



# Sustainability Initiatives (2020)

The City of Hartford Office of Sustainability

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The Office of Sustainability directly engages residents through community groups, programs, and events; provides technical assistance; and oversees project management for green programming. Below are a few of the initiatives that the Office is leading or assisting:



Office of Sustainability Photos: 1) Youth Service Corps plants trees; 2) Landfill solar array; 3) Virtual Earth Week storytelling with Leticia Colon de Mejias

## Projects and Programming

**Municipal Energy Savings.** With a new electricity supply agreement alone, the City anticipates more than \$1.5 million in savings over the next few years.

**Energy Improvement District (EID) Landfill Solar.** The EID Board is working with the City and a contractor to install new solar at the former landfill.

**Urban Tree Canopy Action Plan.** This grant-funded plan is the City's new blueprint for forestry, prioritizing maintenance and planting based on need and canopy cover. Many thanks to the Department of Public Works and the Tree Advisory Commission for their partnership.

**Retain the Rain (RtR).** Through this grant-funded program and with the Department of Public Works, Our Piece of the Pie, and the Youth Service Corps, we've added ~60 trees to public parks. We also utilized grant funding to support nonprofit Keney Park Sustainability Project's grow kits and garden beds for residents.

This is in addition to the +370 rain barrels / downspout diverters and dozens of composters and trees that were distributed over the second phase of the RtR program.

**Virtual Events.** The Office of Sustainability held online events for green jobs and educational Earth Month programming. Videos are available on Facebook: @hartfordsustainability

## 2020 Sources of Financial Support and Capacity Building

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

The Funders Network / Urban Sustainability Directors Network

CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Harvard Graduate School of Design

In 2020, the Hartford Mayor's Office of Sustainability was funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund. The views contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and its funding sources. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government, or the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation or its funding sources.



# 2020 Community-wide Initiatives

Compiled by the City of Hartford Office of Sustainability

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*This is a compilation of various sustainability initiatives from across the City, and it includes efforts from City of Hartford departments, other government agencies, nonprofits, and many more stakeholders. This is not an exhaustive list, and there is always more to be done. Heartfelt thanks to all our residents, organizations, colleagues, and funders. Together, we're making progress towards a greener, more resilient Hartford.*

## A Brief Snapshot of Sustainability Across Hartford:

### Vision Zero and Complete Streets.

Hartford's DDS and DPW team added traffic calming measures like the City's first bike boulevard. DDS also led the drafting of the Complete Streets Plan, which envisions safer streets for all.

**Forestry Crew Tackles Hazards.** The City's new DPW forestry crew handled +240 hazardous tree cases.

**Local Food Systems.** In the past growing season, Hartford Public Schools purchased +\$22,000 in Hartford-grown produce, helping support local farmers and businesses.

**Solar for All – Residential Solar.** Through the CT Green Bank's Solar for All Program, +140 Hartford households have accessed solar financing to date.

**Food Policy Commission.** The Commission created a pandemic guide for food resources, and commissioners grew and donated +250lbs of produce.

**Local Transportation Advocacy.** Organizations like Transport Hartford Academy continued to offer walk audit training and bike safety programs.

**Decommissioning the Incinerator.** MIRA will close the Hartford trash incinerator. This is one step towards cleaner air, and more equitable sustainable waste management.



Photo Credits: 1) Forestry Crew – City Forester Heather Dionne, 2) Slow Streets Event at Hampton St. – Transport Hartford Academy, 3) Adopt Your Block Tool Trailer – Office of Community Engagement, 4) Community Garden Planting – Love Your Block



## 247 of 254

Tree Cases Closed



## 5

DDS / DPW  
Traffic Calming  
Projects

## Recognition



**Richard H. Driehaus Form-Based Codes Award**  
Form-Based Codes Institute at Smart Growth America



**Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community**  
The League of American Bicyclists



## +300

KNOX/Hartford  
Community  
Gardeners

## Community Engagement / Implementation

Various programs encourage residents to lead and implement neighborhood-based projects.

The City's Office of Community Engagement Love Your Block (LYB) program, Hartford Decide\$, and Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund (CMF) are just a few of the programs that have supported over a dozen community projects during 2019 - 2020.

Funded projects include a pollinator garden, Capitol Ave streetscape improvements, art murals, bicycle education, and more.



## 15

Completed Love  
Your Block Projects



## \$180K+

raised for  
projects in Hartford



## \$50K

For 3 Resident-  
selected projects

## Get Involved



### START A GREEN PROJECT.

Make your neighborhood vision come true through the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund. Email [hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu](mailto:hildingsalorioa@easternct.edu) for info. If you just need tools to host a cleanup, email [LoveYourBlock@hartford.gov](mailto:LoveYourBlock@hartford.gov).



### STAY INFORMED.

Follow [@Hartford311](https://www.facebook.com/Hartford311) on Facebook or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/Hartford311) for info on resources, community meetings, and jobs.

