



Sustainable CT Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable CT Certification Report of Winchester, a Sustainable CT bronze certified applicant.

Winchester was certified on June 02, 2023 with 255 points. Listed below is information regarding Winchester's Sustainable CT efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable CT contact for Winchester is:

Name:	PAM COLOMBIE
Title/Position:	DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT / DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Phone:	860-738-6593

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Winchester was approved for in 2023 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Winchester, 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 for All Certification Levels

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.1 Optimize for Equity (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [1.1 OPTIMIZE FOR EQUITY WALK AUDIT REPORT](#)

PDF: [1.1 ATTACHMENT OF 6.5.3 WORKSHEET A](#)

PDF: [1.1 AUDIT FORM EXAMPLES 6.5.3](#)

Documentation Details: 1.1 Optimize for Equity is the summary document created to show how the Town of Winchester applied the Equity Toolkit to Action 6.5.3 related to conducting a pedestrian audit/survey.

Partners: 1.1: We partnered with many individuals in the Winchester community to complete this activity.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites

20 Points

Approved Information: 2.1.1 Create a municipal or regional brownfields inventory (10 points) 2.1.4 Prepare a grant proposal for site assessment or clean-up (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.1.4: EMAIL EVIDENCE OF GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION.](#)

PDF: [2.1.4: FINAL GRANT SUBMISSION DECD 2021 MUNICIPAL BROWNFIELDS](#)

PDF: [2.1.1: BROWNFIELD INVENTORY LIST \(SUSTAINABLE CT FORMAT\)](#)

PDF: [2.1.1: BROWNFIELDS INVENTORY \(CONDUCTED BY UCONN FOR WINCHESTER, 2022\)](#)

Documentation Details: 2.1.1: We have both attached the information you have requested in the template you provided as well as in a format compiled for us through a partnership with the University of Connecticut. 2.1.4: We have attached email evidence that our grant application was submitted and we have also attached the grant application itself.

Partners: 2.1.1 Complete brownfield inventory report with UCONN TAB. 2.1.4: Completed this work in partnership with Rista Malanca, Torrington Director of Economic Development.

Additional Information: 2.1.4: We submitted this and unfortunately were not granted the award we sought. The Town is currently partnering with a new property owner at that site for similar funding.

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1 Provide Watershed Education

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.3.1a Sponsor or host a program to educate residents and business owners in your community about the value of watersheds (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.1.1A: DESCRIPTION, EMAIL/ONLINE NOTICE, AND PICTURE EVIDENCE](#)

PDF: [HLWA NOTIFICATION OF ALLOCATED FUNDS FY 2023.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 3.1.1a: The attached documents include a short description of the event (page 1), a snapshot of the notice that went out via email and online, and pictures of both the speaker and the attendees. This was free and open to the public to attend.

Partners: 3.1.1: the Highland Lake Watershed Association.

Additional Information: On June 15, 2022, the Highland Lake Watershed Association sent out an email to 250 lake residents announcing their annual meeting and a presentation on invasive species by Gregory J. Bugbee, Associate Scientist of the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Sciences. The meeting was attended by over 100 people. Mr. Bugbee talked about invasive aquatic species prevention, the importance of inspecting watercraft and trailers for invasive aquatic plants when launching, and about viability of weed control by deep lake drawdowns. He also discussed preventing phosphorous from entering the lake by responsible fertilizing of lawns and not allowing the runoff from washing cars to enter the lake. This event was free and open to the public.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

5 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.2 Update Your Profile on CTVisit (5 points).

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [4.1.2 CTVISIT PROFILE BEFORE PICTURE #1](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.2 CTVISIT PROFILE BEFORE PICTURE #2](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.2 CTVISIT PROFILE AFTER PICTURE #1](#)

IMAGE: [4.1.2 CTVISIT PROFILE AFTER PICTURE #2](#)

Documentation Details: 4.1.2: two "before" and two "after" pictures are attached. The hyperlink to our CTVisit profile is: <https://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-winchesterwinsted>.

Partners: 4.1.2: CTVisit (Connecticut Office of Tourism).

Additional Information: 4.1.2: <https://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-winchesterwinsted> is the hyperlink needed to view this webpage.

