

Sustainable CT: Building Climate Resilience at

Our Mission

To foster inclusive, resilient, and vibrant Connecticut municipalities that provide opportunities for all to thrive by: providing a menu of sustainability actions that build local economies, support equity, and respect the finite capacity of the environment; offering technical assistance to help advance sustainability initiatives; and recognizing and certifying municipalities for their achievements.



Sustainable CT Actions

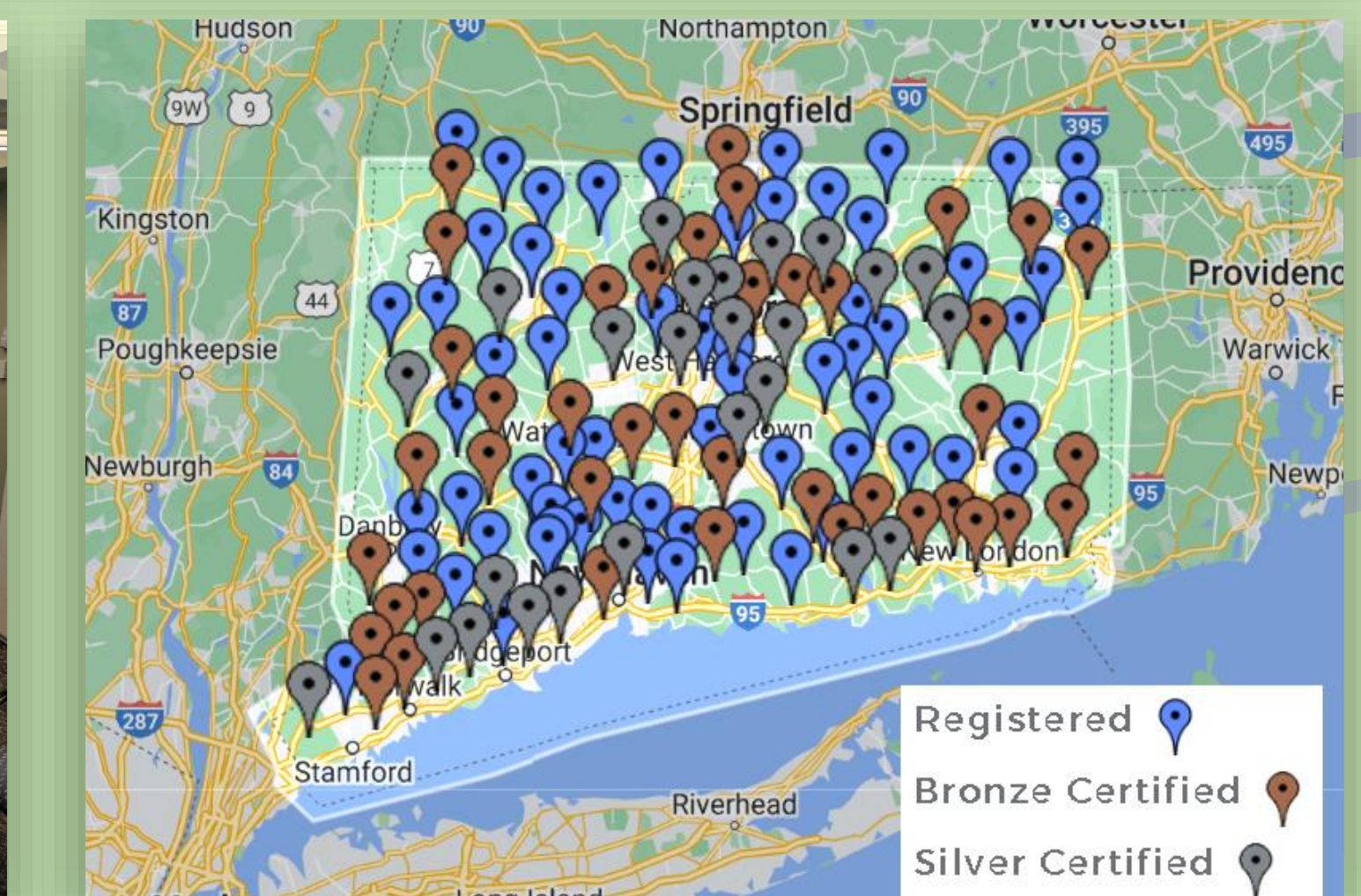
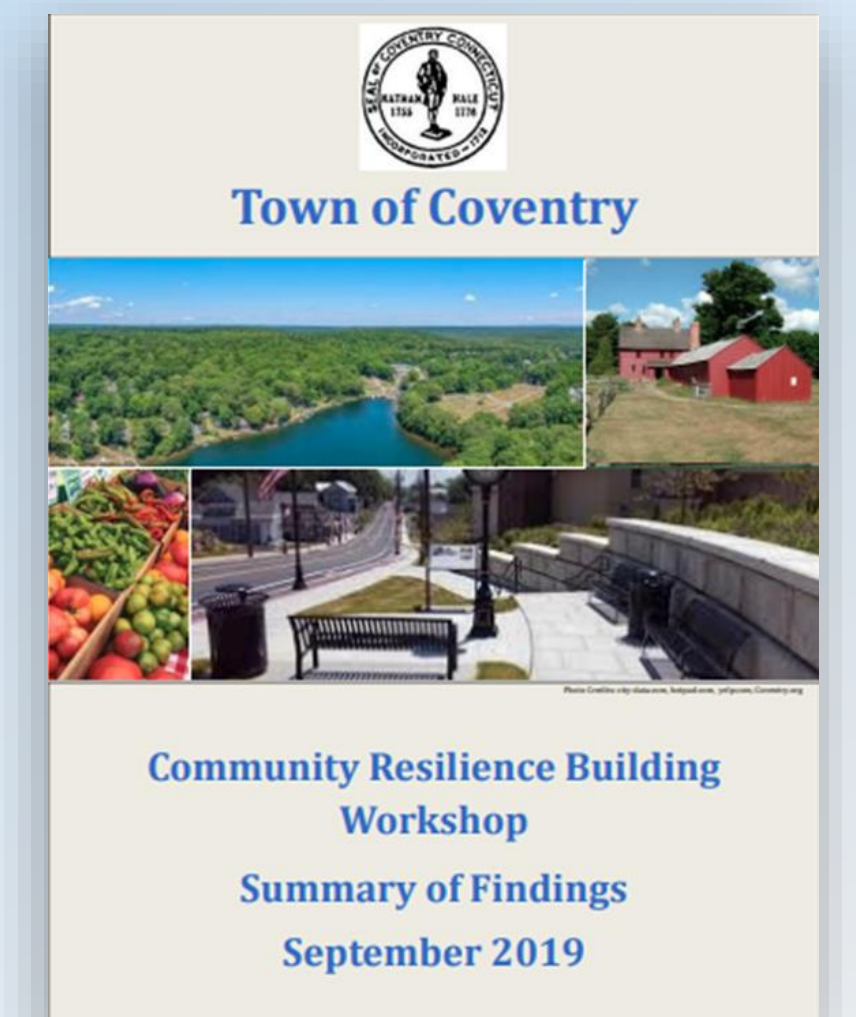
- Sustainable CT actions are sustainability best practices. By completing any one action, a community can yield multiple benefits, from enhancing climate resilience, saving money, improving health and wellness, community building, and more.
- Sustainable CT has 68 actions and almost 30% of these can help communities become more resilient to climate change.
- Some examples include:
 - Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration
 - Assess Climate Vulnerability
 - Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use



