



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

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

1. Thriving Local Economies

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

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

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

2. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

2.4 [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.

2.9 [Manage Woodlands and Forests](#) - Take action to keep your woodlands and forests healthy and thriving.

3. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

3.1 [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.

3.2 [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).

4. Dynamic & Resilient Planning

4.4 [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.

4.7 [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.

5. Clean & Diverse Transportation Systems

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

6. Effective Physical Infrastructure & Operations

6.1 [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.

6.5 [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.

7. Strategic & Inclusive Public Services

7.2 [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.

7.4 [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.

7.9 [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.

8. Healthy, Efficient, & Diverse Housing

8.2 [Grow Sustainable Affordable Housing Options](#), to ensure housing for all.

9. Inclusive & Equitable Communities

9.1 [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.

10. Innovation Action

10.2 [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.