



2018 CTRC&D ANNUAL MEETING AND RURAL LANDS RURAL TOWNS CONFERENCE

CTRC&D has been a proven leader for over 50 years, as both an innovator and a partner to enact sustainable projects in conservation agriculture and economic growth. CTRC&D's programs support job training in agriculture, conservation and rural small business growth, including one-on-one support & technical assistance to agriculture producers, land trusts, and municipalities.

CTRC&D implements conservation and agriculture education forums, workshops and pilot projects to promote innovation in Connecticut's environmental and agriculture economy. CTRC&D partners and engages with over 100 non-profit, education and government organizations to educate and engage communities, residents, and businesses. Program partnership includes timely and cost effective implementation of grassroots projects that including marketing and fundraising to benefit residents in 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, CTRC&D relies on programmatic grants provided by federal, state and non-profit organizations, foundation grants and donations. Valued partners who fund CTRC&D programs include: USDA Rural Development, USDA NRCS, CT DEEP, and CT DOAG.

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.

"Connecticut's Marketplace for Community Solutions"

2019/2020 CTRC&D Current Project Funding Provided by:



CTRC&D 2019-2020 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)
- CT Office of Rural Health
- 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
- Eightmile 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



2019- Greater New Haven Farm Videos—George Krivda USDA with Keith Bishop, Bishops Orchards

CTRC&D OFFICE INFORMATION

Executive Director - Jeanne Davies, AICP
 Agriculture Programs Director - Amanda Fargo Johnson
 Financial Administrator - Jane Flynn
 Marketing and Outreach Coordinator - Andrea Peres
 Environmental Programs Coordinator - Riley Doherty

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Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development

Enhancing our agriculture, natural resources, and economy by cultivating partnership-driven solutions for a diverse and resilient Connecticut

2019 - 2020 ANNUAL STRATEGIC WORK PLAN CULTIVATING CONNECTICUT



2018 CTRC&D No-Till Cover Crop Pilot Project & Equipment at Sub Edge Farm location

Council Membership

- President: John Guskowski, AICP – CME Land Use Planner
 Vice-President: Judy Rondeau – Eastern CT Conservation District
 Secretary: Margot Burns – Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments
 Treasurer: Justin LaFountain – Southeastern CT Council of Governments
 Rebecca Andreucci – South Central Council of Governments
 Rosa Browne – Community Program Developer
 Lois Bruinooge –The Last Green Valley, Inc.
 Aaron Budris – Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
 Jim Costello – CT River Coastal Conservation District
 Lynne Pike DiSanto – Capitol Region Council of Governments
 Mark Goetz –CT Metro Council of Governments
 Rick Huntley – Environmental Specialist
 Joanna Shapiro – North Central Conservation District
 Jim Sipperly – CT Forests & Parks Association

Advisory /Ex- Officio Members

- USDA - George Krivda and Johan Strandson
 Tom Morgart - Connecticut State Conservationist - NRCS
 NRCS Soil Health Program - Jim Hyde
 CTDOAG - Bryan Hurlburt and Jamie Smith
 CTDPH - Lori Mathieu and Patricia Bisacky



CTRC&D Conservation Career Program Staff : ERT Intern and Job Jumpstart CNMP Trainees

CTRC&D GOAL I

Encourage and Inform Land Use and Resource Management

Provide Support Through Environmental , Agricultural, & 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 sustainable prosperity.

Strategy 1.2: Implement new practices for land and water resource management to include but not limited to: storm water management, soil health, community and landscape design, resource stewardship, energy and green Infrastructure. Specific projects include: 12 Town Air Line State Park Trail and Connecticut River Management Plan for Aquatic Invasive Species (Hydrilla).

Strategy 1.3: Provide grant research, writing, and implementation assistance to grassroots organizations and communities to promote sustainable economic growth projects.

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 digitally modernize the Environmental Review Program via ERT Online and recruit professional volunteers to promote array of available expertise available municipalities & land trusts for natural resource inventories, pre-development application resource assessment and open space property management plans evaluation for statewide.

