How Sustainable Is Your Community?

2017 CRCOG REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS
RECOGNIZING CAPITOL REGION LEADERS IN COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: MAY 24, 2017

The Capitol Region Council of Governments will present this year's sustainability awards at its Annual Meeting, which will be held on **Thursday, June 8, 2017** at Dunkin' Donuts Park in Hartford.

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

As an extension of the agency's Sustainable Capitol Region Initiative and its on-line Green Clearinghouse (www.greenregionct.org), CRCOG is once again looking to recognize member municipalities for policies, plans, programs and projects that help promote a more sustainable Capitol Region. Nominations must meet the award criteria in at least one of the achievement areas described on the next page.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: HEDY AYERS AT HAYERS@CRCOG.ORG OR AT 860-522-2217, EXT. 234.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT AREAS:

Awards may be presented to municipalities for the creation of policies, plans, programs and projects that promote sustainability in one or more of the following areas highlighted on the Green Clearinghouse.

Access and Mobility: Encourage a well-balanced transportation system – one that provides high quality transit and promotes active transportation modes (walking and biking) that complement and compete with the automobile.   Of particular interest are those efforts that focus on bicycle and pedestrian programming, 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 those efforts that focus on housing diversity as a key component of sustainability (including single and multi-family, renter and owner-occupied, mixed-income, assisted and supportive housing options, zoning for accessory dwellings, etc.).

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; help forge strategic relationships between employers, schools and municipalities to create a talent pipeline to replace our aging workforce; harness transit-oriented development opportunities to help drive economic growth; and attract and retain young professionals.

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 and distribution challenges and transportation linkages (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 should describe projects or initiatives **in progress or completed in 2016 or 2017**.

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. **NEW! 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.

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 24, 2017.** Awardees will be notified in early June and will receive their awards at CRCOG's Annual Meeting.

Please provide the following information 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. **NEW!** 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. **NEW!** How does the initiative promote operating efficiencies, save tax dollars, encourage economic growth and/or provide a direct economic benefit to citizens?
12. **NEW!** 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.
13. Any documents relevant to the nomination (policies, plans, model codes, program brochures, photographs) that can be showcased on the Green Clearinghouse!

PAST AWARDEES:

The following communities were recognized as 2016 leaders in community sustainability:

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.

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