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.4 Assess Climate Vulnerability

10 Points

Approved Information: 5.4.2 Host a Community Resilience Building Workshop (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.4.2 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SUMMARY OF FINDINGS](#)

Documentation Details: 5.4.2: The summary of findings is attached, in full.

Partners: 5.4.2: The Nature Conservancy was our partner in this endeavor.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

10 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.1 Sponsor or Host a ZEV Event (5 points) 6.4.5 Host an EVSE for Public Use (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [6.4.5: PICTURE OF EV CHARGING STATION AT 44 ELM STREET, WINSTED.](#)

PDF: [6.4.1: JUICEBAR EDUCATIONAL EVENT MINUTES](#)

PDF: [6.4.1: EARTHLIGHT EDUCATIONAL EVENT MINUTES](#)

Documentation Details: 6.4.1: We have attached minutes from the regular meetings of the Conservation Commission where educational sessions were held about electric vehicles. The first, held on June 9, 2022, was an educational session held at an open Conservation Commission meeting about electric vehicle charging stations with the company JuiceBar. The second, held on October 13, 2022, was with a presenter from Earthlight Technologies also about electric vehicle charging. Both events were advertised in advance and were open to the public. A recording of the first session can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cT9BFNrU3o>. 6.4.5: Attached is a picture of the EV Charging Station that we installed, which just went live on January 30, 2023. This is located at 44 Elm Street, Town-owned structure that was a former Bank of America building. It is currently used for storage and parking, but the Town is currently seeking grants to turn it into a Social Services Center that will put many town nonprofits under one roof, working together.

Partners: 6.4.1: we partnered with JuiceBar (company) and Earthlight (company). 6.4.5: None.

Additional Information: 6.4.5: Attached is a picture of the EV Charging Station that we installed, which just went live on January 30, 2023. This is located at 44 Elm Street, Town-owned structure that was a former Bank of America building. It is currently used for storage and parking, but the Town is currently seeking grants to turn it into a Social Services Center that will put many town nonprofits under one roof, working together.

6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

20 Points

Approved Information: 6.5.1 Public Transportation Education (5 points) 6.5.2 Bicycle Education Event (5 points) 6.5.3 Conduct a Walk Audit (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [6.5.1: WRITE-UP OF WINSTED SENIOR CENTER ACTIONS ON TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION](#)

PDF: [6.5.1: TITLE VI PUBLIC RIGHTS AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURE](#)

PDF: [6.5.1: WINSTED COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE](#)

PDF: [6.5.1: WINSTED PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS](#)

PDF: [6.5.1: WINSTED SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION EMAIL](#)

PDF: [6.5.1: WSC VAN FULL RIDER POLICY](#)

IMAGE: [6.5.1: READY TO RIDE](#)

PDF: [6.5.2 WRITE-UP](#)

PDF: [6.5.2 EVENT FLIER](#)

PDF: [6.5.2 EVENT WRITE-UP IN NEWSLETTER](#)

PDF: [6.5.3: WORKSHEET A](#)

PDF: [6.5.3: PEDESTRIAN WALK AUDIT REPORT](#)

PDF: [6.5.3 WALK AUDIT FORM EXAMPLES](#)

Documentation Details: 6.5.1: Several documents articulating the lengths the Winsted Senior Center (a part of the Town of Winchester) has gone to in an effort to promote alternate transit methods. 6.5.2: Multiple documents showing the advertising of the event and the holding of the event. 6.5.3: You will find our completed Walk Audit report, a completed Worksheet A, and examples of walk audit sheets that participants filled out through the process.

Partners: 6.5.1: We partner with our local Housing Authority to help spread the word of our alternate transportation opportunities. 6.5.2: the Town partnered with Fit Together, a local nonprofit organized by the Town of Winchester, Hartford Healthcare, and the YMCA. 6.5.3: The Town partnered with many individuals in the community to complete this walk audit.

Additional Information: 6.5.1: None. 6.5.2: The bike rally featured the Strider Adventure Zone Balance Bike Course, which helped to aim kids age 18 months to 6 years of age how to ride and provided free loaner bikes to help improve accessibility to the event. This event was held on the Sue Grossman Greenway, which at the time had been recently extended further into Winsted. This is an ideal place to bike and hold discussions about how to ride safely on a trail and on the street. 6.5.3: we also completed our Equity Toolkit on this item.

