

For Immediate Release

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Four Communities Achieve Prestigious Sustainable CT Certification

WILLIMANTIC, CT, June 1, 2021 – [Sustainable CT](#), a statewide initiative that inspires and supports communities in becoming more inclusive, resilient, and vibrant, announced its 2021 spring certified communities this week. Cheshire, Durham, Litchfield and Milford met high standards in a broad range of sustainability accomplishments to qualify for bronze-level certification. The highest level of certification currently offered is silver.

Sustainable CT, managed under the leadership of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at [Eastern Connecticut State University](#), includes actions that help towns and cities build their local economies, support equity, and respect the finite capacity of the environment. The program’s action roadmap and support tools are especially relevant as towns seek practices and resources to promote racial justice and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

“Congratulations to our newest Sustainable CT certified communities,” said Lynn Stoddard, executive director of the program. “They join a growing number of certified towns and cities that are demonstrating municipal practices that make our communities more inclusive, healthy, connected, and strong.”

Certified communities demonstrated significant achievements in at least eleven sustainability impact areas, ranging from community building, thriving local economies and vibrant arts and culture to clean transportation and diverse housing. In addition, certified municipalities addressed issues of belonging, equity, diversity and inclusion



Litchfield Hills Farm-Fresh Market

when implementing sustainability actions. Sustainable CT provides free coaching and a virtual equity classroom to help municipalities with issues related to equity and racial justice.

Sustainable CT has seen strong momentum and growth as a valuable, high-impact program. One-hundred twenty-one municipalities have registered for the program, representing 84 percent of the state's population. Sixty-four municipalities, more than 37 percent of the state's communities, have earned Sustainable CT certification. Certification lasts for 3 years, with submissions rigorously evaluated by independent experts and other Sustainable CT partners.

“Sustainable CT Certified communities are models for all forward-looking local governments,” said Joe DeLong, executive director of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM). “These municipalities have shown great leadership in completing many actions that increase sustainability will also saving money, promoting health, and deepening residents’ connection to community.” CCM will hold an awards ceremony to recognize Sustainable CT certified towns at their annual convention later this year.

Sustainable CT is independently funded, with strong support from its three founding funders: the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, the Smart Seed Fund, and the Common Sense Fund. Additional supporters include: the Connecticut Green Bank, Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut, Connecticut Community Foundation, Fairfield County Community Foundation, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Main Street Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Middlesex County, and the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain.

For more information, visit www.sustainablect.org.

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