



How Sustainable Is Your Community?

2018 CRCOG REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

SHOWCASING CAPITOL REGION LEADERS IN
COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY!

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: MAY 23, 2018

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) will present this year's sustainability awards at its Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, June 13, 2018**.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

CRCOG will again recognize member municipalities for policies, plans, programs and projects that help promote a more sustainable Capitol Region. Such efforts support the agency's Sustainable Capitol Region Initiative and its on-line [Green Clearinghouse](#).

NEW! Extra points will be awarded to nominees that have registered to participate in [Sustainable CT](#) – a voluntary, statewide certification program that recognizes thriving and resilient CT communities. Check out Sustainable CT's action list at <https://sustainablect.org/> to see what work you can get credit for, and then let CRCOG acknowledge your sustainability successes with an award!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: HEDY AYERS AT HAYERS@CROG.ORG
OR AT 860-724-4218.



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT AREAS:

Awards may be presented to municipalities for policies, plans, programs and projects that promote sustainability in one or more of the following areas:

Access and Mobility: Encourage a well-balanced transportation system – one that: provides high quality transit; promotes active transportation modes (walking and biking) that complement and compete with the automobile; improves public health; and provides access for people with disabilities and underserved populations. Of particular interest are those efforts that focus on bicycle and pedestrian programming, public transit and Complete Street initiatives.

Affordable Housing: Provide a broad range of housing opportunities for people of all incomes, ages and races, on a fair and equitable basis. Of particular interest are efforts that focus on: assessing community housing needs; housing diversity as a key component of sustainability (i.e. single and multi-family, renter and owner-occupied, mixed-income, assisted and supportive housing options, zoning for accessory dwellings, etc.); and growing sustainable affordable housing options.

Economic Growth: Contribute to the long-term sustainability of the regional economy. Of particular interest are those efforts that: seek to make CRCOG towns and the region a center for entrepreneurship and innovation; provide resources/support for business creation and growth; help forge strategic relationships between employers, schools and municipalities to create a pipeline to replace our aging workforce; enhance quality of place to attract and retain talent; and harness TOD opportunities to help drive economic growth.

Environment: Protect our natural environment through conservation, preservation and sustainable development strategies. Of particular interest are those efforts that: encourage sustainable development, infill development and brownfield remediation; work to address climate change, promote energy conservation and independence and the use of renewable resources; support open space and farmland preservation; protect our air, water and soil; and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters on our communities.

Food Security: Help those residents lacking easy access to nutritious, culturally appropriate and affordable food. Of particular interest are those efforts that address hunger, poor food quality, food production, distribution challenges and transportation linkages, and food waste reduction (including community gardens, Farmers' Markets, mobile markets, nutrition programming, etc.).

Green Infrastructure: Enhance and improve the built environment through sustainable stormwater management. Of particular interest are those efforts that promote sustainable construction practices and green building design (including green roofs, permeable pavement, rain gardens, LEED-certified buildings, etc.).



ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDELINES:

1. Any CRCOG member municipality may nominate themselves or be nominated by another party. Bi-town/multi-town nominations for cooperative work are welcomed and encouraged, as are efforts where a town has collaborated with private industry, businesses, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, neighborhoods or other government agencies.
2. Nominations must meet the award criteria (below) in at least one of the project achievement areas.
3. Nominations should describe projects or initiatives **in progress or completed in 2017 or 2018.**

AWARD CRITERIA:

A panel of evaluators, made up of local sustainability leaders, municipal officials and CRCOG staff, will evaluate the nominations based on how well the policies, plans, programs and projects meet the following criteria:

1. **Has a Positive Impact**—must have a meaningful and demonstrable impact in the Capitol Region by helping to protect the environment, build vibrant, healthy communities or enhance the quality of life for its residents.
2. **Embraces Innovation/Creativity/Best Practices**—should reflect a new concept, technology or the incorporation of best practices.
3. **Overcomes Challenges**—should explain what challenges were overcome and what lessons were learned.
4. **Is Transferable**—is replicable/scalable within the region and beyond by other municipalities facing similar circumstances.
5. **Demonstrates Initiative**—should reflect how the city/town took action to move sustainability forward in their community.
6. **Values Cooperation**—includes a cooperative approach that leverages partnerships with industry, the business community, non-profits, neighborhoods, other abutting communities, educational institutions, government agencies, etc.
7. **Is Financially Sustainable**—strives for long-term budget neutrality, has the potential to save the municipality money by lowering related expenses or improving operating efficiencies, is positioned to drive economic growth, and/or provides a direct economic benefit to citizens.
8. **NEW! Promotes Inclusiveness and Equity**—strives for more inclusive decision-making and/or access to services and benefits, with particular attention to engaging those who have often been left behind.



NOMINATIONS PROCESS:

All nominations for awards should be forwarded to Hedy Ayers' attention at CRCOG at hayers@crcog.org by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. Awardees will be notified in early June and will receive their awards at CRCOG's Annual Meeting.

Please provide all of the following information, in the order listed, for your nomination to be considered complete:

1. General Information—Name of Policy, Plan, Program or Project, Town(s) Involved, Contact Person, Address, Phone Number, Email Address, Nominator's Name, Phone Number and Email Address.
2. Project Achievement Areas—List all that apply (Access and Mobility, Affordable Housing, Economic Growth, Environment, Food Security and Green Infrastructure).
3. Provide a brief overview of the nominated policy, plan, program or project and explain how it has addressed one or more of the selected achievement areas. Indicate how it has had (or is envisioned to have once implemented) a positive impact on your community/the region.
4. How does the policy, plan, program or project embrace innovation or creativity?
5. How have best practices been leveraged/incorporated?
6. What obstacles or challenges needed to be overcome to make this effort a success?
7. What can other communities learn from your experiences?
8. How replicable/scalable is your work?
9. How does this policy, plan, program or project demonstrate initiative?
10. What strategic partnerships were leveraged to facilitate implementation?
11. How does the initiative promote operating efficiencies, save tax dollars, encourage economic growth and/or provide a direct economic benefit to citizens?
12. **NEW!** How does the initiative promote inclusiveness and/or equitable access to services and benefits?
13. **NEW!** Indicate if your community has registered to participate in the Sustainable CT program at www.sustainablect.org.
14. Do you have a sustainability committee? If so, please indicate the name of the body, the primary contact (name and email address) and what role, if any, it played in support of the nominated initiative.
15. Any documents relevant to the nomination (policies, plans, model codes, program brochures, photographs) that can be showcased on the Green Clearinghouse!



PAST AWARDEES:

CRCOG leaders in community sustainability have included:

2017

1. **Town of Coventry**—for its exemplary stewardship of the Coventry Farmers’ Market, a flagship regional destination and the only municipally-owned farmers’ market in the state.
2. **Town of Stafford**—for the Town’s exemplary energy project work, its strategic and extensive leveraging of solar and geothermal technologies and its long-range vision for a greener future.

2016

1. **Town of Coventry**—for the progressive work of the Coventry Lake Advisory and Monitoring Committee (CLAM).
2. **City of Hartford**—for Zone Hartford, a transformative, citywide form-based code that prioritizes environmental sustainability.
3. **Town of Mansfield**—for Mansfield Tomorrow, a comprehensive Plan of Conservation and Development.
4. **Town of Rocky Hill**—for the Town’s partnership with SolarCity for a Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Generation System.

More information on these initiatives can be found online on CRCOG’s Green Clearinghouse at www.greenregionct.org under Implementation Projects.