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.9 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program

15 Points

Approved Information: 7.9.1 Participate in and Promote C-PACE (5 points) 7.9.2 Encourage Local Building Owners to Access C-PACE Financing (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [7.9.1 ADOPTED CPACE RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [7.9.1 WINCHESTER SIGNED CPACE AGREEMENT](#)

IMAGE: [7.9.1 CPACE INFO ON WEBSITE](#)

PDF: [7.9.2 OUTREACH TO BUSINESS OWNERS FROM TOWN MANAGER ABOUT CPACE JANUARY 2022.PDF](#)

PDF: [7.9.2 OUTCOMES FROM OUTREACH](#)

Documentation Details: 7.9.1: Pass a municipal resolution to opt-into C-PACE (attached), sign a legal agreement with C-PACE (attached), and post a link to information about C-PACE on your website (attached) (5 Points) 7.9.2: Encourage local building owners to access C-PACE financing by conducting educational outreach to individual property owners (attached) and provide evidence of the outcomes (attached). (5 Points) Total Points Requested: 10

Partners: C-PACE was a partner through this process.

Additional Information: We have received word from C-PACE that three organizations in Winchester have approached them about using the C-PACE program since Winchester joined in January 2022.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

5 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Hold a Sustainability Event (5 Points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1.1 SUSTAINABILITY EVENT TEMPLATE COMPLETED](#)

PDF: [8.1.1 CLEANUP FLIER DEVELOPED BY TOWN AGENCY](#)

IMAGE: [8.1.1 EVIDENCE OF RIVER CLEAN UP](#)

IMAGE: [8.1.1 TRASH COLLECTED AT CLEANUP EVENT](#)

Documentation Details: The documents attached show evidence of the Fall Cleanup sustainability event being held, with the primary organizer being the Town Conservation Commission. The event had 75 participants and removed a tremendous amount of litter from our local ecosystem!

Partners: 8.1.1: Partnered with many local businesses and Friends of Main Street.

8.2 Provide Effective Community Communications

15 Points

Approved Information: 8.2.1a-b Provide effective community communications (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [8.2.1: COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY](#)

PDF: [8.2.1: WORKSHEET FOR COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY](#)

Documentation Details: The worksheet clearly shows where each requirement it met within the policy.

Partners: 8.2.1: None.

Additional Information: This was a great exercise to help us get organized with our communications! Thank you for the push.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.3 Recycle Additional Materials

40 Points

Approved Information: 9.3.1: Create infrastructure to recycle additional materials (40 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [9.3.1. EVIDENCE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM FOR EACH NON-MANDATED MATERIAL RECYCLED \(RRDD1 WEBSITE\)](#).

PDF: [9.3.1 ORDINANCE REFLECTING WINCHESTER'S JOINING OF RRDD1](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 RRDD1 INFORMATION](#)

PDF: [9.3.1 EVIDENCE OF EDUCATION \(TOWN WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA\)](#)

Documentation Details: 9.3.1: The RRDD1 Website document shows the products listed on the RRDD1 website that can be recycled at the facility that is not mandated by the State. The RRDD1 Information document outlines the key components of RRDD1 as an organization, including their annual report, which is requested by Sustainable CT. The Ordinance document shows Winchester's enabling ordinance that helped create RRDD1. The final document shows how we have conducted outreach to the Town through our website and on social media to educate people about these recycling opportunities.

Partners: 9.3.1: We created and now partner with the Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 to conduct these services; we also work with the Lion's Club to conduct eyeglass recycling. Town Hall allows the Lion's Club to accept eyeglasses for recycling not just at RRDD1, but also at Winchester Town Hall.

Additional Information: 9.3.1: While we understand that RRDD1 is a regional transfer station (created by ordinance by the Town of Winchester) and is therefore not perfectly accessible to all, we hope that you will take into account the fact that we offer assistance to those in need to get items brought to RRDD1.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.3.3: Adopt one or more policies designed to reduce tobacco use in your municipality (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [ANTI-SMOKING ORDINANCE LANGUAGE \(PAGE 34 - 37\)](#)

PDF: [MINUTES SHOWING ANTI-SMOKING ORDINANCE ADOPTION](#)

Documentation Details: The Town adopted an anti-smoking ordinance on June 6, 2022, which is more strict and prohibits smoking from occurring in more places than are required under the Connecticut General Statutes. One of the uploaded documents includes the Anti-Smoking Ordinance language that was adopted on pages 34-37, and the other shows the Minutes from that meeting which reflect that the ordinance was, in fact, adopted unanimously (see bottom of Page 2).

