



Sustainable CT Community Certification Report

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

Cheshire was certified on October 01, 2025 with 265 points. Listed below is information regarding Cheshire's Sustainable CT efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable CT contact for Cheshire is:

Name:	RAY HARRIS
Title/Position:	DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS / PUBLIC WORKS
Address:	84 SOUTH MAIN ST. CHESHIRE, CT 06410
Phone:	203 271-6654

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Cheshire was approved for in 2025 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Cheshire, 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 - Cheshire Trail Trekkers (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [CHESHIRE TRAIL TREKKERS TRIFOLD BROCHURE.PDF](#)

PDF: [CHESHIRE TRAILER TREKKERS READY TO 'MARCH INTO MARCH' _ CHESHIRE, CT PATCH_2023.PDF](#)

PDF: [CTT_LOG OF EVENTS_2022-2024 \(1\).PDF](#)

WORD: [1.1.1_ACTION_8.1.1_OPTIMIZE FOR EQUITY_NARRATIVE_2025_REVISED.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: Item #1 - Action 1.1.1 - Optimize for Equity Narrative Item #2 - Promotional Brochure for Cheshire Trail Trekkers Item # 3 - Newspaper coverage of Cheshire Trail Trekkers & call for inclusion/involvement Item # 4 - List of CTT walks (May 2022 to March of 2024)

Partners: Action 1.1.1 - Municipal and Community Partners (the attached narrative contains a detailed description of involvement): Stefanie Theroux Senior Center, Director John Gawlak Parks and Recreation, Director Elizabeth Mayne Parks and Recreation, Recreation Program Supervisor Beth Piezzo/Sandra Hernandez Director, Cheshire Public Library Over time, the CTT involved many local organizations in town, who all assisted with the organization of walks and promotion: • Environment Commission • Inland Wetlands Commission • Friends of Cheshire Library • Cheshire Historical Society • Historical Commission • Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire • The Cheshire Senior Center • Cheshire Land Trust • Scout Troops • Parks and Recreation Department • Cheshire Land Trust • Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society – Riverbound Farm Sanctuary • Cheshire Public Library

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.2 (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [2.3 BUY LOCAL WORKSHEET](#)

PDF: [SUPPORT LOCAL FLYER](#)

Documentation Details: 2.3.2 Worksheet: This explains the basics of the program. (I do not think the links to the videos in the worksheet are functional - you will probably need to go to the Town of Cheshire website to find the active links to the videos) Supporting materials include local newspaper advertisements and copies of the "shop local" and "eat local" signs distributed to merchants in town 2.3.2 - New action credit, buy local campaign ads appeared in Fall 2020.

Partners: 2.3.2 - Cheshire Chamber of Commerce , Bozzuto's Inc (they donated the videographer and editing time and facilities to produce the videos), Town of Cheshire Economic Development Commission

Additional Information: This is just the latest program that is a collaboration between the Town of Cheshire Economic Development Commission and the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce - these groups work together regularly on issues of importance to the town.

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1 Provide Watershed Education

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.1.1b (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [MEDALLION](#)

IMAGE: [VOLUNTEERS NEEDED](#)

IMAGE: [AUGUST 8 2023 STORM DRAIN PROJECT](#)

IMAGE: [AUGUST 2023 STORM DRAIN PROJECT](#)

Documentation Details: 3.11a Medallions for the Mill River Watershed neighborhood storm drains

Partners: 3.1.1a Medallions for the Storm Drains was an event put together by the Cheshire Department of Public Works, Cheshire Pollinator Pathway, Mill River Watershed Association, and Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire, where informative medallions were affixed to storm drains, with permission from the town.

3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.4.1 (10 points) 3.4.4b (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [CHESHIRE RESOLUTION OPEN SPACE APPROPRIATION 23-24.PDF](#)

PDF: [CHESHIRE HISTORICAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES LAND ACQUISITION.PDF](#)

EXCEL: [3.4.1_CHESHIRE_OPENSACEINVENTORY.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: 3.4.4b Cheshire Resolution - open space appropriation 23-24 This document shows Cheshire's monetary commitment to purchasing open space for fiscal year 2023-2024. 3.4.4b Cheshire Historical capital expenditures Land Expenditures shows Cheshire's total expenditures for open space from 1985 to 2022.

Partners: The Town of Cheshire is currently working on its new Plan of Conservation And Development. In the meantime, they do make a yearly monetary commitment to purchase open space.

