



SUSTAINABLE WEST HARTFORD COMMISSION

August 26, 2024

7:00 PM, Room 407, Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order - 7:03 PM. *Rachael Virgin has resigned from Commission. Catherine to follow up with Town Clerk on filing the vacancy. Christy has missed 5 meetings; Town Clerk was notified.*
 - *Jim Fishman Y*
 - *Kimberly Hughes Y*
 - *Aditee Madkekar N*
 - *Christy Matthews N*
 - *Ted Newton Y*
 - *Alejandro Paiuk N*
 - *Bernard Pelletier Y*
 - *Stephen Sack N*
 - *David Sagers Y*
 - *Patricia Wilson Y*
 - *Vacant*
 - *Town Staff: Katherine Bruns (Recycling Coordinator), Catherine Diviney (Energy Specialist)*
 - *Public: Chris Feely, Aimee Petras, Val Kirilova, Suzanne Sayers Madeleine Hexter, Chris Kelly, Dan Gleason*
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – *Approved 6-0.*
3. Communications & Community Comment (max 3 min each)
 - *Process for communications to commission - in process, draft still needs Corporation Counsel review.*
 - *Crowdsorsa (invasive species removal app): <https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/finland/finland-news/domestic/25240-helsinki-combats-invasive-species-with-new-mobile-game-starting-june-3.html>. People were intrigued by this idea and its potential to mobilize the public, not just on invasive species removal but other topics. Kim thought it might be a good fit with “Cool West Hartford” idea that Nature-Based Solutions group is working on. Katherine mentioned there is a similar app for trash called [Litterati](#).*
 - *2 inquiries about involvement: Chris Kelly, Val Kirilova – Val and Chris both attended, welcome!*
 - *Madeleine Hexter asked about UBP. Bernie deferred that to later on agenda with the Waste Working Group report.*
 - *Dan Gleason indicated he is a teacher at Kingswood-Oxford School and has a group of 12 seniors that would be willing to assist Commission on a project.*

4. Ongoing Business

- Working Group Reports, discussion as needed
 - Communications & Outreach – *no report.*
 - Nature-Based Solutions – *Kim gave update (see attached slides/report).*
 - *Takeaways from 6/5/24 Library “Home is a Habitat” workshop – good turnout, but feel somewhat like “preaching to the choir.” Have had inquiries about a follow-up workshop. Still need to figure out how to engage people not currently engaged... Cool West Hartford?*
 - *Wolcott Park pollinator gardens update: (1) Meadows are complex, pleased that Town met and is hiring Mike Nadeau, meadow consultant, on design for Wolcott meadow, possibly for Westmoor Park too. (2) Children’s forest entrance garden was installed on Friday 8/23/24 - thank you Chris Feely and Danielle George! Need for signage was discussed on two levels: (1) recognition for volunteers, (2) education. This project is “replicable,” but these gardens are a lot of work - existing volunteers are at capacity and there is a need to for expanded/empowered network in town.*
 - *Cool West Hartford idea? modelled after <https://www.coolboulder.org/>... stay tuned. Kim noted that for Cool West Hartford, and any work of the Commission in the future, she would like to start by framing a conversation/discussion with residents, especially underrepresented groups. Catherine mentioned this aligned with Sustainable CT’s equity toolkit process.*
 - Energy / Buildings – *Bernie gave update (see attached report)*
 - *[EV Showcase](#) w/ Sierra Club planning in progress. Will be at Town Hall w/ Farmers Market Sunday 10/6/24 (rain date 10/13). Westfarms Mall solar carport location did not pan out.*
 - *PowerSmart Solar + Battery Storage energy campaign concluded. Town has 12 installations of residential batteries, and 1 large commercial one. No way of knowing if directly connected to PowerSmart campaign.*
 - *Met 8/15/24 with Newman Architects (1700-1800 Asylum Ave). Met as working group not full commission b/c of tight timeline/ease of scheduling. Introduced Commission, learned more about their approach to environmental site concerns (e.g., they are using current/future data for stormwater management), discussed building design, sent follow-up email with a few high priority recommendations and contact info for programs All in all, productive meeting.*
 - Waste - status / next steps / lessons learned –
 - *Katherine gave a recap of the working group’s nine-month long efforts, and Morley pilot, which ended with the Town Council deciding on 8/7/24 not to take action on 1-year DEEP-funded UBP + food scrap program. Town did promise to write ordinance addressing “enforcement,” not sure of timeline. Town is now developing ordinances/budgets to consider 2 options: (1) voluntary curb-side food scrap collection, (2) 10-15 free drop-off food scrap collection locations throughout town. Katherine indicated that the participation rates in these programs are sometime as low as 1%. Manchester has recently started a “drop-off” program but there is no data yet.*
 - *People expressed strong mixed feelings about the decision, the local government “process” leading up to it, and West Hartford leadership’s commitment to reducing waste. There was discussion about regrouping, how/if the waste working group should continue, what they should work on, and who would lead it. That may fall out of the Commission’s annual reporting/2025 planning process.*

