



Sustainable Connecticut Community Certification Report

This is the Sustainable Connecticut Certification Report of Ridgefield, a Sustainable Connecticut bronze certified applicant.

Ridgefield was certified on November 01, 2021 with 230 points. Listed below is information regarding Ridgefield's Sustainable Connecticut efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

Contact Information

The designated Sustainable Connecticut contact for Ridgefield is:

Name:	BENJAMIN OKO
Title/Position:	LIASON TO SUSTAINABLE CT. / RIDGEFIELD ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
Address:	11 BARLOW MOUNTAIN ROAD RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877
Phone:	2038948652

Actions Implemented

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Ridgefield was approved for in 2021 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Ridgefield, and Sustainable CT makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the submission, beyond that an individual reviewer approved at least some elements of the action for certification. Further, standards for actions below may have changed, and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Finally, approved actions here may include some documents and descriptions in support of action elements that were not approved, in addition to elements that were approved. In preparing your own application, please rely only on the action write-ups for the current certification year to guide your submission. Please contact info@sustainablect.org with specific questions.

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

1.1 Optimize for Equity – REQUIRED

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.1 Optimize for Equity (10pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [RIDGEFIELD - POCD 2020](#)

PDF: [CERC TOWN PROFILE 2019](#)

PDF: [PSC HOUSING PROFILE 2020](#)

PDF: [PLANNING PRIMER #1](#)

PDF: [KICKOFF MEETING MATERIALS 7/31/18](#)

PDF: [PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION SUMMARY DOCUMENT](#)

PDF: [PLANNING BOOKLET #2 CONDITIONS AND TRENDS](#)

PDF: [PLANNING BOOKLET #3 RESULTS OF DATA GATHERING - SHARED GOALS DEVELOPMENT.](#)

PDF: [NARRATIVE FOR EQUITY TOOLKIT APPLIED TO SCT ACTION 5.1 - INTEGRATE SUSTAINABILITY INTO POCD](#)

PDF: [POCD PUBLIC INPUT FLYER](#)

Documentation Details: The narrative document is the primary part of the submission. All other supporting documents submitted in their entirety are the work papers which resulted in the final 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town of Ridgefield. As advised, specific examples from these work papers were included in the narrative document. The work done to compile the information in the briefing documents, solicitation flyer sample, kickoff meeting materials, demographic profiles and survey results are what was distilled down to the final production of the Town of Ridgefield 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development.

Partners: 1.1. The Town engaged the professional services of Planimetrics, Cameoin Associates and New England Geosystems under the supervision of Town Planner, Richard Baldelli, to help develop the 2020 POCD document.

Additional Information: none

2. Thriving Local Economies

2.3 Inventory and Promote Local Products and Services

10 Points

Approved Information: 2.3.2 Develop, implement and maintain an ongoing “buy local” campaign. (10 pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.3.2 BUY LOCAL PROMOTIONAL IMAGES.PDF](#)

PDF: [2.3.2 SHOP LOCAL RECDC BANNERS.PDF](#)

WORD: [2.3 BUY LOCAL WORKSHEET--RECDC.DOCX](#)

IMAGE: [2.3.2 BUYLOCAL VS PRIME RECDC WEBSITE SCREENSHOT.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: 2.3.2 Ridgefield's Economic Community and Development Commission (RECDC) is the primary driver of Buy and Dine Local efforts, 3 documents, including the worksheet show that work. In addition, Ridgefield residents and business owners have a strong commitment to buying local, as evidenced in the pdf of images from different organizations promoting local buying.

Partners: 2.3.2 Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce works with Ridgefield Economic Development Council in promoting downtown events focused on buy local

2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

5 Points

Approved Information: 2.4.1 business roundtables (5pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [2.4.1 ECDC_MINUTES_6-8-20.PDF](#)

PDF: [2.4.1 ECDC_OCT_2020_MINUTES_APPROVED.PDF](#)

WORD: [2.4.1 WORKSHEET-2 ROUNDTABLES.DOCX](#)

IMAGE: [2.4.3 JAZZ, FUNK, BLUES WEEKEND 2019 INRIDGEFIELD.PNG](#)

IMAGE: [2.4.3 LOCAL BUSINESSES GIFT CERTIFICATE HOLIDAY CONTEST.PNG](#)

Documentation Details: 2.4.1 ECDC Minutes June 2020, 1st page references webinar on needs to open businesses after 1st lockdown - Contact was Bob Knight, Commissioner, ecdc@ridgefieldct.org 2.4.1 ECDC Minutes October 2020, 2nd page, half way down discussion of content for upcoming webinar on selling online - Contact was Geoffry Morris, Commissioner, ecdc@ridgefieldct.org

Partners: 2.4.3 local performance and arts venues agreed to host music for the Jazz and Blues weekend which encouraged people to visit Ridgefield and stay to shop and dine.