Community Resilience Building

Sustainable CT partners with the Nature Conservancy to offer no-cost Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshops in towns, helping communities assess their vulnerability to climate change, as well as begin to plan for building resilience in their community.

Developed by TNC specifically for CT communities, the CRB process has been used by over 450 communities across twelve states to help municipalities understand their own unique challenges and opportunities under current and future climate projections and natural disasters.



Our Approach

Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program to recognize thriving and resilient Connecticut municipalities. An independently funded, grassroots, municipal effort, Sustainable CT provides a wide-ranging menu of best practices. Municipalities choose Sustainable CT actions, implement them, and earn points toward certification.

Sustainable CT provides opportunities for grant funding to help communities promote economic well-being and enhance equity, all while respecting the finite capacity of the natural environment. The program is designed to support all Connecticut municipalities, regardless of size, geography or resources. Sustainable CT empowers municipalities to create high collective impact.

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. Sustainable CT invites any project that aligns with Sustainable CT's Actions, and is led by individual residents, nonprofits, community groups, municipalities, schools, libraries – anyone in a Sustainable CT-registered town. Through the Community Match Fund over \$1.5 million has gone to support local projects across the state!

Community Match Fund dollars are available for resilience-building projects in registered Sustainable CT communities. Some examples of resilience projects include salt marsh restoration, green infrastructure deployment, and climate resilience educational events.

Program Facts

- Launched in November 2017
- 129 of 169 communities registered
- Currently 66 certified (41 Bronze, 25 Silver)
- 2759 actions completed
- **Gold level certification to be introduced in 2023**
- In November 2022 Sustainable CT will announce its 2022 cohort of certified towns, as well as the inaugural class of Climate Leaders
- Sustainable CT launched a pilot of the Climate Leader designation in January 2022 with an initial focus on climate change mitigation; climate resilience actions are being added in 2023, including:
 - Plan and Prepare for Extreme Heat
 - Assess Climate Vulnerability



Take action. **Make an impact.** Celebrate success.

Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.®