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.10.3.a Hyperlink to Invasive Plant Resources. 3.10.3.a Screenshot of Town Website with link to Invasive Plant Resources (5 points total) 3.10.2 Invasive Plant Management in Cheshire (15 points total) 3.10.2 Picture of Trail Steward with bagged Japanese Knotweed 3.10.2 Picture of bagged Japanese Knotweed waiting for pick up

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [ENV COM WITH INVASIVE PLANTS LINK SCREENSHOT-1752168746845.PNG](#)

WORD: [HYPERLINK TO INVASIVE PLANT RESOURCES CHESHIRE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [SUSTAINABLECT 13.10.2 INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [BETSY WITH BAGGED INVASIVES IMG_4278.JPEG](#)

IMAGE: [BAGGED INVASIVES IMG_3851.JPEG](#)

Documentation Details: I had trouble attaching the hyperlink, so I have saved it in a word document and attached that.

Partners: 3.10.3 (Facilitate Invasive Species Education) This was something the Environment Commission asked the Town to do, and the Town agreed. 3.10.2 The Environment Commission, along with citizens and other groups in Cheshire, have long wanted to do invasive plant management and litter pick up on Town Open Space Properties. At last, with the support of the Town Manager and the Director of Parks and Recreation, we have the ability to do this. The Town Public Works Department accommodates our requests to pick up the bagged invasives.

3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

20 Points

Approved Information: 3.12.1 (5 points) 3.12.2 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.12.2 POLLINATOR PATHWAY GARDENS DESCRIPTION AND INFO](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 CHESHIRE ORIGINAL GARDEN PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 LOCK 12 GARDEN PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 WEST MAIN GARDENS PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CHESHIRE FALL FESTIVAL BOOTH PHOTO](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NATIVE PLANT GIVEAWAY PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH CLCC EVENT PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EDUCATIONAL SIGN AT ORIGINAL GARDEN PHOTO](#)

WORD: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH NEW SIGN WITH QR CODE AT WEST MAIN GARDEN](#)

WORD: [3.12.2 POLLINATOR GARDENS PLANT LIST FOR CHESHIRE POLLINATOR PATHWAY GARDENS](#)

IMAGE: [3.12.1 EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PLANT SCIENCE DAY PHOTO](#)

Documentation Details: Pollinator Pathway Gardens describes each garden and how those sites were selected. I have tried to name the rest of the documents so it is easy to tell what they are.

Partners: 3.12.1 Pollinator Pathways, provide education: We partner with other local organizations to find, schedule, and promote educational events. These organizations include Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire, Cheshire Creation Care, First Church Eco Action Team, Friends of Boulder Knoll, and Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society, among others. 3.12.2 Pollinator Pathways, create a garden: We partner with the Town of Cheshire, who has given us permission to have these gardens on Town property. We also partner with Cheshire Parks and Rec and Cheshire Public Works, who help us by mowing, removing debris, and providing access to water for the gardens. We are always happy to partner with students looking for community service hours and businesses doing community give-back days.

Additional Information: These are serious pollinator gardens, with native spring ephemerals, native perennials and native shrubs. We also plant bright, attractive annuals along the edges of the gardens. These attract pollinators, and also show the public that native plant gardens can be attractive. Additionally, we had several other events over the past year: Kelsey Fisher did a program on Monarch Butterflies in 5/2024, a Citizen Science Native Bee survey was done with The CT Ag Exp Station 2024 by Dr. Breahna Gillespie, and we had a zoom presentation with Heather Holm (4/2024) about native bees

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture

30 Points

Approved Information: 4.2.1 - Establish a Poet Laureate (10 points) 4.2.2 - Include arts and culture in publicly available municipal marketing (printed or web-based) (5 points) 4.2.3 - Commit Dedicated Funding to the Arts (10 points) 4.2.5 - Establish a Cultural Arts Office or Culture Department/Council (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [4.2.5 - SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE - ESTABLISH AN ARTS AND CULTURE DEPARTMENT.PDF](#)

PDF: [4.2.5 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE - CHESHIRE PERFORMING AND FINE ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING 6_17_2025.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [4.2.2 TOWN WEBSITE SHOWING ARTSPLACE DEPT..PNG](#)

PDF: [4.2.10 SCREENSHOTS + HYPERLINK.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [4.2.1 DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT POET LAUREATE.PNG](#)

PDF: [4.2.3 ARTSPLACE BUDGET FY 2025.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [4.2.1 TOWN WEBSITE WITH LINK TO POET LAUREATE DEPARTMENT.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: 4.2.1 Screenshots of description of Town Poet Laureate and Town Webpage 4.2.2 Town Website: Screenshots of material and information on Artsplace that appears on the Town of Cheshire website 4.2.3 Budget: Town of Cheshire 2025-2026 budget exhibiting municipal funds dedicated to arts 4.2.5: Recent agenda for Town of Cheshire Performing and Fine Arts Committee 4.2.10 Library Art Event: Screenshot of specific art focused event offered by the local library 4.2.10: Calendar: Full Library calendar of events from the last year 4.2.2 - New Credit, current website 4.2.3 - New Credit, FY 2020-2021 budget 4.2.5 - New Credit, Written by Director 2021 4.2.10 - New Credit, Library Events of 2025