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

Strategy 1.7: Educate regional and municipal officials as well as Connecticut residents on the importance of local agriculture as an economic business sectors through the Farm Energy Program, the AGvocate Program, partnership coordination, correspondence and newsletters.

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: Coordinate with CTOPM, CTCOGs, CLEAR/UCONN & Connecticut GIS User to User Network to promote datasets which enable consistency with standards and centralization of Statewide Geospatial Cadastral Information and a GIS needs assessment for agriculture.

Strategy 1.10: Continue to expand energy savings, partnerships & evaluation programs, such as current partnership with USDA REDA for geothermal REDA Project and ENSAVE Farm Energy Audits



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 funding and organizational support from partners and stakeholders for the CT Farm Energy Program continuity and support to farms and ag-based rural small businesses.

Strategy 2.2 Provide technical support to farms and rural small businesses in applying for REAP grants.

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

Strategy 2.4 Provide leadership thru CT Farm Energy, including administering the New England Farm Energy Collaborative; membership on the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board and committees such as 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 generation, including evaluation of urban areas such as current Greater New Haven Ag Project.

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 Up Express Program, Job JumpStart, Training /Apprenticeships and other programs as determined by need throughout the year.

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

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, City Seed, and CT NOFA.

Strategy 2.10 Partner with USDA, NRCS, UConn, State Agencies and non-profits to deliver statewide workshops and educational outreach for soil health initiatives and no-till/cover crops.

Strategy 2.11 Continue toward options/partnerships to build a CT Conservation Agriculture Economic Education Center (CACEE) for the benefit of Connecticut rural populations and towns.

Strategy 2.12 Continue to expand on the Job-JumpStart Program to encourage apprenticeships, internships, technical training for careers in agriculture and natural resource conservation.



2018 CTCRC&D Sidekick, Soil Health Workshop: Tom Morgart, NRCS, with Ben Freund, Friends Farm, & Tom Kilcer of Advanced AG Systems demonstration



2018 CTCRC&D Council & Staff -50th Anniversary Celebration: Allen Hill Tree Farm

CTRC&D GOAL III

Grow CTCRC&D in Collaboration with Supporting Partners and Members

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

Strategy 3.1 Build out CTCRC&D Council structure via new bylaws to establish a governance and finance committee, a fundraising, outreach & marketing committee, a contracts committee and public policy committee .

Strategy 3.2 Seek to involve new member representation that promotes ethnic-racial diversity, agriculture & natural resource type professionals and residents and promote general non-voting membership. Maintain commitment to organizational transparency through use of website, social media, email, GuideStar rating, publicized meetings, workshops and forums.

Strategy 3.3 Establish Special Tasks Force Groups from Council: Board Building Recruitment Committee to establish new governance council, a Mission Committee, Fundraising/Events Committee and a CACEE Fundraising Financial Committee.

Strategy 3.4 Publish & distribute the new CTCRC&D CULTIVATE CONNECTICUT Magazine with articles on people of CT "Cultivating" Connecticut as demonstrated through CTCRC&D's many programs and partnerships

Strategy 3.5 Provide fiduciary management or financial management collaboration with partner organizations as needed., such as the Salmon River Watershed Partnership.

Strategy 3.6 Promote and market CTCRC&D mission and services through website, fundraisers, workshops, conferences, and council member recruitment.

Strategy 3.7 Continue to expand the Tour Des Farms fundraiser with outreach to potential sponsors and increase in ridership. Collaborate with partnered programs where possible such as *Celebrating Agriculture*. Expand fundraising to contributing membership enrollment, foundation grants, and new marketing materials.

Strategy 3.8 Partner with state, federal government agencies and professional organizations such as CEDAS and CCAPA to provide education about rural land use and economics as well as resource conservation and sustainable development initiatives and opportunities.

Strategy 3.9 Encourage Council members to participate in courses on nonprofit management, financial oversight, and fiduciary responsibilities and assume governing roles on the Council.

Strategy 3.10 Remain an active member of National Associations of RC&D Councils and seek to join the Mid Atlantic - New England consolidated region. Apply for Circle of Diamond designation.

