

SUSTAINABILITY

****Revised 7.12.18****

The basic concept of sustainability is simply to achieve a condition: where human use of natural resources is in balance with nature's ability to replenish such resources. For a community to be sustainable, it need to properly: 1) plan for energy needs, including food and water for all life forms; 2) manage waste outputs such as carbon dioxide, methane, heat and other adverse impacts to air and water quality; and 3) execute planning strategies that incorporate the needs of a community including housing, transportation and employment while minimizing adverse impacts on natural resources and the environment.

Being sustainable involves efficiently using the land and its natural resources, conserving and preserving where practical; producing the smallest quantity of pollution possible; and reusing, recycling and composting of used and/or waste materials, including conversion to energy if possible. This approach allows for growth and progress to occur more responsibly.

A sustainable community will also be better prepared to favorably react to climate change or significant changes to the regional weather patterns. Changes in temperature, rainfall amounts and storm types (intensities and frequencies), over time, can change an area's fauna and flora. Farming and conservation practices required to produce crops may be effected, as well as the types of crops that can be grown due to climate shifts. Long periods of warming can result in warmer surface water temperatures which contain less dissolved oxygen which can effect aquatic life. Warming is associated with rising sea and river levels where tidal influences exist which can result in flood hazard risks and higher insurance costs for buildings and their occupants.

Many of the policies in the Plan of Conservation & Development promote responsible development and sustainability. Furthermore, the Town established a Green Initiatives Program to promote and advance numerous sustainable practices in the core areas of: Natural Resource Conservation and Management, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Energy Efficiency, Transportation; and Procurement and Work Practices.

The Town of Glastonbury leads by example through the incorporation of a broad spectrum of sustainable actions into the day-to-day business operations. Glastonbury also encourages its citizens and businesses to participate in sustainable programs and practices.

POLICIES

1. To encourage development projects that are sustainable that minimize impacts on the natural environment (ie. land, water, air, energy use, waste reduction and recycling practices)

2. To continue and expand the Town's Green Initiatives Program and coordinate such efforts with ongoing Town operations and the community.
3. Support State of Connecticut and CROG efforts to make our community more sustainable.
4. Support and promote the goals of the Clean Energy Communities Program.
5. Encourage the use of alternative renewable energy sources for commercial and residential projects and consider establishing land use regulations for such energy sources, including solar PV systems, ground-sources heat pumps and wind-powered structures.
6. Develop policies and best practices that equip the town to effectively manage and respond to drought and natural disaster conditions.