Partners: None.

10.5 Support Equitable Food Access and Local Farmers

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.5.1 Host a Farmers Market (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [10.5.1: PHOTO & ONLINE EVIDENCE](#)

Documentation Details: The attached document provides photo evidence, evidence of social media promotion, and a list of dates when the event was held!

Partners: 10.5.1: We partnered with Paws & Reflect (private business) to host and promote the event. Many farmers and artisans were a part of the collaboration.

Additional Information: 10.5.1: we are also planning to apply for a large grant to support the farmers market going forward, stay tuned!

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

20 Points

Approved Information: 11.1.1 Create a housing committee with diverse membership (10 points) 11.1.2 Create, expand or maintain your community's housing data profile (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [11.1 WINCHESTER HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PLAN FINAL](#)

PDF: [11.1.1 EVIDENCE OF HOUSING COMMITTEE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#)

PDF: [11.1.1 HOUSING COMMITTEE AGENDA SEPT 2022](#)

PDF: [11.1.1 LIST OF NAMES AND TITLES ON HOUSING COMMITTEE AND DESCRIPTION OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS/TIMELINE](#)

PDF: [11.1.4: EMAIL DISTRIBUTING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PLAN](#)

PDF: [11.1 PFSC HOUSING DATA PROFILE.PDF](#)

PDF: [11.1.2 WORKSHEET](#)

Documentation Details: We have divided the materials required for each subcategory into separate documents, sometimes repeating ourselves so that you can have all the documentation you require for each subaction in documents labeled as such. We hope this will suffice!

Partners: 11.1.1: None. 11.1.2: None. 11.1.4: None.

Additional Information: 11.1.2: This data has been presented to the Board of Selectmen on a rolling basis, most recently in February 2023 in the report made by the Director of Social Services.

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

12.1 Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness

5 Points

Approved Information: 12.2.1a Designate a municipal employee, elected leader, other individual officially designated by the municipality to serve as the liaison for homeless services in your municipality (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [REQUIRED SCREENSHOT, HYPERLINK, AND DESCRIPTION](#)

Documentation Details: The attached document includes the required screenshot of the webpage that articulates that Katie Vaill is our municipal point-of-contact for homelessness, a hyperlink that leads to that page, and a short description of the relationship Katie has built with the Sustainability Team thus far.

Partners: None.

12.2 Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness

5 Points

Approved Information: 12.2.3 Organize one or more community conversations or forums annually with a broad group of stakeholders to discuss homelessness in your community (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [12.2.3: COMPLETED WORKSHEET](#)

IMAGE: [12.2.3 PHOTO OF NEWS ARTICLE #1](#)

IMAGE: [12.2.3 PHOTO OF NEWS ARTICLE #2](#)

Documentation Details: 12.2.3: We have attached the required worksheet, completed, and two photos of a news article written about the forum after the forum was held.

Partners: 12.2.3: Partners included state legislators, area nonprofits, and more.

Additional Information: 12.2.3: The event was held on February 17, 2023.

12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data

10 Points

Approved Information: 12.3.1 Have your homelessness municipal liaison or Task Force compile collected information on all individuals and families in your municipality experiencing literal homelessness (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [12.3.1 COMPILED HOMELESSNESS DATA](#)

PDF: [12.3.1 PRESENTATION TO THE NORTHWEST CAN](#)

Documentation Details: We have included a write-up that addresses the submission requirements.

Partners: 12.3.1: Our Director of Social Services works with many different nonprofits and other agencies around the state to compile data.

