In equitable communities, everyone can thrive: race, gender, zip code, etc. do not dictate life outcomes. Sustainable CT believes that our communities can truly be sustainable only when social equity is achieved.

To start communities on the path toward equity, Sustainable CT has developed Action 1.1 Optimize for Equity. It is not a standalone action; this action sets out a process for community collaboration that may be applied to any other Sustainable CT action. This process is laid out in the Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit.

Achieving equity is a continuous process. We suggest that you allow at least three to six months to complete Action 1.1, along with the action to which you will apply it.

For Bronze certification, you must apply the community collaboration process to one other Sustainable CT action.

For Silver certification, you must apply the process to three different Sustainable CT actions.

Visit sustainablect.org to register for training sessions and to find additional assistance and resources as you undertake your equity work.
Achieving equity is a continuous cycle of improvement. To get started in your town, please see the Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit.

**Achieving Equity**

1. **Identify**
   - Work with your community to determine collective needs, and choose an action that helps meet them.

2. **Collaborate**
   - Co-create ways to implement the action that will meet the diverse needs of your community.

3. **Refine**
   - Build upon what you learn to increase inclusiveness in all municipal operations and functions.

4. **Connect**
   - Think broadly to identify the diverse groups of people who live, work, and visit in your community.

5. **Interact**
   - Create opportunities for open, honest dialogue with your community. Stay open to making new connections!