Follow [@hartfordclimate](https://twitter.com/hartfordclimate) on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/hartfordclimate) for updates from the Office of Sustainability.



### BECOME A VOLUNTEER.

Hartford's boards, commissions, and neighborhood groups are in need of commissioners and participants.

To learn more, visit [MeetingInfo.org](http://MeetingInfo.org) to see past meeting minutes and upcoming agendas, or visit [www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions](http://www.hartfordct.gov/Government/Boards-and-Commissions)



# 2020 Acknowledgments

*The City of Hartford Office of Sustainability*

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*Sustainability work in Hartford could not happen without our community stakeholders and advocates. You are our unsung heroes working behind the scenes to support residents on a variety of environmental action efforts. A big thanks to the organizations that provided financial support and capacity building assistance to our Office: the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Funders Network, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Harvard Graduate School of Design.*

*While this list is only a brief overview of the many organizations that have promoted and implemented sustainability initiatives in 2020, we'd like to extend a special thanks to:*

## City of Hartford Depts. / Divisions

- City Council
- Department of Development Services
- Department of Families, Children, Youth and Recreation
- Department of Public Works
- Hartford Fire Department
- Hartford Housing Authority
- Hartford Police Department
- Hartford Public Library
- Hartford Public Schools
- Health and Human Services
- Human Resources / Office of Equity and Opportunity
- Management, Budgets and Grants / Finance Department / Procurement
- Metro Hartford Innovation Services
- Office of the Chief Operating Officer / Central Duplicating
- Office of Corporation Counsel
- Office of Mayor Luke Bronin / Office of Community Engagement
- Office of the Tax Assessor
- Office of the City Treasurer
- Town and City Clerk

## Govt. Agencies / Affiliates / Utilities

- AmeriCorps
- Capitol Region Council of Governments
- CT Agricultural Experiment Station
- CT Airport Authority
- CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (Funder)
- CT Department of Health
- CT Department of Transportation
- CT Green Bank
- CTrides
- Energize CT Utilities: Eversource, United Illuminating, CT Natural Gas
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Governor's Council on Climate Change
- Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority
- National Park Service
- The Metropolitan District
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Department of Energy
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- US Forest Service

## Community Groups / Commissions

- Advisory Commission on Food Policy
- Advisory Commission on the Environment
- Board of Education
- Complete Streets Working Group
- Energy Improvement District Board
- Friends of Parks Groups
- Greater Hartford Arts Council
- Hartford Next / Neighborhood Revitalization Zones
- North Hartford Promise Zone
- Parks & Rec Advisory Commission
- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Solid Waste Task Force
- Tree Advisory Commission

## Other Organizations

- Financial Support / Capacity Building
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
  - Harvard Graduate School of Design
  - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
  - The Funders Network / Urban Sustainability Directors Network
  - Tremaine Foundation

### Educational Institutions / Affiliates

- CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation
- Harvard Graduate School of Design
- Trinity College
- Trinity College / Capital Community College Liberal Arts Action Lab
- UConn School of Business
- UConn School of Law
- University of CT (Storrs / Hartford)
- University of Hartford
- Wesleyan University

### Nonprofits

- American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
- Chispa CT / Education Fund at the CT League of Conservation Voters
- Cities of Service Love Your Block
- Clean Water Action / Clean Water Fund
- Community Renewal Team
- Community Solutions
- CT Children's Medical Center / Watch For Me CT
- CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs
- Ebony Horsewomen
- Foodshare

## Other Organizations (cont.)

### Nonprofits (cont.)

- Garden Club of Hartford
- Greater Hartford Arts Council
- Green Eco Warriors
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hands on Hartford
- Hartford Food System
- Hartford Maple Syrup Club
- Immanuel Congregational Church Environmental Ministries Committee
- iQuilt Partnership
- Keney Park Sustainability Project
- KNOX, Inc.
- Levo International, Inc.
- MetroHartford Alliance
- Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
- Operation Fuel
- Our Piece of the Pie / Mayor's Youth Service Corps
- People's Action for Clean Energy
- Park Watershed
- Phillips Health Ministry
- Public Allies
- Real Art Ways
- Riverfront Recapture
- Sierra Club – CT Chapter
- Southside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance
- Sustainable CT
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toivo at Advocacy Unlimited
- Transport Hartford Academy and BiCi Co. at the Center for Latino Progress
- Transportation Climate Initiative
- United Way
- US Conference of Mayors
- Vecinos Unidos

### Businesses

- Blue Earth Compost
- Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner
- Bridge Energy Services
- C-TEC Solar
- CDM Smith
- Colliers International
- Davey Resource Group
- Fitzgerald and Halliday, Inc.
- Graybar
- PosiGen
- reSET Social Enterprise Trust
- The Hartford
- To Design
- Travelers
- Wegowise