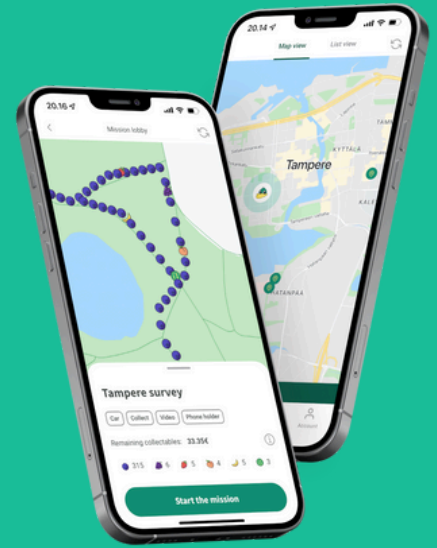
5. New Business

- New Officers, Commissioners' terms expiring – Catherine checked with Town Clerk and reported that Pat, Aditee, Alejandro's terms expire 12/31/24. They will get email from Town Clerk sometime in late Oct/Nov asking if they wish to continue. There is no set date for officer elections, but Town Clerk say this typically also happens in Dec/Jan timeframe. Bernie asked that Commissioners review the ballot nominations that had been collected so far and think about it for next meeting.
- Report to Town Council: Section 5-77. Duties and responsibilities. "E. File an annual written report with the Town Council. Such report shall include a summary of current sustainability initiatives, as well as recommendations for future sustainability initiatives and policy."
 - There was a general feeling that the Commission would like to present its report to the Public Works Facilities and Sustainability Standing Committee at its 11/7? or 12/5? meeting. There was some concern that was not enough time to prepare a report.
 - There was discussion about report content: year-in-review and recommendations/actions for future, with consideration for what the Commission can do on its own (e.g., education) versus what it need the Town for (e.g., policy, ordinances). Having just submitted the Town's Sustainable CT application, Catherine indicated that using that program as a framework, might be a useful way of getting Town Council's attention. There were several actions that were in progress but not completed by the 8/20/24 deadline (e.g., Action 3.9.2 Land Cover assessment/Tree Canopy study, 3.13.3 Dark Night Skies exterior light regulations) and others that might be of interest (e.g., 9.4.1 - Food waste prevention, not diversion). Catherine showed how to access certification reports for all towns (including West Hartford, 2021 Silver-certified) on the [Sustainable CT website](#).
- 6. Staff Report – Catherine reported that the Town's Sustainable CT application was submitted on August 20. We will hear in November whether Town achieved Gold certification. Over 1,000 points were submitted; 750 points, as well as some required actions are needed for Gold. Going through this process highlights work done in the past, but also yields information about where Town can go in the future, and what other municipalities are doing. Catherine will summarize some of these thoughts for discussion next time.
- 7. Calendar Updates – 10/6 (Sun) – WH EV Showcase (raindate 10/13)
- 8. Next Steps & Agenda for Next Meeting – Working group chairs to prepare year-in-review summaries. Catherine to prepare and email ideas for Town Council report. Next meeting will include planning discussion of annual reporting and Commission priorities/work plan for 2025.
- 9. Adjournment – 9:30 PM

Anyone requiring auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a meeting, service, program or activity of the Town of West Hartford, should contact Suzanne Oslander, ADA Coordinator, at suzanneo@westhartfordct.gov or (860) 561-7580, as soon as possible, preferably seven days beforehand.



Citizen engagement through gamification.



Our mobile game

Crowdsorsa is at the forefront of innovation in crowdsourcing data collection and micro-tasks. Examples of our offering include road condition surveys, invasive plant species removal, accessibility surveys, etc. All of this with a mobile game, where people earn money for their participation.

Our mission

We are dedicated to empowering citizens to be proactive stewards of their built and natural environments, ensuring they remain in excellent condition.