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

3.3 Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.3.2 Adopt wetlands protections (15 pts)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [3.3.2 WETLANDS REGULATION.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: Wetlands Regulation document details how it increases the area within which any significant development activity would be considered a 'regulated activity', specifically by increasing the area of 'upland review' from 50 feet to 100 feet from a wetland or 150 feet from a the spring high water mark of a vernal pool or significant river (Norwalk, Titicus, Saugatuck River and Silvermine rivers).

Partners: 3.3.2 none

Additional Information: none

3.4 Develop an Open Space Plan

30 Points

Approved Information: 3.4.3 Maintain a plan that prioritizes acquisitions, enhances ecosystem, connects open space parcels, offers recreational benefits (10pts) 3.4.4b Protect open space - acquired land November 2020 (5pts) 3.4.4c Conservation rangers and trail created on above land (5pts) 3.4.4.d Maintain Acquisition Fund (10pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.4.4B BEAR MOUNTAIN OPENSOURCEPURCHASE.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.4.3 POCD RIDGEFIELD ADOPTED 2020.PDF](#)

WORD: [3.4.4C RANGERS PROGRAM OVERVIEW.DOCX](#)

WORD: [3.4.3 WORKSHEET.DOCX](#)

PDF: [3.4.4D DETAILS OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION FUND.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.4.4C RIDGEFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION RANGER BROCHURE.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.4.3 OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PLAN REVISED DRAFT AUG2021.PDF](#)

PDF: [3.4.4C RANGERS INFO WELCOME LETTER.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 3.4.3 The Open Space preservation plan can be found in Chapter 7, p48 3.4.4b Last paragraph on first page of Bear Mountain document details acquisition in 2020 3.4.4c Provided an overview document and 2 supporting materials showing communications about the program 3.4.4d Details of the fund are in the document along with the most recent annual appeal letter

Partners: none

Additional Information: Links and details to information on all our conservation programs and policies can be found on Ridgefield town website <https://www.ridgefieldct.org/conservation-commission/pages/open-space-management-enforcement>

3.5 Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.5.1 Natural Resources Inventory (10pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [3.5.1 NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY](#)

Documentation Details: 3.5.1 2012 Inventory in full- introduction and context also found on town's website <https://www.ridgefieldct.org/conservation-commission/pages/natural-resource-inventory>

Partners: 3.5.1 Ridgefield Conservation Commission partnered with the Metropolitan Conservation Alliance, a program of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies,

Additional Information: none

3.10 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management

5 Points

Approved Information: 3.10.2 Municipal Removal of Invasive Species (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [3.10.3 INVASIVE FAUNA AND FLORA RIDGEFIELD_WEBPAGE.PNG](#)

PDF: [3.10.2 INVASIVES REMOVAL PROJECT.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 3.10.2 Description and photos of removal project 3.10.3 Public Education - screenshot of town website with educational information

Partners: 3.10.2 Ridgefield Conservation Commission and Ridgefield Parks & Recreation 3.10.3 Webinar program part of Ridgefield Pollinator Pathway series presented by Ridgefield Library, The Norwalk River Watershed Association, and the Ridgefield Pollinator Pathway

Additional Information: 3.10.3 Public Education - most recent event by Ridgefield Pollinator Pathways and presented by Ridgefield Town Library: "Welcoming Spring Flowers - Yikes! - Where Did All Those Invasive Plants Come From?" March 11, 2021 The webinar focused on the reasons invasives interfere in the environment, methods of eradicating them, and an introduction to some of the most commonly seen invasive plants in Fairfield County.

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets

5 Points

Approved Information: 4.1.2 CT Visits Website profile (5pts)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [CREATE CULTURAL MAP](#)

WORD: [CULTURAL MAP](#)

WORD: [2018 PLANNING CALENDAR_RIDGEFIELD EVENTS.DOCX](#)

WORD: [CTVISIT DETAILS](#)

WORD: [VIBRANT AND CREATIVE CULTURAL ECOSYSTEMS.DOCX](#)

PDF: [WRITEUP FOR ARTS AND CULTURE.PDF](#)

WORD: [4.1.2 CTVISITWEBSITE.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 4.1.2 1 page description of how information is maintained

Partners: 4.1.2 none

Additional Information: none

4.2 Support Arts and Creative Culture

20 Points

Approved Information: 4.2.1 Poet Laureate 4.2.3 Dedicated funding for the arts 4.2.5 Establish an arts council 4.2.8 Establish an arts district / cultural district 4.2.11d Develop artists network (10 pts. for 1st 3 and 5 each for additional 2)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [4.2 SUPPORT ARTS AND CREATIVE CULTURE.DOCX](#)