Partners: 4.2.2 Collaboration between Artsplace, Cheshire Public Library, and Town of Cheshire 4.2.3 Collaboration between Artsplace, Cheshire Public Library, and Town of Cheshire 4.2.5 Collaboration between Artsplace, Cheshire Public Library, and Town of Cheshire 4.2.10 Collaboration between Artsplace and Cheshire Public Library

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices

20 Points

Approved Information: 5.3.1 Farming zoning regulations (20 pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.3. ZONING REGS 2020.PDF](#)

PDF: [5.3.1 CONFIRMATION MEMO.PDF](#)

PDF: [FOBK LEASE 2022-2025.PDF](#)

WORD: [5.3.2 - BOULDER KNOLL FARM_SAMPLE OF EDUC MATERIALS.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 5.3.1: Current Zoning regulations document of the Town of Cheshire. Originally adopted in 1970 but with amendments through 2012. Section 30 (subparts 21, 22, 23, 24) refers specifically to farming allowances. Cheshire is nicknamed, "The Bedding Plant Capital of Connecticut" for the amount of nursery operations. (Should we update this??) 5.3.2.: Current land lease document with signatures of Town Manager and Non-Profit President 5.3.2 Document includes link to Friends of Boulder Knoll website, sample FBK email, and sample FBK community composting announcement 5.3.1: Rolling Credit, Continued allowance for farming within town limits, zoning regs amended 2012, reviewed 5/7/2021 by Arnett Talbott, Assistant Town Manager; see 5.3.1 confirmation memo for details 5.3.2: New Credit, Active agricultural use of municipal land. Three year lease renewal signed Fall 2019, in effect Jan 1, 2020 to Dec 31, 2022

Partners: 5.3.2: The Friends of Boulder Knoll, the operating non-profit of Boulder Knoll farm provided the lease information to us. They are the direct land lessee from the municipality. Friends of Boulder Knoll is a partner organization with the Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire, the group which spearheaded the Sustainable CT municipal resolution.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

5 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.2 Have at least one municipal elected official and/or staff member and/or member of a relevant commission participate in a training related to electrification of municipal vehicles (5 points).

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [EV-SEMINAR-FLYER-CRCOG PROGRAM.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: 6.4.2 The documents provides a description of the event that was attended and what was discussed, as well as the date of the event. The event was hosted by the Capitol Region COG. The event was attended by Ray Harris, Deputy Director of Public Works. Topics included EV charging station grants available, as well as general discussion of types of chargers and the current climate in Connecticut for charging infrastructure.

Partners: 6.4.2 - none

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.9 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program

25 Points

Approved Information: 7.9.1 (20 points) 7.9.3 (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.6.1 C-PACE RESOLUTION](#)

PDF: [2.6.1 C-PACE LINK POSTED ON TOWN OF CHESHIRE WEBSITE](#)

EXCEL: [7.9.3 CHESHIRE CPACE PROJECTS 2022 ONWARD.XLSX](#)

IMAGE: [7.9.1 CPACE SCREENSHOT.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: 2.6.1 1st page of pdf has approval of C-PACE program last page of link pdf has the actual link as seen on Town of Cheshire website 2.6.1 New Action Credit. Town Council passed resolution 6-2 on 9/9/14. Assistant Town Manager, Arnett Talbot posted information about the C-Pace Program on the Cheshire Town Website on 12/14/21. Current link to CPACE on website:
<https://www.cheshirect.gov/191/Economic-Development>

Partners: 2.6.1 Town Council passed the resolution & Assistant Town Manager, Arnett Talbot reviewed the resolution and posted on the town's website.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

20 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Hold a sustainability event (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1 SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS 2022-2025 CHESHIRE.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: 8.1 The attached "Hold a Sustainability Event" template contains descriptions of 21 events held in Cheshire during the past three years.

