



## Accessible Actions Within the Sustainable CT Roadmap

Sustainable CT was created by towns, for towns. Our menu of actions was designed and continues to evolve to ensure a pathway to certification for every Connecticut municipality through an expansive ladder of opportunity. If your community is just getting started with Sustainable CT or has limited resources/capacity to complete Sustainable CT actions, please find an illustrative list below of accessible actions (the first ‘rung’ in the ladder of opportunity) within the Sustainable CT roadmap, though feasibility and relevance may vary by community.

Here are some simple tips for success in completing Sustainable CT actions:

- Many events or trainings can be hosted or attended virtually. Pre-recorded webinars are a great learning resource for any topic.
- You can often use existing committees or groups to satisfy action requirements.
- A good first step to many actions is taking stock of where you currently stand. Review existing inventories, plans, programs, and policies first—you may have already completed an action!
- Share your stuff! Post town resources online and share educational resources about the sustainability/Sustainable CT action topics that mean the most to you.

### 1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 [Optimize for Equity](#) – Complete and apply Sustainable CT’s [Equity Toolkit](#) to ANY action within the Sustainable CT roadmap. Contact [info@sustainablect.org](mailto:info@sustainablect.org) to work with a Sustainable CT Equity Coach. **Example:** [Town of Ashford’s Equity Toolkit](#).

### 2. Thriving Local Economies

2.2 [Implement Sustainable Purchasing](#) – Participate in a training and/or adopt a sustainable purchasing policy. Visit the Ecology Center’s [sustainable procurement policy implementation guidance](#).

2.3 [Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options](#) – Inventory local retail options and/or implement an ongoing “buy local” campaign. **Example:** [Town of Ashford’s Local Retail Inventory](#).

2.6 [Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program](#) – Pass a resolution to opt-in to C-PACE.

### 3. Well Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.1 [Provide Watershed Education](#) – Implement a signage program in your town and/or encourage citizens and business owners to take a watershed health pledge. **Example:** [Town of Hebron’s Online Watershed Health Pledge](#).

3.4 [Develop an Open Space Plan](#) – Inventory open space and/or prioritize natural resources for protection. **Example:** [Town of Bolton’s Prioritized Resources for Protection](#).

3.5 [Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory](#) – Develop a town-wide inventory and maps using data layers provided by [CT ECO](#) and [UConn CLEAR](#) and integrate into relevant municipal planning documents. **Example:** [Town of Cornwall’s Natural Resource Inventories](#).

3.7 [Provide Education on Water Conservation](#) – Host a workshop or disseminate water conservation education materials. **Example:** [Town of Woodbury’s Rain Barrel Education Materials](#).

3.8 [Implement Low Impact Development](#) – Develop and distribute educational materials on LID practices and their benefits, through the town website or other means. **Example:** [Town of Old Lyme’s Website Resources for Low Impact Development \(LID\) Education](#).

- 3.10 [Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management](#) – On your municipal website, post invasive species education resources that outline identification and removal techniques. **Example:** [Town of Old Lyme’s Website Resources for Invasive Species Education](#).
- 3.11 [Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program](#) – Complete an inventory for properties maintained by your municipality.
- 3.12 [Enhance Pollinator Pathways](#) – Provide education to residents and local businesses to improve pollinator habitat, plant pollinator gardens, or pass a Pollinator Friendly Community resolution.
- 3.13 [Promote Dark Skies](#) – Conduct public education and outreach related to light pollution.

## 4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

- 4.1 [Map Tourism and Cultural Assets](#) - Update your profile on CTVisit.
- 4.2 [Support Arts and Creative Culture](#) – Establish a Poet Laureate and/or include arts and culture in publicly available municipal marketing. **Example:** [Town of Roxbury’s Arts and Culture Marketing](#).