Our records

550 km of cycle lanes condition surveyed in 90 mins

24 000 drain covers photographed in 24 hours

50 hectares of invasive plants repelled in 7 days

Contact us!

anissa.margono@crowdsorsa.com

+358 40 580 0804

www.crowdsorsa.com

Summer

Library program, June 5

- Attended ~40 people
- Practical advice received well
- More outreach needed

Wolcott Meadow

- Much needed consultant services approved by Leisure Services – Mike Nadeau
- Simple but not easy
- Late Fall installation
- Offering advice at Westmoor, too!



Photo courtesy of michaelnadeau.org

Summer

Wolcott Entrance Garden
See attached report

jpeg entryway planting #6



jpeg entryway planting #7

Report: Wolcott Park Entrance Garden

Time to celebrate a success! The Wolcott Park Entrance Garden was installed on Friday, August 23. It's located on Wolcott Rd, where Elmfield St. dead ends. An existing entrance garden wasn't maintained in recent year, and Helen Rubino-Turco said at her January 2023 presentation/conversation with the Clean Energy and Conservation and Environment Commissions that re-doing the entrance garden was on her near-term to-do list, along with a meadow next to the entrance area, on the slope below the community garden. When the Sustainable WH Commission was formed, the Sustainable Land Care Working Group started planning. Public Works scraped the garden area and put wood chips down to suppress the weeds in October 2023. Working group members planted about 20 plants that were donated by a WH Garden Club member in December 2023 (ex. photo Aug. 15 of Joe Pye weed [large pink flower heads] with bees). Madeleine Hexter, a working group member, created an initial design. Beth Ann Loveland Sennett, who also has been involved with the working group, completed the design ([matrix method](#)), ordered and received the plants, and recruited working group and WH Garden Club members to help with the planting. Danielle George and Chris Feely created the matrix using bamboo stakes and twine to mark the area into square feet. Color-coded tongue depressors were used to show which plants to place in each square (jpeg entryway planting #6). Planting day was a great success (jpeg entryway planting #7 and photo from Chris), and comments from neighbors have been very enthusiastic and positive! Additional plants are planned for the area behind the split-rail fence next year when the weeds are under control in that space.

These plants will attract and support many, many pollinators and will be host plants for butterflies and moths. A partial list is: Ironweed, Joe Pye weed, Goldenrod, Mountain mint, Rose campion, Black-eyed Susan, Penstemon, Golden ragwort, Butterfly weed, Bee balm, Indigo, Anise hyssop, wild strawberries, Asters, Golden Alexander, Blue false indigo, Heuchera, plus sedges, prairie dropseed.

Energy/Buildings Working Group Report – 8/26/24

Three areas to report on:

National Drive Electric Week:

- Location - town hall parking lot
- Date - October 6 with a rain date of October 13
- <https://driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=4493>

PowerSmart program concluded:

Batteries in WH as of now (not necessarily the result of our campaign):

Residential 6 batteries

127 kWh

Large C&I 1 installation

5590 kWh

Spoke to Newman Architects / BL Engineering

Provided background on Commission and specific areas to consider as they meet with the developer.

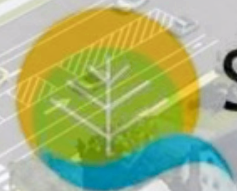
See attached Powerpoint, follow-up email.

Sustainability at 1800 Asylum

Virtual meeting (Zoom):

Newman Architects and Building Working Group

NEWMAN



**Sustainable
West Hartford**

Our Town, Our Planet, Our Future

Sustainable West Hartford Commission

The Sustainable West Hartford Commission promotes practices that lead to greater environmental, social and economic sustainability; ensures a high quality of life for present and future generations by fostering an inclusive, resilient, and thriving community; and encourages the responsible use and conservation of energy and natural resources.

Duties of the Commission

The Commission established by this Article shall:

- A. Identify and prioritize concerns and issues relating to long-term environmental, social and economic sustainability of the Town of West Hartford with due consideration of local, regional, state, national, and global contexts.
- B. Advise and make recommendations to the Town Manager on policies, programs and proposals regarding sustainable practices including, but not limited to, environmental and ecological resources, air, water, energy, land, waste, materials management, transportation, climate change, equity and environmental justice.
- C. Collaborate with and serve as a resource for Town Council, Town departments, boards, commissions, and committees of the Town, and the community at large in order to advance a comprehensive, integrated approach to sustainability.

