Advancing Sustainable Affordable Housing in Connecticut

June 25, 2020
The City of New Haven, through community engagement, created an Affordable Housing Task Force focusing on municipal and regional housing issues. The Task Force has taken its findings to the South Central Regional Council of Governments to coordinate an approach to addressing housing needs.
Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

8.1 Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment

- 26 municipalities completed Action 8.1

8.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

- 20 municipalities completed Action 8.2

8.3 Benchmark Energy and Water Use for Multifamily Housing

- In total, 33 municipalities have completed at least one of these two actions
8.1. Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment

1. Create, expand or maintain your community’s housing data profile.
   • Analyze the data and describe the implications of the data for your community’s housing future.
   • Present the housing data profile at a regular meeting of your municipality’s legislative body, planning and zoning commission or other public meeting

2. With a process of community engagement and education, conduct a municipal or regional housing needs assessment that includes the following basic elements:
   • Scope, demographics, economics, community services, affordability, housing gap analysis, zoning analysis, strategies (can include affordable housing plan), retrospective analysis

3. Distribute the completed housing needs assessment to relevant municipal departments/regional organizations.
Improving Municipal Data Access

Housing Data Profiles

- Households with a Mortgage:
  - Median Income: $99,519
  - Median Monthly Owner Costs: $2,204
- Households w/out a Mortgage:
  - Median Income: $49,810
  - Median Monthly Owner Costs: $779
- Median Income Renter Households = $42,500
- 41% less than the median income of all households.
- 46% of income spent on rent.
- Median Gross Rent = $1,622
- 54% of income for all other expenses.

Population, Age, & Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011-15</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>10,213</td>
<td>10,367</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>4,264</td>
<td>4,184</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>2.41</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average family size</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median age for those living in Old Saybrook is 50.0 years old.
8.2. Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options

1. Identify the current percentage of affordable housing in your community (those with > 10% will receive points).

2. Increase your municipality’s affordable housing, as compared to a baseline year within the past 5 years. For each ¼ percentage point increase or increase of 50 affordable units, 10 points will be awarded, up to a maximum of 40 points.

Ideally, your municipality will promote sustainable construction practices in affordable housing development by:

- encouraging integrative design
- considering location and neighborhood fabric
- site improvements
- promoting water conservation and energy efficiency
- procuring sustainable building materials

In future certification cycles, points may be awarded for the creation of green affordable housing and sustainable construction.
Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit

1. WHO LIVES AND WORKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?
   List the groups and stakeholders your Sustainability Team identified and engaged.

2. HOW DID YOU CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER?
   Describe how and when the engagement took place and what was discussed. List the shared goals determined through your community co-creation and engagement process.

3. WHAT EMERGED FROM YOUR DIALOGUE?
   State the Sustainable CT action to which you ultimately chose to apply the Equity Toolkit; include why you selected this action.

4. WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF YOUR COLLABORATION?
   Describe how you implemented the action based on the input received during the community engagement and co-creation process. Highlight how your Sustainability Team incorporated the community input and how the action implementation was different because of this input. How might you include or expand services to additional community members in the future?

5. HOW WILL YOU REFINE, REVISIT, AND IMPROVE?
   Evaluate the Equity Toolkit application process. What did your Sustainability Team learn? What challenges did your Sustainability Team encounter and how might you make improvements for future applications of the Equity Toolkit? How might you engage and include more community members?

IMPORTANT: Along with your Optimize for Equity action submission, you must also submit the required materials for the action to which the Equity Toolkit was applied.
Portland: Case Study

Analysis and identification of possibly underrepresented groups

Analyses of town demographics, housing availability/types, income, transportation, and unemployment

Diversity Group meetings and events held; community dialogue facilitated around action 8.1

Identified needs to increase housing diversity (more rentals) & attract people of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds, income levels

New mixed-use development will provide diversity of rental housing and attract diverse residents

Next steps: surveys, formation of Housing Coalition, tabling at events, more visits to community groups, zoning changes
Find Out More

www.sustainablect.org
info@sustainablect.org

Provide Ideas and Input on our Actions
actioninput@sustainablect.org

@sustainablect