



2017 CTCR&D ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTNERS FORUM

For 50 years, CTCR&D has been a proven leader and partner in sustainable land use practice and advocacy. CTCR&D's programs support resource and conservation based practices and business growth, including one-on-one support & technical assistance to agriculture producers, land trusts, municipalities and rural small businesses.

CTCR&D provides education forums, workshops and pilot projects to promote innovation in Connecticut's environmental and agriculture economy. CTCR&D partners and engages in work over 100 non-profit, education and government organizations to educate and engage communities, residents, and businesses. Program partnership goals include timely and cost effective implementation of grassroots projects that benefit Connecticut communities.

Originally, responsibility for the administration of this nation-wide program of RC&D's resided within the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service. In 2011, budget cuts led to loss of direct NRCS staffing for RC&D Councils nationwide. Today, CTCR&D relies on programmatic grants provided by federal, state and non-profit organizations, foundation grants and donations. Valued partners who fund CTCR&D programs include: USDA, NRCS, CTDEEP, CTDOAG, and FSA.

**CT RC&D** continues to help CT towns and cities, farms, local groups and partners realize their goals by providing support and sponsorship, including administrative support and fiscal management for those who do not have the capacity to pursue their own non-profit status, navigate bureaucratic paperwork, grant research, proposal writing and review, grant administration, and even sometimes, website design. Our Council members form partnerships with communities and organizations to foster water conservation, land conservation, water management, energy program, agriculture conservation, and rural resource based economic growth.

**CT RC&D** looks back on a honored history of successful projects. We anticipate an evolving future of new partnerships and continued collaboration with our old partners. Programs are directly related to the creativity of our Council members, our partners, our members & our staff.

**CTCR&D'S CREED**

**"What Does CTCR&D Do...?"**

**"What Do You Need...?"**

**2017/2018 CTCR&D Current Project Funding Provided by:**



**CTCR&D 2017-2018 Working Partnerships**

- **USDA - Rural Development**
- **USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**
- **USDA - Farm Service Agency (FSA)**
- **US Department of Energy**
- **CT Dept. of Agriculture**
- **CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection**
- **CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection**
- **CT Dept. of Public Health**
- **CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development**
- **CT NOFA**
- **CT Dept. of Transportation**
- **University of Connecticut (UConn)**
- **UConn Extension**
- **AGvocate Towns**
- **CT Community Garden Association**
- **Center of Eco-Technology**
- **City Seed**
- **Connecticut Association of Conservation & Inland Wetlands Commissions**
- **Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC)**
- **Connecticut Conservation Districts**
- **Connections, Inc**
- **CT Association of Councils of Governments**
- **CT Farm Bureau**
- **CT Farmland Trust**
- **CT Forest and Park Association**
- **CT Green Bank**
- **CT NOFA**
- **Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Watershed**
- **Energize CT**
- **Eversource**
- **Hartford Food Systems**
- **Institute for Sustainable Energy**
- **Last Green Valley**
- **NAACP (Middlesex County)**
- **Salmon River Watershed**
- **United Illuminating**
- **Working Lands Alliance**

**CTCR&D OFFICE IINFORMATION**

**Executive Director:** Jeanne Davies, AICP  
**Agriculture Programs Manager:** Amanda Fargo Johnson  
**Financial Administrator:** Paula Fernald

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**2017-2018 ANNUAL STRATEGIC WORK PLAN**

**Council Membership**

- President:** John Guskowski -Working Lands Alliance  
**Vice-President:** Judy Rondeau— Eastern CT Conservation District  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Kelly - North Central Conservation District  
**Secretary:** Margot Burns - Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments  
 Rebecca Andreucci, South Central Council of Governments  
 Lois Bruinooge - Last Green Valley, Inc.  
 Aaron Budris— Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (A)  
 Jim Costello — CT River Coastal Conservation District  
 Sal DeCarli — Town of Canterbury/Citizen Representative  
 Lynne Pike DiSanto — Capitol Region Council of Governments  
 Matt Fulda — CT Metro Council of Governments (A)  
 Mark Goetz — CT Metro Council of Governments  
 Mary Ellen Kowalewski—Capitol Region Council of Governments (A)  
 Jim Larkin, Northeast Council of Governments  
 Mark Nielsen— Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments  
 Francis Pickering — Citizen member at large  
 Jim Sipperly - CT Forests & Parks Association  
 Amanda Kennedy—Ex Officio- SECCOG  
 Kate Rattan—Ex Officio : SECCOG

**Advisory Council Partners**

- Tom Morgart - Connecticut State Conservationist - NRCS**  
**NRCS Soil Health Program - Ray Covino and Jim Hyde**  
 USDA - John Strandson  
 CTDEEP -Denise Ruzicka  
 CTDOAG - Jamie Smith  
 CTDPH—Patricia Bisacky



## CTRC&D GOAL I

### Encourage and Inform Better Land Use Decision Making

Provide Support Through Environmental , Agriculture & Conservation Planning Services

**Strategy 1.1:** Collaborate with government and non-profit partners to implement innovative and resilient municipal, state and federal regulatory solutions toward more sustainable use of natural resources by residents, business, non-profit and government .

**Strategy 1.2:** Support existing organizations and grassroots initiatives toward implementation of new practices for land and water resource—watershed management resilience to include but not limited to: storm water management, soil health, land acquisition , resource stewardship, energy and green Infrastructure.