Building Working Group

Working Group - improving new and existing buildings in West Hartford:

- Building efficiency
- Resilience
- Decarbonization goals
- Natural lands (another working group)
- Renewable adoption

Members:

- James Fishman
- David Sagers
- Bernie Pelletier
- Catherine Diviney

Goals for today's conversation

- Learn about the project, the architect, and the timeline
- Compare project to goals outlined in the POCD
- Articulate SWHC goals for building
- Serve as resource for the town

SWHC Goals for development

Climate Resilience (Green Infrastructure/Landscape Design)

- Forward looking modelling of rainfall events (Storm water runoff in the face of increasingly severe weather events, data used is from 2017)
- Plan for Trees/shrubs for shade - native trees, support for diversified habitat
- Techniques to naturally filter/contain water - bioswales, rain gardens, use of more permeable surfaces, etc.
- Conservation easements for green space to permanently preserve Concerns in this area
 - Loss of open space
 - Removal of mature trees
 - Increase in impervious surface and runoff - would like to understand claim that end result, with dramatic increase in impervious surface, will still be less stormwater runoff from the property
 - Monitoring of green space reclamation/improvement plan (invasives removals, tree planting, etc)

SWHC Goals for discussion

Energy efficiency and energy resilience

- Building shell – Air Change Per Hour – Insulation
- Mechanicals (HVAC)

Adoption and integration of renewable energy options

- Roof structure
- Building orientation
- Carports?

Green Community Design (this may be the same thing as the item just above, or the last item could fit into the climate resilience category)

- Parks with public access appropriate to scale of development
- Walkable, transit oriented, linkage with existing pedestrian/bicycle ways

Appendix

List submitted by developer to Town

1. Previously Developed Land – Redevelopment Green
2. Bicycle Facilities
3. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – 10% Chargers 20% Infrastructure
4. Light Pollution reduction
5. Environmentally Favorable Materials
6. Construction and Demolition Waste Management Practices – 75% diversion
7. Low Emitting materials
8. Smoke Free Environment
9. Individual Water Metering
10. Low-Flow Fixtures
11. Optimize Energy Performance – energy modeling – Energy Star Mechanical
12. R-21 Insulation Wall R-38 Roof Insulation
13. Individually controlled HVAC
14. Programmable Thermostats
15. Unit Daylighting
16. Acoustic Performance – HVAC background noise and Building Envelope
17. Energy Star – Light Fixtures – 100 % LED
18. Water efficient Landscaping
19. Low E - Windows
20. Light Color Roof – Reducing “heat island effect”

From: Bernard Pelletier
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Laura Gilmore
Cc: Catherine Diviney; David Sagers; James Fishman; Todd Dumais; Brian Pudlik

Subject: Recommendations and Resources - Recap of Newman Architects and BL Engineering discussion with Building Working Group

Dear Laura

Thank you for your time on Thursday - we came away encouraged that Newman Architects and BL Engineering take sustainability seriously. Robin Pearson suggested that we send a list of priority recommendations and contact information to your attention. Please find that below.

Energy Related Sustainability Measures for Heritage Park Development (1700 and 1800 Asylum Avenue):

1. Consider the use of efficient heat pumps to supply BOTH air conditioning as well as winter heating. A single piece of equipment can supply both in a cost effective fashion thereby minimizing use of fossil fuels. The utility Renewable New Construction Program would support an all electric design.
2. Consider PV solar installations on rooftops and parking areas. Such solar can support common area electrical loads as well as be used by individual property owners and renters.
 - Solar “carports” can generate substantial energy and offers co-benefits such as covered parking, ability to direct water runoff, lower heat impact of paved surfaces, and provide for EV Charging
 - Solar on rooftops can support electrical load in the building and can also serve as a canopy for outdoor rooftop amenities
 - Commercial solar on the grocery store could be a benefit for the store tenant
 - An overall assessment by local solar developers would be a way to determine the benefits and practical implications of the suggestions above. We provide contact information for a local developer as a way to start this discussion.
3. We very much understand that going through the LEED certification process is time consuming and expensive. However - there is value - both real and public facing - in having

the development comply with “LEED Like” features. Past developers in town have developed a LEED scorecard but stopped short of certification.

4. Consider adding battery storage back up - which, when combined with solar, could offer clean, quiet, and non polluting back up power.
5. For exterior lighting use Dark Night Skies approved fixtures.
6. Stay up to date on Inflation Reduction Act and Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funds being made available to Connecticut. The funds may be of use to the Heritage Park development. The Sustainable West Hartford Commission will do our best to stay abreast of these awards and encourage the developer to do so as well. Here is a link to a status page on the DEEP website: <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/business-and-financial-assistance/federal-funding/bil-and-ira-updates>

Most our discussion focussed on energy but we will forward question on land use to you as they arise. Please keep us in the loop as you move this project forward. Once again the Building Group appreciates your time.

