

# Actions & Impact

## The Sustainable CT Newsletter



[The Sustainable CT YouTube Channel Has Arrived - Subscribe and Enjoy!](#)



## Recognizing the Value of Lived Experience

**Empowering vulnerable residents to shape municipal affordable housing strategies**

Sustainable CT and five Greater Hartford communities collaborated throughout 2021 to engage residents, commissions and town staff to build more trusted relationships and co-create practices to promote greater housing choice, housing quality, and pathways to more inclusive housing development. Now we're partnering with **the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities** to share what we've learned and continue the discussion. Join us for a webinar on **February 15, 9-10:30 a.m.**, to learn about (1) how residents with lived experience in finding and maintaining affordable housing were recruited, given safe space for sharing, and compensated for their wisdom; (2) how communities can integrate the feedback received into affordable housing plans; and (3) how to work collaboratively across municipalities to promote housing equity.

[\[REGISTER and JOIN US\]](#)



## Sweeping Policy Changes Needed on Plastics and Microplastics

Environment and Human Health, Inc. (EHHI), a non-profit organization of physicians and public health professionals, is releasing its newly published [research report](#) on the dangers of plastics and microplastics to the environment and to health. The report calls for sweeping policy initiatives that need to be enacted by international, federal, state, and city governments, as well as calling on corporations to institute new policies that will better protect the public from harmful plastic and microplastic exposures.

[\[READ the FULL PRESS RELEASE\]](#)

## BECOME A Sustainable CT CORPORATE SPONSOR

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## Community Match Fund Corner



## Trees For Windsor Locks

Our Community Match Fund project of the month is [The Windsor Locks Green Jobs Training Program](#). Organized by **the Pine Meadow Academy**, a Windsor Locks public school, the program provides tree planting and care skills to local students and homeowners. Instruction, student participation, and any hired staff are paid through a grant with **the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**. However, the trees and needed supplies depend on private funding.

[\[READ ALL ABOUT IT\]](#)

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[Learn more about the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund.](#)

Have an idea to make your community more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant? [Contact our Community Outreach Manager.](#)



## FREE Technical Support: Homelessness Prevention

Free is good! The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness

will assist towns with implementing Sustainable CT actions in our **Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention category**. Actions targeted:

- [Strengthen Municipal Workforce Capacity to Address Homelessness](#)
- [Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness](#)
- [Collect and Share Homelessness Data](#)
- [Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness](#)

Contact Carl Asikainen at [casikainen@cceh.org](mailto:casikainen@cceh.org) to arrange free technical support.



## More FREE Technical Support: Climate Actions & Leadership

We're hosting numerous climate-

and energy-related webinars beginning with **An Introduction to SolSmart, February 18 at noon**. Representatives from the Great Plains Institute will provide an overview of the national designation and technical assistance program, SolSmart. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, SolSmart recognizes local governments that have taken key steps to address barriers to solar energy and provides *no-cost* technical assistance to accelerate the development of local solar energy markets. Sustainable CT is excited to partner with Great Plains Institute to offer technical assistance to registered Sustainable CT communities as they pursue Bronze recognition in the SolSmart program.

[\[REGISTER TODAY\]](#)

**AND, coming March 3, at 3 p.m.**, we'll be hosting **Benchmarking Your Town's Energy Use**. Sustainable CT is pleased to partner with Eversource Energy, United Illuminating, and [the University of Connecticut's SmartBuildings CT program](#) to provide energy benchmarking and tracking support to registered Sustainable CT communities within the utility company service territories. Learn more about the SmartBuildings CT program and how it could help your municipality with the following actions:

- [Benchmark and Track Energy Use](#)
- [Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings](#)
- [Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings](#)

[\[DON'T FORGET to REGISTER\]](#)

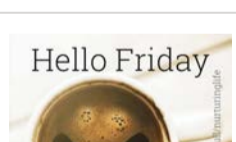
These free technical assistance webinars are open to all, but **we especially encourage towns with an interest in pursuing our [Climate Leadership designation](#) to take part.**



## Yes, It's Possible: Environmentally Safe Winter Road Maintenance

Experts from the T2 Center at the Connecticut Transportation Institute are holding a virtual discussion on **February 24, 10 - 11 a.m.**, focused on Sustainable Winter Road Maintenance. The session will be led by James Mahoney, Executive Director of the CT Advanced Pavement Lab at UConn. Best practices for keeping roadways safe while helping the environment and saving money (yes, it is possible) will be discussed.

[\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)



## Next Sustainable CT Coffee Hour: February 25, 10 a.m. Navigating New Statutory Requirements for Environmental Responsibility by Local Governments

Public Act 21-19 created new environmental responsibility and authority for local governments. Join representatives from the Western Council of Governments and the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments for a presentation on these requirements, insights from municipalities with experience in this area, and facilitated conversation on next steps toward more sustainable development.

Join Sustainable CT for (virtual) informal discussions **the third Friday of each month**. We share program updates and resources, explore your questions, and strengthen the network of Sustainable CT champions. These sessions are open to all.

[\[REGISTER for FEBRUARY 25\]](#)

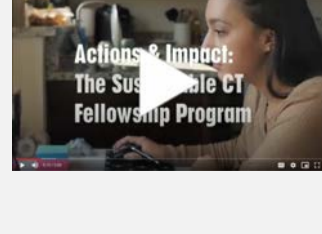
**For more fun and informative February events, check out [the Sustainable CT Trainings & Events Calendar](#)**

**Applications for 2022 Fellows Now Being Accepted!**



The Sustainable CT Fellowship Program places highly qualified fellows across the state's nine Councils of Governments (COGs) in **paid positions** to help cities and towns become registered, certified, or recertified with Sustainable CT. **Application deadline: February 16.**

[\[LEARN MORE and APPLY\]](#)



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