



CONNECTICUT

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

2023-2024 Work Plan *Goals & Strategies*

Mission: CT RC&D cultivates a diverse, equitable, and resilient Connecticut through partnership-driven solutions to enhance natural resource conservation, agriculture, and rural economies.

Goal #1: Encourage and inform responsible land use and natural resource management by providing support through environmental, agricultural, and conservation technical assistance.

Strategy 1.1: Collaborate with partners to implement innovative and resilient solutions for land and water resource management.

Strategy 1.2: Determine ongoing needs, available expertise, and priority program focus areas for land use and conservation planning by conducting outreach to current and prospective partners.

Strategy 1.3: Increase outreach and education to municipal land use officials to encourage non-regulatory best management practices for conservation, agriculture, and municipal land use.

Strategy 1.4: Review database of Environmental Review Team volunteers. Explore opportunities to recruit additional volunteers to establish a diverse team of professionals available to provide natural resource inventories, pre-development application assessment, and open space property management services to municipalities and land trusts statewide.

Strategy 1.5: Educate regional and municipal officials as well as Connecticut residents on the importance of local agriculture as an economic business sector through partnership coordination, correspondence, and newsletters.

Strategy 1.6: Seek out opportunities, both funding and partnerships, to expand and diversify CT RC&D's environmental program offerings.

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Goal #2: Champion sustainable agriculture, conservation, and rural economic practices by promoting agriculture productivity and natural resource management for sustainable economic growth.

Strategy 2.1: Continue to provide leadership through the CT Farm Energy program & CT FarmUP and Veteran Farm UP programs. Pursue funding and organizational support from partners and stakeholders for each program.

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

Strategy 2.3: Represent CT RC&D by participating in regional and statewide committees and conferences related to agriculture and natural resource management.

Strategy 2.4: Promote and pursue methods to implement innovative practices that support Climate Smart agriculture, aquaculture, and rural economic growth.

Strategy 2.5: Provide outreach, education, and grant-writing support to farmers and businesses seeking to reduce energy use and increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Strategy 2.6: Support underserved populations, including cooperative ventures, to help increase agricultural & rural business development and expansion.

Strategy 2.7: Work with partners to deliver statewide workshops and educational outreach through the CT Soil Health Initiative.

Strategy 2.8: Continue the Job-JumpStart Program to encourage apprenticeships, internships, and technical training for careers in agriculture and natural resource conservation.

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Goal #3: Continue to grow a sustainable CT RC&D in collaboration with supporting partners and members through grassroots support and networking.

Strategy 3.1: Build out CT RC&D Council business structure by continuing to review and streamline operations to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Strategy 3.2: Seek to involve new, and diverse, membership. Maintain a commitment to organizational transparency through use of the website and public meetings.

Strategy 3.3: Provide financial management for partner organizations, as needed.

Strategy 3.4: Continue to promote and market the CT RC&D mission and services through the website, social media, networking, workshops, conferences, and Council members.

Strategy 3.5: Encourage Council members to participate in courses on nonprofit management, financial oversight strategies, and fiduciary responsibilities.

Strategy 3.6: Remain an active member of the National Association and Northeast Association of RC&D Councils. Explore CT RC&D involvement with Connecticut's Chambers of Commerce.

Strategy 3.7: Revisit CT RC&D's strategic plan to review and establish goals and objectives for the next five years.