Contact Information for Resources Discussed on the call:

Eversource – new construction

Flyer attached - there is definitely money on the table!

Charles Lovejoy MEM, EMIT, LEED AP BD+C | Associate Consultant, Energy Efficiency |

Eversource | Cell Phone: (203) 859-1413

charles.lovejoy@eversource.com

CTGreenBank

[C-PACE](#) (financing)

But other programs too - in particular the Green Bank administers the Energy Storage Solutions program which provides financial incentives and technical assistance for adoption of Battery Storage (commercial and residential)

T 860-258-7806 | M 312-450-4536

Peter.Ludwig@ctgreenbank.com

Verogy – solar (one of many qualified providers, 2 town projects)

Bryan Fitzgerald

Director of Development

[Verogy](#) | 203.257.3375

bfitzgerald@verogy.com

Commercial New Construction or Major Renovation Program Overview

ENERGY EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS



Choose Your Path to Generate Energy Savings

The Companies¹ can help you meet your high performance and energy efficiency targets for your new construction or major renovation projects. We have technical experts and financial incentives to help bring your project to the next level of efficiency. Whether your goal is to design an all-electric net zero building, or to simply incorporate more efficient systems into your building's design, we have a pathway for you.

The earlier you engage, the deeper the energy savings potential

Connect with The Companies early on in your project's design timeline to unlock more opportunities for cost savings, technical support and optimal energy efficiency. Building owner incentives are available to help cover the incremental construction and design service costs associated with including energy efficient equipment and systems in your project.

By starting with us in your project's feasibility or conceptual design phase, your project team can achieve deep energy savings—and even zero net energy status—to minimize future energy use. We can also help you set an energy use intensity (EUI) target, much like a “miles per gallon” metric. This keeps your project on an energy budget and can help you evaluate your buildings' actual performance over time.

There is a pathway for every project

The Companies offer the highest incentives for projects with the lowest EUIs and greatest levels of energy savings, while prescriptive incentives are available for less lucrative savings.

Path 1. Net Zero and Low EUI Buildings

Receive expert net zero building technical assistance and the highest new construction/major renovation project incentives available. Set an ultra-low EUI and save. We provide support through a post-occupancy period to help you make sure the building performs at the level you expect.

Path 2. Whole Building Energy Use Intensity (EUI) Reduction

In this path for larger, more complex building projects, lower design EUIs yield higher incentives. We offer technical support and energy modeling services to help you succeed in this design-based path.

Path 3. High Performance Buildings

For building projects where teams are focused on discreet energy conservation measures and not on overall EUI. Receive technical assistance and financial incentives for implementing energy efficient technology and equipment.

Path 4. Systems

For projects engaging late in the design process or those looking for individual measures and efficient equipment options or projects that are not whole buildings. Receive incentives for certain efficient equipment.

¹The Companies refers to Eversource and United Illuminating (UI), Southern Connecticut Gas (SCG), and Connecticut Natural Gas (CNG), subsidiaries of AVANGRID, Inc.

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SUMMARY OF PATH INCENTIVES

Path 1: Net Zero and Low EUI Buildings

Customer Incentives	
Construction Incentive	\$2.50/sf
Post Occupancy Incentive	\$1.50/sf
Net Zero or Passive House Certification Incentive	\$3,000
Technical Assistance for ZNE Services	Up to \$10,000
Verification Incentive	50% of fee up to \$10,000
Heat Pump Adder	
Air Source Heat Pumps: \$640/ton capped at \$400,000 (Eversource) or \$200,000 (Avangrid)	
Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF): \$1,000/ton capped at \$500,000 (Eversource) or \$300,000 (Avangrid)	
Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$4,000/ton capped at \$600,000 (Eversource) or \$400,000 (Avangrid)	
Design Team Incentives	
Up to \$15,000 but no less than \$8,000	

Path 3: High Performance Buildings

Customer Incentives	
Prescriptive: networked lighting controls, packaged & split DX HVAC, heat pumps, VFDs, boilers and furnaces, heat pump water heaters, etc.	See EnergizeCT.com for the latest rates.
Custom	\$0.40/kWh or \$1,000/summer peak KW \$6.00/ccf (Capped at 95% of incremental cost)
Heat Pump Incentives	
Air Source Heat Pumps: \$640/ton capped at \$400,000 (Eversource) or \$200,000 (Avangrid)	
Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF): \$1,000/ton capped at \$500,000 (Eversource) or \$300,000 (Avangrid)	
Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$4,000/ton capped at \$600,000 (Eversource) or \$400,000 (Avangrid)	
Design Team Incentives	
Up to \$10,000	
Multi-End Use Incentive	
Up to \$20,000	

²Projects can have their 25% cost share for grid-interactive efficient building technical assistance reimbursed upon successful enrollment in the ConnectedSolutions and/or Energy Storage Solutions programs.

