

Scotland now part of Sustainable CT

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SCOTLAND — The Town of Scotland has taken the first steps toward making itself more sustainable.

The Scotland Economic Development Commission is now participating in the Sustainable CT initiative.

The statewide effort promotes best practices and provides tools and resources for 35 percent of Connecticut towns that have joined and offers opportunities for grant funding as well.

The town's economic development commission was formed in 2018.

"One of our initiatives for a community connection was the Sustainable CT resolution," said Wendy Sears, a

member of the EDC who served as chairman from the commission's founding through January of this year. "The EDC wants to continue to focus on that and keep it moving forward."

Sustainable CT was developed by the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University, in partnership with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, and partially funded by the Common Sense Fund, the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation and the Hampshire Foundation.

The platform assists towns in different goals, including creating streets that accommodate bikers and hikers as well as motorists, improving recycling programs, increasing renewable energy, improving watershed management, stimulating the economy, providing diverse and affordable housing options and enhancing cultural programs, among others.

Sears said, through the Sustainable CT resolution, the EDC will be discussing

The town will be eligible for certification.

various actions.

Those include working with agricultural operations in town to reduce food waste and combining efforts with

other local towns also partnering with the Institute for Sustainable Energy.

Chaplin joined the Sustainable CT initiative in 2018.

"It's important that we work with other towns so we have a clear vision," Sears said.

After meeting different goals, the town will be eligible for certification through Sustainable CT.

Individual residents can also volunteer to help the town meet goals and become certified.

"We are thrilled that Scotland has passed a resolution to join Sustainable CT," said Lynn Stoddard, the director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy.

"The program builds on many current success stories in our communities to create and support more great places to live, work and play. We are looking forward to working with them as they

pursue Sustainable CT certification."

Sears said the town's participation in Sustainable CT will help make the town a desirable place in which to live and work.

This is in conjunction with other efforts the EDC is putting forth to stimulate the economy, such as identifying local commercial and residential assets and preparing a survey of residents' ideas on what types of economic ventures Scotland should pursue.

Sears said, although residents might have conflicting ideas on what kind of place Scotland should be, all residents have a common goal of wanting what is best for the town.

"We are fastidiously working toward all those goals," Sears said. "Discussion can be divisive, but there's a lot of things that can bring us together."

More information on the Sustainable CT initiative or on ways to help the town become more sustainable can be found online at www.sustainablect.org.



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