Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.

Managed by
EASTERN
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
Founding Partners, Funders and Board
What is Sustainable CT?

**Road Map**
A menu of coordinated, voluntary actions to promote sustainability

**Resources**
Support – including technical and financial – to help communities implement actions

**Certification**
Recognizing communities for their sustainability achievements

**Flexibility**
Meeting the needs of all communities – urban and rural, big and small

**Livability**
More sustainable, efficient, healthy, safe, resilient, thriving communities
Vision and Mission

Vision

Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents, and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.

Mission

To provide municipalities with a menu of coordinated, voluntary actions, to continually become more sustainable; to provide resources and tools to assist municipalities in implementing sustainability actions and advancing their programs for the benefit of all residents; and to certify and recognize municipalities for their ongoing sustainability achievements.
## Roadmap of Voluntary Actions

1. Thriving **local economies**
2. Well-steward **land and natural resources**
3. Vibrant and creative **cultural ecosystems**
4. Dynamic and resilient **planning**
5. Clean and diverse **transportation** systems
6. Efficient **physical infrastructure and operations**
7. Strategic and inclusive **public services**
8. Healthy, efficient and diverse **housing**
9. Inclusive and equitable **community impacts**
Municipal Participation

- Total Registered: 103
- Certified: 47
- Bronze Certified: 33
- Silver Certified: 14
Become a Sustainable CT Community

1. Pass a resolution, establish a Sustainability Team
2. Register your community at sustainablect.org
3. Review the list of actions. Identify those that you’ve already completed. Use our tools and resources to implement new actions.
4. Start working on action 9.1 Optimize for Equity. This action is required for certification.
5. Implement at least one action of your choice in categories 1-9.
6. Get certified!
Certification

**Bronze Certification**
- Complete at least 1 action in each of categories 1-9
- Complete **1 Equity Toolkit** in action 9.1 Optimize for Equity
- Successfully complete actions totaling **200 or more points**

**Silver Certification**
- Complete at least 1 action in each of categories 1-9
- Complete **3 Equity Toolkits** in action 9.1 Optimize for Equity
- Successfully complete actions totaling **400 or more points**
One Program: Many Benefits

- Environmental Impacts
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Health and Wellness
- Cost Savings
- Economic Well-Being
- Climate Resilience
- Community Building
- Equity
# Sustainable CT Actions

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1.2. Implement Sustainable Purchasing

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the 2020 certification cycle. A version of this action from the prior program year is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow.

Objective

Commit to purchasing sustainable goods and services.

Note: When determining if goods and services are sustainable, the following sample environmental attributes can be considered: Biobased, Biodegradable, Bisphenol-free, carcinogen-free, Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)-free, Compostable, durable, energy efficient, flame retardant-free (especially halogenated flame retardants), free of antimicrobial chemicals, heavy metal free (e.g., no lead, mercury, cadmium), less hazardous, low Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) content, low-toxicity, made from renewable materials, Per and Poly Fluoroalkyl-free, phthalate-free, reduced packaging, refurbished, reusable. Water efficient.

Complementary action:

- Provide Resources and Support to Local Businesses
1.2.1. Participate in a training (5 pts)

**What to Do**

*The more you do, the more points you earn.*

1. Have municipal elected official and/or staff members and/or commission members participate in a sustainable procurement training. Any training pursued here may not also count for points under Sustainable CT Action 7.3 (5 points)

**Submit:** The names and contact information of the individuals who attended the training, and the name of the training, the date it occurred, and the organization that provided the training.
1.2.2. Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy (20 pts)

What to Do

2. By municipal resolution or ordinance, adopt a sustainable purchasing policy, distribute the newly adopted policy to relevant department or division heads, publish the policy to the municipal website, and communicate the policy to relevant suppliers and vendors. At a minimum, the policy should address at least two social impact areas and four additional environmental impact areas (20 points).

Submit: The sustainable purchasing policy that the governing body adopted by resolution or ordinance, as well as evidence that you distributed the adopted policy to relevant municipal departments (either via email, an in-person meeting, a staff newsletter or other channels). Please also describe specifically where your policy addresses each of the areas listed above.

Sustainable purchasing policies may include any other topics your municipality deems appropriate. Your municipality may establish a formal policy or submit documentation to prove that your municipality utilizes WaterSense labeled products under. You may still include management of municipal water use in your sustainable purchasing policy, but you may not count managing municipal water use as one of the four or more environmental impact areas you highlight in your sustainable purchasing policy under this Action 1.2. Similarly, there is no double-counting with other Sustainable CT Actions that overlap with sustainable purchasing policy areas.
1.2.2. Adopt a sustainable purchasing policy (20 pts)

Social Impact Areas

- Promotion of purchasing cooperatives,
- Engagement with locally-owned businesses, sustainable, or eco-friendly businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, and alternative corporate structures, such as B Corps and cooperatively owned businesses. A definition of “local” should be stated for purposes of the policy.
- Purchase goods and services that are certified “fair trade” or are otherwise ethically sourced and free from forced labor and/or child labor.

Environmental Impact Areas

- Recycled-content, reused and/or refurbished products
- Less harmful and/or non-toxic materials and processes
- Energy and water-efficient products and processes
- Natural resource and landscaping including implementing a green grounds and management, maintenance program
- Renewable energy products, such as solar, wind and/or hydropower
- Disposal and pollution reduction
- Sustainable, “green” or Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design (LEED) certified building construction design and/or materials, and
- Other topics consistent with the objective of this Action that your municipality deems appropriate.
1.2.3. Implement your policy (10 pts)

**What to Do**

3. Implement your municipality’s sustainable purchasing policy. *(10 points)*

*Submit:* An estimate of the percentage of your municipal budget used to purchase sustainable goods and services and a brief narrative description of which goods and services are sustainably purchased by your municipality and which social and environmental impact areas in your sustainable purchasing policy are impacted.
1.2.4. Develop and maintain an up-to-date vendor list with special designations (10 pts)

What to Do

4. Develop and maintain an up-to-date vendor list to use for requests for quotations, small purchases where no quotes are required, requests for proposals, and other purchasing opportunities. Your list must incorporate special designations, which may include those for locally-owned businesses, sustainable, or eco-friendly businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, and alternative corporate structures, such as B Corps and cooperatively owned businesses. You may choose to collaborate with representatives from other communities to develop a regional vendor list.

(10 points)

Submit: The vendor list, including an explanation of the special designations incorporated into the list. For regional vendor lists, each participating municipality will receive points.
Find Out More

www.sustainablect.org
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