Path 2: Whole Building EUI Reduction

Customer Incentives	
25% and greater site EUI reduction	\$2.25/sf
10% – 24.9% site EUI reduction	\$0.75 - \$1.75/sf
Passive House, LEED Gold and above Certification Incentive	\$3,000
Technical Assistance	75% cost share, up to \$25,000
Verification Incentive	50% of fee, up to \$10,000
Heat Pump Adder	
Air Source Heat Pumps: \$640/ton capped at \$400,000 (Eversource) or \$200,000 (Avangrid)	
Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF): \$1,000/ton capped at \$500,000 (Eversource) or \$300,000 (Avangrid)	
Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$4,000/ton capped at \$600,000 (Eversource) or \$400,000 (Avangrid)	
Design Team Incentives	
Up to \$15,000	

Path 4: Systems

Customer Incentives	
Support provided for prescriptive and custom energy efficient equipment applications. See the data collection or ECB Cap Sheet on EnergizeCT.com for latest rates.	
Heat Pump Incentives ²	
Air Source Heat Pumps: \$640/ton capped at \$400,000 (Eversource) or \$200,000 (Avangrid)	
Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF): \$1,000/ton capped at \$500,000 (Eversource) or \$300,000 (Avangrid)	
Ground Source Heat Pumps: \$4,000/ton capped at \$600,000 (Eversource) or \$400,000 (Avangrid)	
Multi-End Use Incentive	
Up to \$20,000	

²Path 4 projects engaging after 100% construction document completion will be eligible for heat pump incentives at 50% of these stated rates.

Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings Incentives (All Paths)

Technical Assistance: 75% of fee for a grid-interactivity specialist with 25% cost share reimbursement potential²
\$3,000 per program for successful enrollment in the demand response, electric vehicle, or battery storage programs, up to \$9,000

Go to [EnergizeCT.com](https://energizect.com) or call 1-877-WISE USE for more details.

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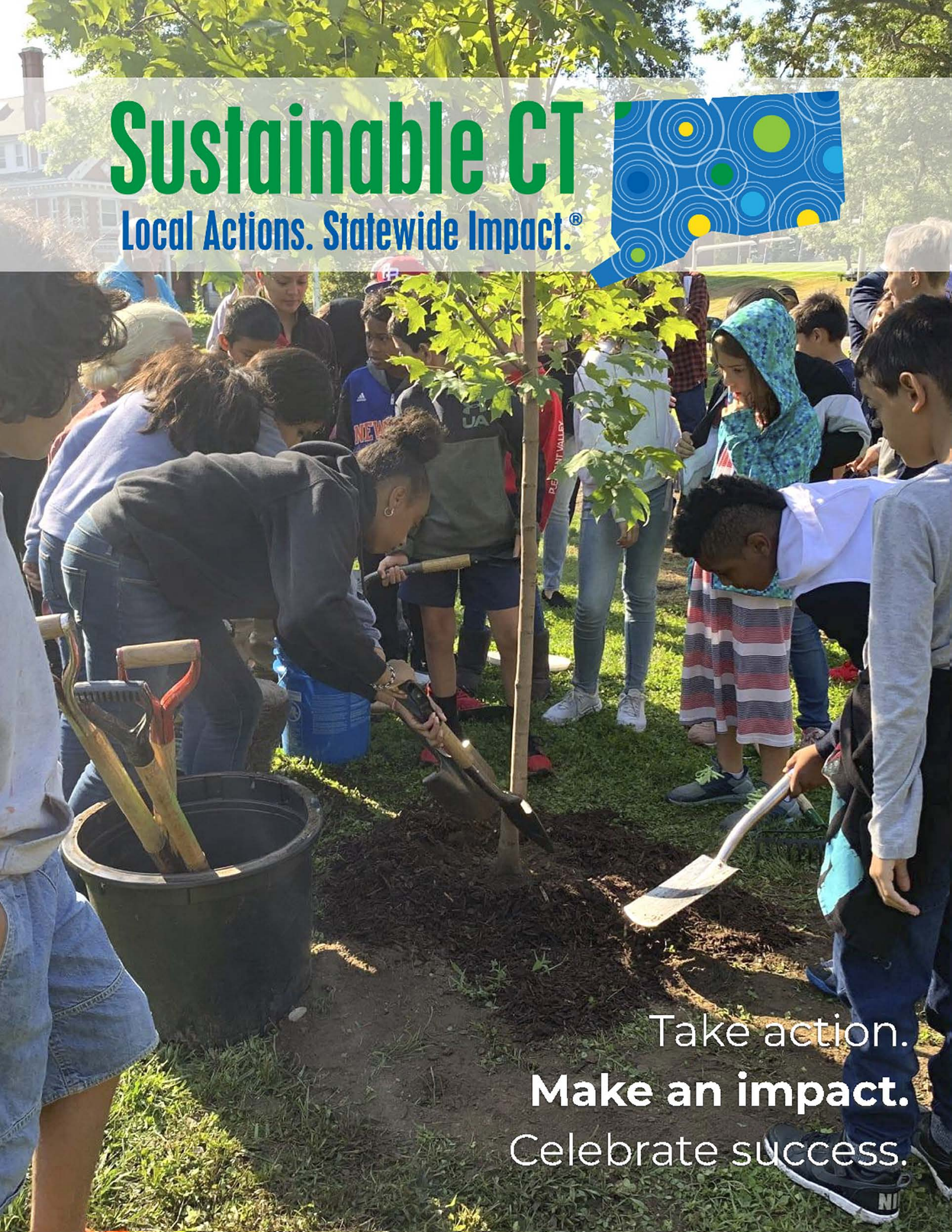
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SUSTAINABLE WEST HARTFORD COMMISSION (11 Members, 5-year staggered terms, Code Sec. 25-13)