## 5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

- 5.3 [Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices](#) – Promote active agricultural use of municipal land or provide outreach on [CT Farmlink](#). **Example:** [Town of Coventry’s Right to Farm Ordinance](#).
- 5.5 [Inventory and Assess Historic Resources](#) – Identify priority historic assets within your community and actions required to sustain their long-term viability, or achieve Certified Local Government status. **Example:** [Roxbury’s Historic Resources Inventory](#).

## 6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

- 6.1 [Implement Complete Streets](#) – Attend a training and/or adopt a policy and/or complete projects. Explore previously recorded [webinars from the National Complete Streets Coalition](#).
- 6.3 [Encourage Smart Commuting](#) – Achieve silver or gold status in the CTRides Transportation Leaders Program or complete 5 activities from the Sustainable CT-provided [checklist](#).
- 6.5 [Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies](#) – Educate residents about alternative routes and transportation methods, including bicycle education. **Example:** [Town of Essex’s Public Transit Education](#).
- 6.6 [Manage Municipal Fleets](#) - Inventory your town’s existing municipally owned fleet. **Example:** [Town of Scotland’s Fleet Inventory](#).

## 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.
- 7.6 [Install Efficient Exterior Lighting](#) – Initiate a conversation with your utility to plan and convert utility-owned streetlights to be more efficient. **Example:** [Town of Scotland’s LED Conversion Contract](#).
- 7.7 [Implement a Community Energy Campaign](#) – Identify a target audience and select or design a campaign that encourages participants to implement energy saving measures. **Example:** [Town of Scotland’s EnergizeCT Clean Energy Campaign](#).

## 8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

- 8.1 [Hold a Sustainability Event](#) – Hold a sustainability event in your municipality and track details of the event using the Sustainable CT-provided template.
- 8.2 [Provide Effective Community Communications](#) – Take inventory of existing municipal communications channels and develop a communications strategy. **Example:** [Town of Roxbury’s Communications Strategy](#).
- 8.3 [Train Municipal Representatives](#) – Send town commissioners to a training relevant to their commission. **Example:** [Town of Ashford’s Training for Commission Members on Grassland Bird Species](#).
- 8.4 [Support Community Match Fund \(CMF\) Project and Civic Engagement](#) – Initiate sustainability projects that support your community at any scale. Contact [info@sustainablect.org](mailto: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

9.1 [Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste](#) – Identify town staff responsible for collecting data on waste and recycling and reporting that data to CT DEEP.

9.2 [Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash \(SMART\) Program](#) – Conduct research, an analysis, and education regarding SMART program adoption, or use your town’s Sustainability Team to facilitate SMART program implementation. Learn more about [implementing SMART in your community](#).

9.3 [Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics](#) – Recycle additional materials that Connecticut law has not designated as mandatory recyclable items. View a list of all [currently mandated recyclables from CT DEEP](#).

## 10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.3 [Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces](#) – Conduct smoking and tobacco reduction education, or place smoke-free and tobacco-free signage in public recreation areas. **Example:** [Town of Ashford’s Anti-Idling Website Resources](#).

10.4 [Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces](#) – Provide opportunities for residents to engage in local gardening and farming.

## 11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 [Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan](#) – Create, expand or maintain your community’s housing data profile. You can download your community’s housing data profile from the [Partnership for Strong Communities’ website](#).

11.2 [Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing](#) – Identify the current percentage of affordable housing in your community. Retrieve your community’s current percentage of affordable housing by downloading the most recent [Connecticut Department of Housing Affordable Housing Appeals List](#).

## 12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

12.1 [Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness](#) – Pass a municipal resolution to support homelessness prevention efforts or organize a community conversation to discuss homelessness in your community or region.

12.2 [Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness](#) – Develop a municipal Task Force (or use your Sustainability Team or other existing municipal group) to address homelessness.

## 13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

13.1 [Implement Your Own Sustainability Action](#) – Bring your own ideas to the table! Collaborate within your community or regionally to implement a sustainability action not listed on the Sustainable CT action list.