household Hazardous Waste

Partners: 8.5.2. Town of Deep River and Town of Essex 8.5.2 Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Middletown, Old Lyme, and Portland

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.3.1 - Recycle Additional Materials (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [BULKY WASTE CONTRACT.PDF](#)

PDF: [9.3 MATTRESS RECYCLING POSTER](#)

Documentation Details: 9.3. Under "Waste-Disposal" on the Town of Chester's website (<http://chesterct.org/town-services/waste-disposal/>) a number of items are listed near the bottom of the page, among these "mattresses -- no charge." Subsequent discussions with the First Selectman of Deep River (with whom Chester shares the transfer station) and the hauling company which picks up these items (CWPM-- now Eastern Waste), mattresses are taken to Willimantic Waste, 185 Recycling Way in Willimantic where they are recycled. Although Eastern Waste collects mattresses from many towns, all small, in this area, it does not record contributions from individual towns. Hence we have no way at the present time of documenting the number of mattresses from Chester. 9.3. is a copy of the poster which was placed in Town Hall and other locations.

Partners: 9.3.1. Deep River. Chester and Deep River share a common waste transfer site where mattresses are collected.

Additional Information: 1. The poster advertising the mattress recycling program was placed on the bulletin Board at the Chester Town Hall, and was publicized in the weekly email blast (see document entitled "9.3 mattress recycling item in weekly newsletter"), which has wide distribution in town. 2. The contract between Chester and Deep River (we share the Transfer Station) provided is current as of submission because it doesn't have an expiration date. The two towns are in the process of updating this contract as we incorporate a food-scrap recycling option as well as other improvements.

9.4 Develop a Food Waste Prevention Campaign or Food Scraps Recovery Campaign or Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.4.2 Implement a food scraps recovery campaign or program (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [9.4.2 JULY 20, 2021 MEETING NOTES ON FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER](#)

WORD: [9.4.2 AUGUST 5, 2021 MEETING NOTES ON FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER](#)

PDF: [9.4.2 CAMPAIGN POSTER FOR FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER](#)

PDF: [9.4--MEETING WITH HEALTH DIRECTOR.PDF](#)

WORD: [9.4.2 JULY 6, 2021 MEETING NOTES ON FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER](#)

PDF: [9.4.2 OVERVIEW OF FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER AND CHESTER.PDF](#)

PDF: [AUGUST 17, 2021 NOTES TRANSFER STATION ADVISORY .PDF](#)

IMAGE: [CHESTER SUNDAY MARKER 91921.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [DEEP RIVER FAMILY DAYS 91821.JPG](#)

PDF: [DEEP RIVER TRANSFER STATION - BLUE EARTH PRICE QUOTE.PDF](#)

PDF: [FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING - HALF PAGE FLYER.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING DIAGRAM FOR DEEP RIVER FAMILY DAYS.JPG](#)

PDF: [FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING GUIDE - CHESTER.PDF](#)

PDF: [FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING GUIDE - DEEP RIVER.PDF](#)

Partners: Town of Deep River and Blue Compost. Alex Williams from Blue Earth attended our second task force meeting on July 20th. BlueEarth is definitely a contributing partner in this initiative. They have provided a lot of helpful information via meetings, emails and phone calls.

Additional Information: For this Action 9.4, the towns of Deep River and Chester were definitely inspired by the food scrap recycling pilot program that started in Essex (our neighboring town) in April 2021. We found out that their program was inspired by Sustainable CT.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

10 Points

Approved Information: 10.3.2 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces (10 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [10.3.2 SIGNAGE TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AT TOWN'S MAIN PUBLIC BEACH \(PELLETIER PARK\)](#)

IMAGE: [10.3.2 SIGNAGE AT TOWN'S ONLY PLAYGROUND TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY](#)

IMAGE: [SIGNAGE IN CENTER OF TOWN ON WATER ST. BUILDING PIC #1](#)

IMAGE: [SIGNAGE IN CENTER OF TOWN ON WATER ST. BUILDING PIC #2](#)

IMAGE: [SIGNAGE IN CENTER OF TOWN ON WATER ST. BUILDING PIC #3](#)

Documentation Details: The town has two major public recreation spaces: Pelletier Park (the beach on Cedar Lake, on West Main Street), and North Quarter Park (located on Main Street near the downtown). There is also a smaller, neighborhood swimming beach on the west side of Cedar Lake. Smoking is not permitted in any of these locations. Although there have been signs or postings at the lake parks for years, the signs have been recently refurbished. The signage "This is a Non-Smoking Property" is located on the Water St. building complex in the center of Chester, encompassing all offices and restaurants and shops on both floors in that complex, and the accompanying large parking lot on the property.

Partners: 10.3 Town of Chester Parks and Recreation Department.

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

10 Points

Approved Information: 11.1.2: Design and Implement Affordable Housing Plan, Worksheet 2 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [11.1.2_WORKSHEET 2](#)

PDF: [11.1.2_HOUSINGDATAPROFILE](#)

Documentation Details: Housing Data was discussed at Plan of Conservation and Development workshops and public hearings 2/25/19 and 3/7/19.

Partners: 11.1.2: RiverCOG, Milone & McBroom planners, Boards and Commissions, town residents, Gateway Commission, Chester Land Trust

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

5 Points

Approved Information: 13.1: Conducted a COVID-19 community needs survey and assistance project (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [EQUITY TOOLKIT AND SUMMARY OF PROJECT](#)

PDF: [JAN 26 TOWNWIDE COMMUNICATION](#)

PDF: [CONSTANT CONTACT VACCINE](#)

PDF: [TOWN HALL DEMOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS](#)

PDF: [VAMS ACCOUNT GUIDE](#)

WORD: [SCRIPT FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING](#)

PDF: [CHESTER POSTCARD DRAFT](#)

PDF: [PARTNER COORDINATION](#)

WORD: [BOS AND LONG TERM RECOVERY REPORT](#)

PDF: [CHESTER SURVEY RESULTS](#)

PDF: [VALLY COURIER ARTICLE 1](#)

PDF: [SOCIAL SERVICES ARTICLE](#)

PDF: [CHESTER SURVEY](#)

WORD: [ACCESS TO COVID VACCINE](#)

Documentation Details: 13.1 Chester Vaccine Project. Equity Toolkit contains comprehensive overview of project.

Partners: 13.1 Chester Vaccine Project. This was an "all hands on deck" project with many municipal and regional partners. - Long Term Recovery Team - Social Services, Spirituality and Wellness Subcommittee (now called Chester Community Partnership) - Residents - Masonicare at Chester Village - RiverCOG - ReOPEN Chester Committee - Middlesex Community Foundation - Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek - United Congregational Church - Chester - Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) - Essex Health Director - CT Department of Public Health - Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) - Elected Officials - Regional School District 4 Superintendent - Nutmeg Pharmacy, Higganum - Chester Merchants - Chester Town Clerk and Registrar - Chester Human Services Director - Cherry Hill Senior Apartments Manager/Owner