Partners: 8.1 See the template for a complete list of partners for specific actions--partners included Cheshire Pollinator Pathway, Friends of Boulder Knoll Farm, the Town of Cheshire, Mill River Watershed Association, Partnership for Strong Communities, Bike Cheshire, Cheshire Art League, Rotary, Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire, Cheshire Land Trust, Save the Sound, Ball and Socket Arts, Cheshire Public Library, Cheshire Parks and Recreation, Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, to name but a few.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.4 Compost Organic Waste

30 Points

Approved Information: 9.4.1 (30 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [MINUTES OF 8-5-2024 SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING FINAL.PDF](#)

PDF: [MINUTES OF 6-17-2025 SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING.PDF](#)

PDF: [CPS_COMPOST_PROGRAM_2025.PDF](#)

PDF: [TC REGULAR MTG MINUTES 2_11_2025.PDF](#)

PDF: [TOWN COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA 1_21_2025.PDF](#)

PDF: [BOULDER_KNOLL_FARM_COMPOST_JAN_2025.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [BOULDER_KNOLL_FARM_COMPOST_APRIL_2025_1.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [BOULDER_KNOLL_FARM_COMPOST_APRIL_2025_2.JPG](#)

IMAGE: [BOULDER_KNOLL_FARM_COMPOST_APRIL_2025_3.JPG](#)

Documentation Details: 9.4.1 - Cheshire Public Schools Food Waste Diversion Program: Attached are meeting minutes from the Town Council's Sustainability Committee--the minutes from 8/5/2024 provide an overview of the food waste diversion program pilot that began in January of 2024 at Chapman Elementary School. The minutes from 6/17/2025 provide an overview of the expansion of the food waste diversion program to Doolittle Elementary School and a proposal for expanding further to Dodd Middle School in Fall of 2025. The CPS Compost program handout provides an overview of all three school programs that have been supported with NEF funds. 9.4.1 - Boulder Knoll Farm Compost Facility: Boulder Knoll Farm attended the 1/21/2025 Town Council's Sustainability Committee Meeting (agenda attached) and shared a proposal to build a public community composting station where Cheshire residents can compost their food waste. Boulder Knoll Farm is a local non-profit that operates community gardens on town-owned land. Also attached are minutes from the 2/11/2025 Town Council Meeting, where the Town Council voted 5 to 1 to support using \$5,000 of NEF funds to support Boulder Knoll Farm in building the public community composting station (see agenda item letter I). The station will serve as a pilot to assess community interest in and support of food waste diversion. The final 3 documents contain pictures from the compost facility, which opened to the public in April 2025.

Partners: 9.4 Chief Finance Officer - Cheshire Public Schools - Vincent Masciana 9.4 Food Services Director - Cheshire Public Schools - Erica Biagetti 9.4 Coalition for Sustainable Cheshire 9.4 Friends of Boulder Knoll Farm (Cheshire Community Garden) 9.4 Town Council - Sustainability Committee 9.4 Board of Education 9.4 Assistant Town Manager - Arnett Talbot and Andrew Martelli 9.4 Sustainability Liaison - Department of Public Works - Ray Harris 9.4 Blue Earth Compost - Sam King 9.4 Peel and Wheels Composting - Domingo Medina

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1 (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [BOULDER KNOLL FOR SUSTAINABLECT.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [VIEW OF THE FARM IMG_0139.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [WELCOME TO BKF IMG_0134.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [BOULDER KNOLL GREENHOUSE IMG_0129.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [CHESHIRE PP AT BOULDER KNOLL IMG_0130.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [NATIVE PERENIALS AT BKF IMG_0132.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [GROWING TO SHARE AT BKF IMG_0140.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [INFORMATIONAL KIOSK AT BKF IMG_0131.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [SOLAR POWERED COMPOSTING AT BKF IMG_0137.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [CUT FLOWER BED AT BKF IMG_0133.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: Boulder Knoll for SustainableCT is a description of Boulder Knoll Farm and how it works based on information from their website and from the Friends of Boulder Knoll Farm.

Partners: Boulder Knoll Farm is situated on municipal property and is run by Friends of Boulder Knoll Community Garden.

Additional Information: They work to support food pantries in the area and educate neighbors on good farming practices. They have recently partnered with The Cheshire Pollinator Pathway to grow native perennials and shrubs. This year Boulder Knoll will be the host site for Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshires Sustainability Fair. Boulder Knoll has also installed a solar-powered composting facility that all Cheshire residents can use.

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.3 Implement Policy for Sustainable, Diverse Housing Options

20 Points

Approved Information: 11.3.2 (20 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [CHESHIRE-ZONING-REGULATIONS-PDF.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 11.3.2: See page 23 of the Cheshire Zoning Regulations for the definition of family. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Martelli verified the attached town zoning regulations are the current regulations 9/22/2025.

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

12.2 Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness

5 Points

Approved Information: 12.2.3 (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [HFON_WEBSITE.PDF](#)

WORD: [HFON_COMMUNITY_EVENT.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: In Spring of 2025, Hope For Our Neighbors (HFON) a new non-profit was formed with the mission to improve education about as well as communication with and resources for unhoused neighbors in the Cheshire community. The attached document briefly describes their launch event and the pdf provides a few pages from their website.

Partners: Director of Human Services, Chief of Police, YMCA, Town Council