PDF: [4.2.1_052720_BOS_SPECIAL_MEETING_MINUTES-APPROVED.PDF](#)

PDF: [RIDGEFIELDPRESS_CULTURAL_DISTRICT_2021.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: 4.2 Document has information on 4.2.3, 4.2.8 and 4.2.11d 4.2.1 -BOS special meeting minutes has approval of Poet Laureate for 3 year term on p1 4.2.8 - Detailed article announcing Ridgefield's Cultural District designation- highlighted text on p 2 and 3 describe process for designation, what's included and what happens next.

Partners: 4.2.1 None 4.2.3 None 4.2.5 None 4.2.8 Economic and Community Development Commission coordinated the extensive application submission with all the various arts and cultural organizations and worked with the CT State Office of the Arts for this first application of their new program. 4.2.11d the many arts organizations in town

Additional Information: For sect 4.2.8. - Ridgefield's Cultural District was created to be a walkable area of town that features myriad cultural attractions that will serve as a hub for residents to congregate and interact, as well as draw visitors from other locations. It was selected to include downtown Ridgefield and surrounding areas that stretch from Keeler Tavern in the south portion through Ballard Park and the Ridgefield Library in the north, and a half mile east to the Ridgefield Theater Barn and Guild of Artists. The district encompasses other cultural assets such as the Pride Arts Center, Conservatory of Dance, Prospector Theater, Scott House, ACT of CT and the Ridgefield Playhouse.

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

5.1 Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development

40 Points

Approved Information: 5.1.1.b Integrate Sustainability Concepts into POCD (40 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.1 WORKSHEET 2 RIDGEFIELD REVISED.PDF](#)

PDF: [POCD ADOPTED 2020 WITH MAPS RFS.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: The 5.1 worksheet identifies exact pages in our POCD that relate to different actions. Pages cited in the worksheet as evidence for credit refer to the list of Sustainable CT sustainability concepts included as information (but not policy) in the POCD (pages 26-33). But all of those concepts were included elsewhere in the document as either adopted policy or proposed action steps. Here are the citations for the language in support each concept: 1 Land Use Patterns. Pg 35 1A2 and Chapter 12. 2 Compatible Physical Development and Stewardship. Pg 46 policy 2, pg 47 policy 3. 3 Municipal Programs and Operations. Pg 36 Goal 2. 4 Community Character and Livability. Chapter 5 goals. 5. Economic Vitality & Resilience. Chapter 8-11. 6. Resilient Infrastructure. Pg 37 goal 5, 121 policy 3, 120 policy 2. 7. Other- awarded for energy reduction policies discussed on page 36.

Partners: 5.1.1b participating citizens who provided feedback in developing the plan

Additional Information: none

5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources

5 Points

Approved Information: 5.5.4 Certified Local Government (5pts)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [5.5.4 NPS CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT.PDF](#)

Documentation Details: The document is from National Parks Cultural Resources website with information from 2009-2019

Partners: 5.5.4 none

Additional Information: none

6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment

10 Points

Approved Information: 6.4.1 Host EV education seminar sponsored by Ridgefield Library adult programs (5pts) 6.4.4 EV charging infrastructure assessment for Ridgefield CT (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [6.4.4 RIDGEFIELD CT EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT FEB 2021](#)

PDF: [DWAYNE ESCOLA CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION_EVBUSTRAINING.PDF](#)

[6.4.1 RACE ZOOM SERIES -- EV CHARGING 101.PPTX](#)

Documentation Details: 6.4.1 powerpoint for training 6.4.2 Certificate for EV school bus 6 week training for a member of RACE and the Energy 6.4.4 is the Energy Task Force's analysis and recommendations for increasing Ridgefield's EV use by citizens and town operations.

Partners: 6.4.1 seminar in partnership with Ridgefield Library 6.4.2 offered by Live Green CT 6.4.4 none

Additional Information: none

7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

7.1 Benchmark and Track Energy Use

5 Points

Approved Information: 7.1 Track Energy Use in Municipal and Board of Education Buildings (5 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [RIDGEFIELD PM SUSTCT RESPONSE DATA 8.23.18.XLSX](#)

PDF: [RECEIPT FOR DATA REQUEST SUBMITTAL.PDF](#)

WORD: [SOLAR WORKSHEET](#)

EXCEL: [7.1 CT REPORT-FULL-ANNUAL-BENCHMARK RIDGEFIELD.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: We worked with Amy Thompson to update the manager. She said she would submit the report. If that is not how this works we will try and figure out how to submit.

