



SUSTAINABILITY / RESILIENCY

7

NEWINGTON
2020 POCD

POSSIBLE
GOAL
STATEMENT

Become a more sustainable and more resilient community.

Sustainability

The concept of sustainability is becoming more prominent in public policy and Newington should start to address these issues. Basic environmental and energy sustainability strategies might include the following:

Theme	Possible Actions
Energy Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing energy use / becoming more energy efficient • Increasing use of renewable energy (solar, wind, etc.) • Providing alternative approaches (fuel cell, micro-grids, etc.) • Considering life-cycle costing in energy-related decisions • Promoting “greener” buildings / vehicles • Providing for electric car charging stations
Water Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing water use • Reducing water waste / recycling water
Waste Generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste (including food waste) • Reducing use of plastic bags, straws, etc. • Increasing recycling / composting
Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using low-impact development (LID) strategies to address stormwater quality and quantity
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing reliance on fossil fuels • Reducing current / future CO₂ emissions

The concept of economic sustainability is addressed in other sections in the POCD.

SustainableCT

Newington and a number of other Connecticut communities are participating in the SustainableCT program (a voluntary program established by a non-profit organization) which helps community measure and report their progress on sustainability. The SustainableCT program incorporates the following concepts:

CONCEPT I. Thriving Local Economies	
A.	Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites
B.	Implement Sustainable Purchasing
C.	Inventory and Promote Local Retail Options
D.	Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses
E.	Promote Sustainable Workforce Development
F.	Participate in and Promote C-Pace Program
CONCEPT II. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources	
A.	Create a Watershed Management Plan
B.	Engage in Watershed Protection and Restoration
C.	Develop an Open Space Plan
D.	Create a Natural Resource and Wildlife Inventory
E.	Manage for Drought and Municipal Water Use
F.	Provide Education on Water Conservation
G.	Implement Low Impact Development (LID)
H.	Manage Woodlands and Forests
I.	Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management
J.	Implement Green Grounds and Maintenance Program
CONCEPT III. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems	
A.	Map Tourism and Cultural Assets
B.	Support Arts and Creative Culture
C.	Develop a Creative Placemaking Plan
D.	Provide an Arts and Culture Program for Youth
CONCEPT IV. Dynamic and Resilient Planning	
A.	Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development and Zoning
B.	Adapt Permitting Process to Promote Sustainable Development
C.	Develop Agricultural-Friendly Practices
D.	Assess Climate Vulnerability
E.	Inventory and Assess Historic Resources
F.	Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installations
CONCEPT V. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices	
A.	Implement Complete Streets
B.	Promote Effective Parking Management
C.	Encourage Smart Commuting
D.	Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment
E.	Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

CONCEPT VI. Efficient Physical Infrastructure and Operations	
A.	Benchmark and Track Energy Use
B.	Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings
C.	Achieve High Energy Performance for Individual Buildings
D.	Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings
E.	Develop a Municipal Energy Plan
F.	Manage Municipal Fleets
G.	Install Efficient Street Lights
H.	Implement a Community Energy Campaign
CONCEPT VII. Strategic and Inclusive Public Services	
A.	Hold a Sustainability Event
B.	Provide Effective Community Communications
C.	Train Municipal Commissions
D.	Encourage Healthy and Sustainable Food Networks
E.	Report Materials Management Data and Reduce Waste
F.	Implement Save Money and Reduce Trash (SMART) Program
G.	Recycle Additional Materials and Compost Organics
H.	Develop a Food Waste Reduction Campaign
I.	Conduct Health Impact Assessments
J.	Encourage Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Public Spaces
CONCEPT VIII. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing	
A.	Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment
B.	Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options
C.	Benchmark Energy and Water Use for Multifamily Housing
CONCEPT IX. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts	
A.	Optimize for Equity
CONCEPT X. Implement [Another] Sustainability Action	

Resilience Strategies

Avoidance-Related

- Identification / avoidance / risk reduction

Mitigation-Related

- Evaluating probability / risk scenarios
- Evaluating approaches (protection / adaptation)
- Balancing of cost / benefit
- Hardening infrastructure (e.g. burying utilities)
- Promoting grid independence / interconnected community

Response-Related

- Pre-event education / training
- Pre-event response plans

Resilience

For the POCD, resiliency relates to the concept of being able to identify, avoid, minimize, mitigate, absorb and/or recover from impactful events in an efficient and timely way. This can include:

- Mitigation of known hazards such as intense storms, flooding, and similar events (including storm preparation and emergency response).
- Emergency services (such as police, fire, medical).
- Adaptation to climate change including an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms which exceed the infrastructure capacity and/or surpass past storm events.
- Economic disruption.

Do these policies and action steps make sense for Newington?

Are there any policies or action steps you feel should be added or deleted?

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR 2020 POCD

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)

1. Strive to become a more sustainable and more resilient community.
2. Incorporate environmental sustainability in municipal decision making:
 - a. Energy consumption.
 - b. Water consumption.
 - c. Waste generation.
 - d. Stormwater management.
 - e. Greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Encourage residents and businesses to include sustainability considerations in their decision making.
4. Continue planning and implementing hazard mitigation strategies (flooding, intense storms, emergency response, etc.).
5. Continue efforts to :
 - a. Identify, avoid, reduce, mitigate, and recover from impactful events.
 - b. Improve preparation / response for impactful events including:
 - Emergency shelter capacity / supplies,
 - Redundant energy supply,
 - "Off-grid" generation (including generators and fuel cells), and
 - Mobile cellular antennae / charging stations.

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)

1. Start participating in programs and activities of SustainableCT.
2. Implement the regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (and update as necessary).
3. Review and update land use regulations for ways to promote sustainability (solar collectors, wind turbines, etc.) and resilience.

**Sustainability
(Water Conservation)**



**Resilience
(Washout From Undersize Culvert)**

