



Sustainable CT Actions with Benefits for COVID-19 Response, Long-Term Resilience and Sustainability

For free support resources to implement these actions, contact info@sustainablect.org.

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 [Optimize for Equity](#) – Building upon lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis, create more connected, inclusive, equitable, and resilient communities. Contact info@sustainablect.org to get started on this work with a Sustainable CT Equity Coach.

1.2 [Participate in Equity Training](#) – Have a cohort from your town collectively attend a virtual series of [Sustainable CT-provided trainings on equity](#).

1.3 [Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity](#) – Develop, adopt and publicly share a statement on your community’s shared vision for equity.

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 [Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options](#) – Develop, implement, and maintain an ongoing “buy local” campaign to support local businesses.

2.4 [Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses](#) – Host (virtual) business roundtable(s) with municipal officials to support dialogue. Building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis, create a toolkit for resiliency, including pre-disaster business preparedness.

2.6 [Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program](#) – Encourage local business owners to access C-PACE financing to reduce energy use and costs.

3. Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.4 [Develop an Open Space Plan](#) – COVID-19 has placed increased pressure on parks, forests, and other open spaces, important to fostering physical and emotional well-being. Inventory existing open spaces and plan for additional open space protection.

3.9 [Manage Woodlands and Urban Forests](#) – Take action to keep your woodlands and forests healthy and thriving.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 [Map Tourism and Cultural Assets](#) – Prepare for the end to physical distancing by identifying tourism and cultural assets, which make our communities stronger and richer. Be ready to promote these assets through your website and CTVisit.

4.2 [Support Arts and Creative Culture](#) – Develop programs to support artists, a sector that has been significantly impacted by physical distancing (e.g., Poet Laureate, arts districts, promotion of virtual arts events, recognition programs).

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.4 [Assess Climate Vulnerability](#) – Identify how the secondary impacts of climate change (including public health) are likely to affect your community, with special consideration to vulnerable communities (elderly, health risk, refugee, low income, etc.). Sustainable CT offers support for communities to assess their climate vulnerability through [Community Resilience Building Workshops](#) run by the Nature Conservancy.

5.7 [Plan for Long-Term Recovery](#) – As your community responds to COVID-19, identify a long-term recovery manager and establish a long-term recovery committee.

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.3 [Encourage Smart Commuting](#) – Implement strategies to establish a telework program for the longer term or in times of crisis.

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.1 [Benchmark and Track Energy Use](#) – Benchmark and track energy use so you can prepare to use Energize CT programs to reduce energy use and costs in the future. Contact info@sustainablect.org for free support to establish Energy Star Portfolio Manager accounts for your municipal buildings and schools and establish automated data transfer of electricity and natural gas data.

7.5 [Develop a Municipal Energy Plan](#) - Develop a residential and business energy plan, to help residents and businesses reduce energy use and save money as they recover economically.

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.2 [Provide Effective Community Communications](#) – Develop broader communications strategies that accommodate physical distancing, including creative strategies to communicate with residents that do not have access to computers and internet.

8.4 [Support Community Match Fund \(CMF\) Project and Civic Engagement](#) – Initiate sustainability projects that support your community while physical distancing (e.g., planting community gardens and sharing local produce, planting trees). Contact info@sustainablect.org to find out more and start a Community Match Fund Project.

8.5 [Collaborate with Other Municipalities](#) – Mentor to, or seek a mentorship with, other towns on implementation of Sustainable CT actions, or participate with other towns or organizations in the inventory, planning, or implementation of any Sustainable CT action.

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.4 [Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste](#) – Improve public health and food security by recovering food scraps and preventing food waste.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.1 [Encourage Healthy and Sustainable Food Networks](#) – Using lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis about the importance of access for all to healthy foods, conduct a community food assessment.

10.2 [Conduct Health Impact Assessments](#) – Conduct a health impact assessment on proposed projects, initiatives and policies going forward, with particular attention to the impacts of COVID-19.

10.3 [Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces](#) – To improve and protect the respiratory health of residents, conduct smoking and tobacco reduction education in schools, or place smoke-free and tobacco-free signage in public recreation areas.

10.4 [Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces](#) – Using lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis about the importance of supporting the mental and physical health of residents, provide opportunities for residents to engage in (physically distanced) local farming and gardening.

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.2 [Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options](#) – Ensure housing for all.

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

Improve equity outcomes and prevent the spread of illness by supporting efforts to end homelessness in your community.