**Strategy 1.3:** Provide grant research, writing, and implementation assistance to grassroots organizations and communities to promote sustainable economic growth projects, rural business development, and project funding, including support of partner organizations such as: the Land Trust Exchange, Long Island Sound Watershed Regional Conservation Partnership Program Initiative, and Connecticut Land Conservation Council. (CLCC), Long Island Sound Blue Plan, Last Green Valley

**Strategy 1.4:** Conduct outreach to partners, regions and communities to determine ongoing needs, available expertise, and priority program focus areas for land use and conservation planning

**Strategy 1.5:** Continue to refined the Environmental Review Program for cost efficient delivery of the service to municipalities & land trusts for natural resource inventories and management plans.

**Strategy 1.6:** Increase partnership, education and outreach for land use non-regulatory best management practices for conservation, agriculture and municipal land use.

**Strategy 1.7:** Educate local officials & residents on economic importance of local agriculture through the AGvocate Program, steering committee coordination and email newsletters; the Last Green Valley's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) and a Discover CT Grown initiative.

**Strategy 1.8:** Participate in CT Emergency Planning: land use -natural resource resilience -recovery: Emergency Support Function Committee #11: Agriculture -Natural Resources and Citizen Corps

**Strategy 1.9:** Work with CTOPM, COGs, & Connecticut GIS User to User Network to promote datasets which enable consistency with standards and centralization of Statewide Geospatial da-

## CTRC&D GOAL II

### Champion Sustainable Agriculture, Conservation & Rural Economic Practices

Promote Agriculture Productivity and Resource Management for Sustainable Economic Growth

**Strategy 2.1** Pursue diverse stable funding mechanisms and organizational support from partners and stakeholders for CFE Program continuity and support to farms for REAP grants.

**Strategy 2.2** Provide technical support to farms and rural small businesses.

**Strategy 2.3** Participate in State-wide and regional committees and conferences.

**Strategy 2.4** Provide leadership to expand the New England Farm Energy Collaborative; including membership in the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board, the joint Green Bank Committee, the Commercial Industrial Committee., and other relevant organizations and committees.

**Strategy 2.5** Promote and pursue methods to implement innovative new practices that support agriculture, aquaculture and rural economic growth, including but not limited to compost heat recovery, digesters, geothermal , wind and fuel cell systems for renewable farm energy support

**Strategy 2.6** Provide outreach, education, and grant-writing support to farmers and rural businesses seeking to reduce energy use and increase the use of renewable energy sources.

**Strategy 2.7** Seek funding to support AGvocate, Farm Start-Up Express Program, Job JumpStart, and other agriculture programs, including collaboration with partners.

**Strategy 2.8** Support minorities in agriculture, including cooperative ventures with other minorities support groups to help increase rural business development.

**Strategy 2.9** Seek grant funding and facilitate the formation of a Statewide Farmers' Market Association in cooperation with partners and stakeholders such as UConn, Regional Agriculture Commissions, Hartford Food Systems, CitySeed, and CTNOFA.

**Strategy 2.10** Partner with USDA, NRCS, UConn, State Agencies and non-profits to deliver statewide workshops and educational outreach, including climate change adaptation and resilience for rural business, agriculture, conservation, and recreational.

**Strategy 2.11** Support the expansion and research for Food Hubs in both rural and urban areas, as well as associated business development for agriculture producers.

**Strategy 2.12** Continue to expand on the Job-JumpStart Program to encourage apprenticeships,

## CTRC&D GOAL III

### Grow CTRC&D In Collaboration with Supporting Partners and Members

Grow a Sustainable CTRC&D Organization Through Grassroots Support and Networking

**Strategy 3.1** Expand governing membership to grassroots organizations, ethnic-racial diversity organizations, agriculture & natural resource type business, and representatives for underserved residents in Connecticut. Through CTRC&D website, encourage general non-voting membership.

**Strategy 3.2** Maintain commitment to organizational transparency through use of website, FaceBook, email, and open meetings, workshops and forums.

**Strategy 3.3** Restructure CTRC&D Council to empower Council members with organizational and program governing oversight. Provide general membership opportunities for creative input.

**Strategy 3.4** Proceed on evaluation of CACEE project in conjunction with potential partners to find a permanent home for CTRC&D that will promote organization's mission and purpose.

**Strategy 3.5** Provide fiduciary management or financial management collaboration with partner organizations as needed. Current CTRC&D partners include, but not limited to: Salmon River Watershed Partnership and the CT Council on Soil and Water.

**Strategy 3.6** Promote and market CTRC&D mission and services through website, fundraisers, workshops, conferences, and membership.

**Strategy 3.7** Adopt a fundraising strategy and encourage Council member involvement in fundraisers, outreach to potential donors, online membership enrollment, and strategic use of marketing materials and information.

**Strategy 3.8** Establish a council led committee to hold the CTRC&D Rural Land– Rural Towns Conference in January 2018.

**Strategy 3.9** Partner with State and Federal Government agencies to provide outreach and educational coordination to grassroots organizations and communities about existing conservation and development initiatives and opportunities.

**Strategy 3.10** Encourage Council members to participate in courses on nonprofit management, financial oversight, and fiduciary responsibilities and assume governing roles on the Council.

**Strategy 3.11** Remain an active member and participant in New England and National Associations of RC&D Councils and seek to continue Circle of Diamond designation.

## CTRC&D "GOOD TO GROW" TIMELINE 2016-2018