Partners: 7.1 various city departments and UTC Institute for Advanced Systems Engineering (UTC-IASE) of University of Connecticut to update the ENERGYSTAR manager portfolio

Additional Information: Attached is the spreadsheet result of the Data Request made thru Energy Star Portfolio Manager and copy of email confirmation of data request.

7.3 Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings

5 Points

Approved Information: 7.3.2 Achieve LEED certified for a municipal building, 5 points

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [7.3.2 LEED CERTIFICATION LIBRARY.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: Link to LEED Silver certification in document

Partners: 7.3.2 The Town helped the Library raise the funds to build a LEED certified building and continues to give some funding to its annual budget.

Additional Information: none

8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Support and hold a sustainability event (10 points)

Supporting Documentation:

EXCEL: [8.1_SUSTAINABILITYEVENTS.XLSX](#)

Documentation Details: Worksheet 8.1 lists the unique sustainability events we hosted this year.

Partners: 8.1 Ridgefield town library and downtown business association for one of the events

Additional Information: none

9. Strategic Materials Management

9.4 Develop a Food Waste Prevention Campaign or Food Scraps Recovery Campaign or Program

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.4.2 Develop A Food Waste Prevention or Food Scraps Recovery Program (10 pts)

Supporting Documentation:

WORD: [NARRATIVE FOR ACTION 9.4.2 DEVELOP A FOOD WASTE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN OR FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY CAMPAIGN OR PROGRAM.DOCX](#)

PDF: [9.4.2 RIDGEFIELD-ORGANICS-PROGRAM-ANNOUNCEMENT-JAN-2019.PDF](#)

Documentation Details:

Partners: 9.4.2 Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority - governmental authority

Additional Information: Town of Ridgefield also has a local business Curbside Composting that provides services to both residential and commercial business. This business is collaborating with the Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment (a town commission) to gain entry into the schools to reignite the zero cafeteria waste program. We are earnest in our belief to reach the state designated 60% diversion goal by 2024, we must grow food waste reduction efforts. We try to keep in mind the US EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy model in our brainstorming for public education actions.

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1 Develop and promote inclusive spaces and programs that provide opportunities for residents to engage in local farming, gardening, or other forms of horticulture or plant cultivation. (15 points)

Supporting Documentation:

PDF: [10.4_MCKEON_FARM_DESCRIPTION.PDF](#)

IMAGE: [10.4_SCREENSHOT_2021-04-05_WHAT'S_NEW_WEBPAGE.PNG](#)

WORD: [10.4_COMMUNITY_GROWINGS_SPACES_NARRATIVE.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: McKeon Farm Description - pdf available on Town Open Space website references Cornerstone Gardens in 3rd paragraph of the Features section Screenshot 'What's New' shows highlight of Cornerstone Gardens on Town website

Partners: Cornerstone Gardens coordinates the program and volunteers from Boy Scouts, Lions Heart Club, Ridgefield Public Schools in growing food.

Additional Information: none

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

11.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

10 Points

Approved Information: 11.1.1 Have an affordable housing commission (10 pts)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [RIDGEFIELD_AFFORDABLE_HOUSING_FACEBOOK.PNG](#)

WORD: [11.1_DESIGN_IMPLEMENT_AFFORDABLE_HOUSING_PLAN.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: 11.1 describes current status of the affordable housing commission and its members for action 11.1.1

Partners: 11.1.1 the Housing Authority manages affordable housing units.

Additional Information: none

12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

12.4 Provide or Mobilize Resources to Address Homelessness

10 Points

Approved Information: 12.5.3 Coordinate funds to prevent homelessness (10pts)

Supporting Documentation:

IMAGE: [RIDGEFIELD EMERGENCY FUND WEBSITE INFO.PNG](#)

WORD: [RIDGEFIELD SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS UPDATES 2020.DOCX](#)

IMAGE: [ARTICLE ON COVID RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR RIDGEFIELD RESIDENTS.PNG](#)

WORD: [12.5.3 WORKSHEET COORDINATEHOMELESSNESSFUNDING.DOCX](#)

Documentation Details: Ridgefield Social Services Update describes on page 1 a variety of programs designed to lessen the strain on household budgets by providing food, so remaining household funds can go to housing and other needs. An additional program listed on the worksheet is described midway on p2 - Feed our Tigers.

Partners: 12.5.3 Social Services coordinated some volunteers and distribution for programs while a private grocery store raised funds to donate food, a local nonprofit Compassionate Ridgefield solicited volunteers, Tiger Hollow recruited donors in school community for summer food donations, through out the year many civic groups including Rotary Club, Churches and many, many individual donors gave money to the emergency fund.