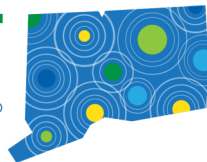
NAME	Appointed	TERM EXPIRES
Stephen Sack	08-22-2023	12-31-2026
Edward “Ted” Newton	08-22-2023	12-31-2026
Kimberly Hughes	08-22-2023	12-31-2026
Jim Fishman	08-22-2023	12-31-2025
Bernard Pelletier	08-22-2023	12-31-2025
David Sagers	08-22-2023	12-31-2025
Christy Matthews	08-22-2023	12-31-2025
Patricia “Pat” Wilson	08-22-2023	12-31-2024
Alejandro Paiuk	08-22-2023	12-31-2024
Aditee Madkekar	08-22-2023	12-31-2024
Vacant (any affiliation OK)	08-22-2023	12-31-2024

Sustainable CT

Local Actions. Statewide Impact.®



Take action.
Make an impact.
Celebrate success.



Sustainable CT is a free, voluntary certification program that inspires, supports, and celebrates thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities.

Why Participate?

» Build a more inclusive, efficient, and vibrant community through our menu of sustainability actions

» Access free technical assistance and support

» Access flexible funding through our Community Match Fund

» Be recognized for your sustainability accomplishments

Find Out More:

sustainablect.org



info@sustainablect.org

Action

1. INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

- 1.1 Optimize for Equity (Required for All)
- 1.2 Participate in Equity Training
- 1.3 Develop and Adopt a Statement on Equity

2. THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMIES

- 2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites
- 2.2 Implement Sustainable Purchasing
- 2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services
- 2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses
- 2.5 Promote Sustainable Workforce Development

3. WELL STEWARDED LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- 3.1 Provide Watershed Education
- 3.2 Create a Watershed Management Plan
- 3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration
- 3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan
- 3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
- 3.6 Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use
- 3.7 Provide Education on Responsible Water Usage
- 3.8 Implement Low Impact Development
- 3.9 Manage Woodlands and Urban Forests
- 3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management
- 3.11 Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Programs
- 3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways
- 3.13 Promote Dark Skies
- 3.14 Implement Sustainable Snow Management

4. VIBRANT AND CREATIVE CULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS

- 4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets
- 4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture
- 4.3 Develop a Creative Placemaking Plan
- 4.4 Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth

5. DYNAMIC AND RESILIENT PLANNING

- 5.1 Integrate Sustainability Into Plan of Conservation and Development
- 5.2 Adapt Permitting Process to Promote Sustainable Development
- 5.3 Develop Agriculture-Friendly Practices
- 5.4 Assess Climate Vulnerability
- 5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources
- 5.6 Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installations
- 5.7 Plan for Long-Term Recovery
- 5.8 Promote Cool Roofs
- 5.9 Participate in Nat'l Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System

6. CLEAN AND DIVERSE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND CHOICES

- 6.1 Implement Complete Streets
- 6.2 Promote Effective Parking Management
- 6.3 Encourage Smart Commuting
- 6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment
- 6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies
- 6.6 Manage Municipal Fleets

Action

7. RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENT ENERGY

- 7.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use
- 7.2 Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings
- 7.3 Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings
- 7.4 Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings
- 7.5 Develop a Municipal Energy Plan
- 7.6 Install Efficient Exterior Lighting
- 7.7 Implement a Community Energy Campaign
- 7.8 Complete Energy Audits of Municipal Buildings
- 7.9 Participate in and Promote the C-PACE Program
- 7.10 Support Battery Storage Solutions

8. INCLUSIVE ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION

- 8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event
- 8.2 Provide Effective Community Communications
- 8.3 Train Municipal Representatives
- 8.4 Support Community Match Fund Project and Civic Engagement
- 8.5 Engage in Sustainable CT Mentorship with Other Municipalities
- 8.6 Collaborate With Other Municipalities on Sustainability Actions
- 8.7 Engage with Youth on Community Sustainability

9. STRATEGIC MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste
- 9.2 Implement Unit-Based Pricing
- 9.3 Recycle Additional Materials
- 9.4 Reduce and Compost Organic Waste

10. OPTIMAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS OPPORTUNITIES

- 10.1 Encourage an Equitable and Just Food System
- 10.2 Conduct Health Impact Assessments
- 10.3 Improve Air Quality in Public Spaces
- 10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces
- 10.5 Support Equitable Food Access and Local Farmers
- 10.6 Plan and Prepare for Extreme Heat
- 10.7 Improve Outdoor Access for All

11. HEALTHY, EFFICIENT, AND DIVERSE HOUSING

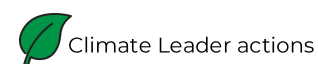
- 11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan
- 11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options
- 11.3 Implement Policy for Sustainable, Diverse Housing Options

12. EFFECTIVE, COMPASSIONATE HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- 12.1 Strengthen Municipal Capacity to Address Homelessness
- 12.2 Increase Public Awareness and Support Efforts to End Homelessness
- 12.3 Collect and Share Homelessness Data
- 12.4 Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness

13. INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES

- 13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action



Climate Leader actions



Bronze Certification

- Complete **1 Equity Toolkit** in Action 1.1, Optimize for Equity.
- Implement at least **1 action** of your choice in Categories 1-12.
- Successfully complete actions totaling **200 or more points**.



Silver Certification

- Complete **3 Equity Toolkits** in Action 1.1, Optimize for Equity.
- Implement at least **1 action** of your choice in Categories 1-12.
- Successfully complete actions totaling **500 or more points**.



Gold Certification

- Complete **all actions** in Category 1, Inclusive and Equitable Communities, including **4 Equity Toolkits** in Action 1.1, Optimize for Equity.
- Implement at least **1 action** of your choice in Categories 2-12.
- Achieve **Climate Leader Designation**.
- Complete **Action 8.6**, Collaborate with Other Municipalities on Sustainability Actions.
- Successfully complete actions totaling **750 or more points**.



Climate Leader Designation

Achieve a total of **at least 150 points** in actions marked with the Climate Leader leaf.

THE COMMUNITY MATCH FUND

Sustainable CT's innovative **Community Match Fund** provides fast, flexible funding and support to implement projects that align with our menu of sustainability actions. Unlike traditional funding programs, the Community Match Fund has no tedious grant application, no deadlines, no lengthy review period, and minimal reporting requirements. We invite great ideas that provide public benefits to your community. And we support projects led by individual residents, nonprofits, community groups, municipalities, schools, libraries—anyone in a Sustainable CT registered town.

Have an idea to make your community more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant? Contact us at funding@sustainablect.org.

Whether you're dreaming of more green spaces, solar for public spaces, greenways for biking and walking, murals and other public art, green jobs programs, community composting programs, or community gardens, the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund can help make your idea a reality. We'll work with you to develop and run a crowdfunding campaign and **we'll match every donation** you receive dollar-for-dollar.



Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund is generously supported by



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