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

30 Points

Approved Information: 13.1.1 Collaborate within your community or take a regional approach to implementing a sustainability action (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): BUSINESS START-UP PROGRAM INFO SHEET & APPLICATION](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM INFO SHEET & APPLICATION](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): JANUARY 2022 PRESS CONFERENCE SCRIPT](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): JANUARY 2022 PRESS RELEASE ABOUT BUSINESS START-UP & FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): BUSINESS START-UP & FACADE ROUND 1 AWARDS PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#1\): BUSINESS START-UP & FACADE ROUND 2 AWARDS PRESS RELEASE](#)

PDF: [13.1.1 \(#2\): ANIMAL HOARDING RESPONSE NEWS ARTICLES & SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS](#)

Documentation Details: 13.1.1 (#1): For submission #1, we have included the info/application sheets and press releases related to the launching of our Facade Improvement Program and our Business Start-Up program in early 2022, which has helped open about a dozen new businesses in town, bring over two dozen new jobs to town, and invest over \$1.8 million in our downtown corridor. 13.1.1 (#2): For submission #2, we have included a series of news articles, a link to a video, and social media screenshots to demonstrate the actions taken by the Town to act to improve animal health and welfare in the face of horrific circumstances.

Partners: 13.1.1 (#1): partners include the Building Healthier Communities Fund, where funds are provided by Hartford Healthcare through a local community foundation. They provided \$150,000 of the total \$350,000 that was provided to the public as part of these two programs. 13.1.1 (#2): partners included the State of

Connecticut, a myriad of nonprofit cat shelters, hundreds of community members, and ten other municipal animal control agencies.

Additional Information: 13.1.1 (#1): The Town of Winchester decided to use \$150,000 from a grant from the Building Healthier Communities Fund along with another \$200,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money received by the Town to invest in our local businesses to grow a more sustainable and energized economy. \$250,000 was given in Facade Improvement Program dollars to improve physical structures in the downtown core and \$100,000 was given in the Business Start-Up Program to help new businesses come to town. With matching funds required, we have leveraged an investment of over \$1.8 million in the Town's physical structures, we've gained dozens of jobs, and we've seen around a dozen new businesses open with the help of our programs. This was a huge success, it was very innovative and holistic, and it will pay dividends for years to come. We hope you see fit to award 20 points to this action. 13.1.1 (#2): In June/July 2022, the Town of Winchester was faced with the largest animal hoarding situation in the state's history. A family of eight (6 adults, 2 children) were keeping 190 cats (not including kittens born after the rescue occurred), 2 dogs, and a ferret in their 1,300 square foot home. Conditions were unimaginable: all cats had raspatory infections and most also had eye infections, some were unable to walk or had been paralyzed, all had fleas, all had ringworm and some had tapeworms as well. Of the 190 cats, 27 required urgent care upon rescue in order to stabilize their conditions. None of the cats were spayed or neutered. Other horrors faced these animals as well - some of which are terrible enough that I won't say more in this write-up. This situation was brought to the Town's attention, and within 48 hours we had assembled a rescue team that involved multiple Town departments, multiple towns responding, representatives from the State of Connecticut assisting, and dozens of additional volunteers from throughout the State. The Town was not required to respond in this manner, but we chose to act decisively to protect and restore the health and welfare of the animals and people within the house. We made arrangements to have the two dogs brought to a rescue immediately, and we made room at the Batcheller Elementary School to house the cats and ferret. We paid to have a vet and two vet techs on site as the cats were brought in to administer medicine and vaccinations quickly. We worked hard to get the cats to nonprofit agencies that could take care of them in more proper facilities, but many cats stayed in the Town's care for a full month. Volunteers worked in three shifts each day to provide the cats and ferret with food, water, medicine, and company. Eventually, all cats were either adopted directly or were taken in by nonprofits that committed to helping the animals. We even had one cat that was unable to walk at the time of rescue regain its ability to walk after several months of rehabilitation. Many more kittens were born from these cats after the rescue occurred, and those kittens have also all been adopted, too. In the end, only one cat didn't make it, a feat considering we had so many in critical condition at the start. This was a real test of the Town's endurance, administrative capacity, and heart - I like to think we passed that test with flying colors. This action brought together the community, brought to light issues of animal hoarding in the public's eye, gave us the opportunity to save nearly 200 animal's lives, and also gave us the opportunity to relocate and spay and neuter these pets so as to stop the spread of FIV in the local cat population. I believe that this was a tremendous sustainability action on the Town's part, and we request that the Town be awarded 20 points for the effort.