

Actions & Impact

The Sustainable CT Newsletter



Certification Awards - Fall, 2021

[Find Our Workshops & Coffee Hours on the Sustainable CT YouTube Channel](#)

Fall Certification Deadline: August 23

Including the optional 2022 pilot Climate Leader Designation

The application deadline for the 2022 fall certification cycle is quickly approaching: **Tuesday, August 23, at noon**. We encourage municipalities to submit application materials early, if possible. And remember, answers to your questions are just an email away:

info@sustainablect.org.



August 23 is also the deadline for this year's pilot program for **Climate Leader Designation**, celebrating municipalities that are reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions while saving money, improving public health, and building community.

For more information and guidance, see [the Certification Overview section of our web site](#). We're looking forward to certifying *your* town this year!



New Bethel Commission To Wrestle With Climate Issues

The Bethel Board of Selectman has recently confirmed the Sustainable Bethel Commission which is a part of the statewide [Sustainable CT](#) initiative.

The commission includes ten Bethel residents: Chairperson Kathryn Hebert, Vice Chairperson Tori Cornish, Diana Brady, Stephen Ippolito, Katie Troy, Peter Schenkman, Peter Schwartz, Ryan Arconti, Shaun Chang, and Suneetha Malkani.

[\[READ THE FULL ARTICLE\]](#)



CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK

Green Bank Summer Update Webinar

Connecticut Green Bank will update programs and solutions for homes, buildings, and investments. Topics will include Energy Storage Solutions, C-PACE for new construction, commercial solar options, Smart-E summer special offer, Green Liberty Notes and more. **August 3, noon – 1 p.m.**

[\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)



New Federal Funding Opportunities for Affordable Housing Retrofits

Explore how state and local governments can leverage a historic influx of federal funding to increase investments in retrofits for low- and moderate-income housing. Sponsored by **the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)** and the **Sustainable States Network**. Webinar **Thursday, August 4, at 2 p.m.**

[\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)



Heat Pump 101 for Connecticut Residents

Eversource presents an overview of heat pump heating and cooling systems. **Melanie Shea, heat pump specialist**, will walk attendees through a basic overview of heat pump equipment, the benefits and considerations for installation, and the resources available to Eversource customers. Webinar **Thursday, August 4, noon - 1 p.m.**

[\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)



Last in the EPA Clean School Bus Summer Webinar Series: ASDA Rural Electric Cooperatives Infrastructure Funding

The Clean School Bus Program has received additional funding for the next five years through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and has made \$500 million available for the replacement of diesel school buses with electric school buses this year. Note: **Application deadline is August 19, 2022**. [Register](#) for the last of the EPA's webinar sessions on **August 10 at 1 p.m.**



Driving Green Governor Ned Lamont

announced the enactment of a landmark new law that will help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector, improve air quality and health outcomes for Connecticut residents, and help to mitigate impacts from the climate crisis.

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

~AND~

U.S. Dept. of Energy Announces \$96M for Advancing Clean Vehicle Tech

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced a \$96 million funding opportunity to support decarbonizing the domestic transportation sector. The funding will focus on expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging accessibility, create cleaner non-road vehicles through electrification and the use of alternative fuels, and develop electric drive components and materials to maximize EV efficiency and affordability.

[\[READ THE PRESS RELEASE\]](#)



the **IMPACT** a Sustainable CT podcast

This month: Mary Dickerson, Certification Manager

Extraordinaire, and a really fun storyteller. You don't want to miss it.

The IMPACT is available **August 15** at sustainablect.org and wherever you get your podcasts.

Sustainable CT and Actions & Impact are made possible in part by



Connecticut Green Bank confronts climate change by increasing and accelerating the flow of private capital into markets that energize the green economy.

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Community Match Fund Corner



Closing the CMF Gap: Every Town is Full of Opportunity

We know that every town has an opportunity for success. So, we're kicking off an initiative to reach 100% of the towns defined as "distressed" by [the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development](#) (DECD) - with Community Match Fund dollars.

The DECD categorizes towns by tax base, resident income, and the need for public services. There are eight "distressed" towns that have hosted only one CMF project, and four towns that have hosted none; there are five towns that cannot access the Community Match Fund at all because they're not registered with Sustainable CT. We want to make an extra effort to invest in these towns, to help them discover opportunities for success. Here's how you can help...

[\[READ MORE\]](#)
* * *

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



The Next Sustainable CT Coffee Hour: August 19, 10 a.m.

It's hurricane season - again, only more so due to climate change. What are municipalities doing to mitigate and combat global warming?

[According to NOAA](#), most hurricane activity in the US occurs August through October, with a peak just about the time kids return to school in

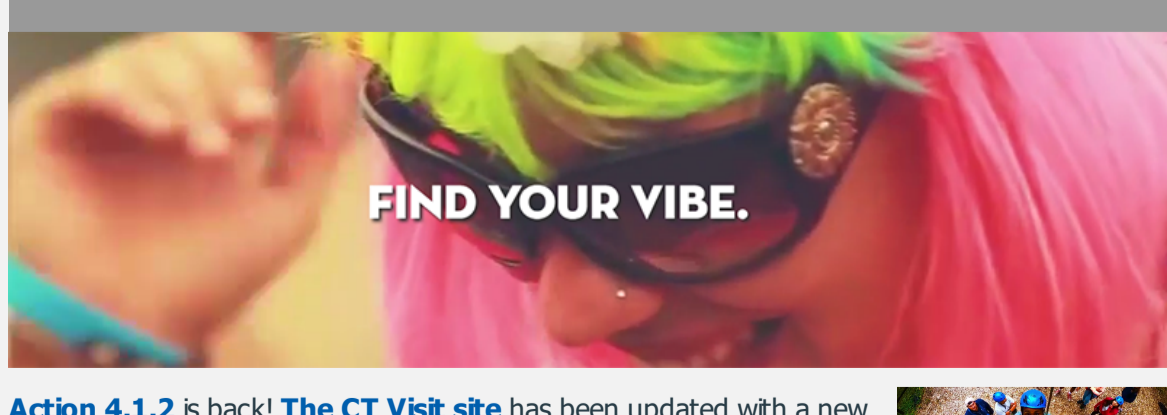
September. And if you think Connecticut's immune, [think again](#). With global warming adding to the frequency and intensity of weather events, we thought it would be timely and informative to highlight some of the efforts municipalities are making at the local level to mitigate and combat climate change. Hold on to your hats and join us for the August Coffee Hour when **Bill Pollack, landscape architect for Fairfield's Jennings Beach Project** will talk about the steps needed to preserve beaches and protect inland communities; and **Randy Walikonis, Mansfield School Building Committee chair**, will share the trials and tribulations - and triumphs - of pursuing a net-zero building project for the Mansfield Elementary School. The August Coffee Hour is sure to blow you away.

Join Sustainable CT for (virtual) informal discussions **most third Fridays of each month at 10 a.m.** We share program updates and resources, explore your questions, and strengthen the network of Sustainable CT champions. These sessions are free and open to all.

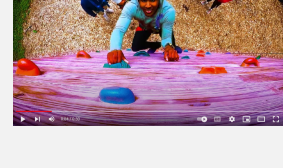
[\[REGISTER for AUGUST 19\]](#)

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

Action 4.1.2 - and CT Visit - are BACK!



Action 4.1.2 is back! [The CT Visit site](#) has been updated with a new look, and a town's ability to update information is back online. Towns should now be able to complete the update for this action, so go ahead: find your vibe.



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