



Sustainability Advisory Group

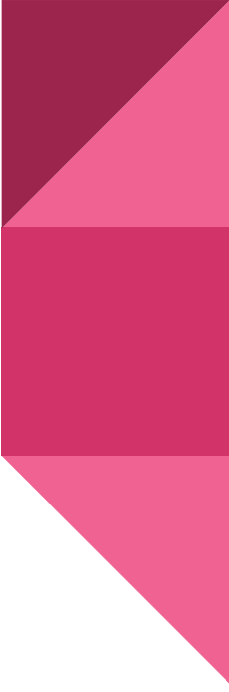
Virtual Meeting

Date: September 22, 2021

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Follow Up: Sustainable CT, TCI-P, Gas Powered Leaf Blowers
- Guest Speaker: Matt Hart, Town Manager
- SAG Vision Goals & Objectives Discussion
- Priority Action Items Discussion
- Round Table
- Next Steps



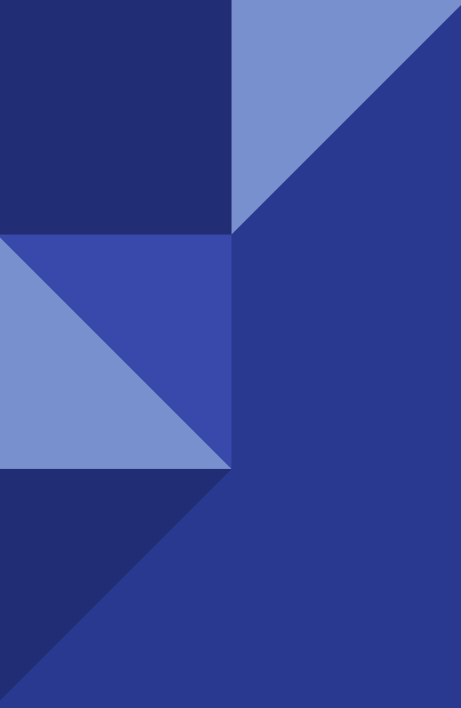


Land Acknowledgement

Follow-Ups

- Sustainable CT: will hear about certification in early Nov; recognition event in Dec; received a record # of applications. If you want to stay in touch, sign up for [newsletter](#), attend coffee hours, check out Sust CT [Trainings & Events Calendar](#)
- TCI-P: Council passed resolution in support of TCI-P on 9/14.
- Gas Powered Leaf Blowers: A potential ban on gas powered leaf blowers will be discussed at the [Cons & Env't Commission](#) meeting on 9/27 (7 PM)





Special Guest: Matt Hart, Town Manager

SAG asked:

1. What are the Town's top priorities, i.e., what key issues, policies, projects, etc. is Town is currently most focused on?
2. Are there any differences between what Town Council (political leadership) and Town Manager/Directors (administration leadership) see as priorities?
3. Which of these priorities are funded/budgeted and which are not?
4. What is the best way to present the SAG's recommendations to Town Council?





SAG Vision, Goals & Objectives

For Phase 2

Mission & Vision Statement for SAG

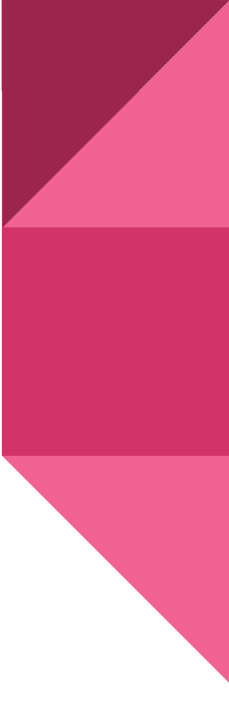
Mission (for SAG):

To create a sustainability framework that enables West Hartford to become the most sustainable, equitable, resilient, accessible, and livable community in Connecticut

Vision (SAG's vision for WeHa, informs Mission): Select from below

Vision Statements:

1. To accelerate the attainment of town's mission to become a "sustainable" community
2. To enable the town to improve the social, economic and environmental well being of our community by balancing growth with sustainability imperatives
3. To improve the well-being of our community and protect our planet by enabling the town to become a "sustainable & environmentally conscious" community
4. To enable the town to nurture our community and planet through attainment of its sustainability goals
5. To be recognized for showing up for one another and leading others towards a more sustainable, resilient future
6. To identify opportunities for West Hartford to attract new residents and support its current residents as a result of its actions which focus on addressing the needs of its most vulnerable communities first, investing in a circular economy and a climate-resilient future, and meaningfully considering its impact within the state of CT.
7. To assist the Town in its goals to become a leading voice on environmental, racial and social justice



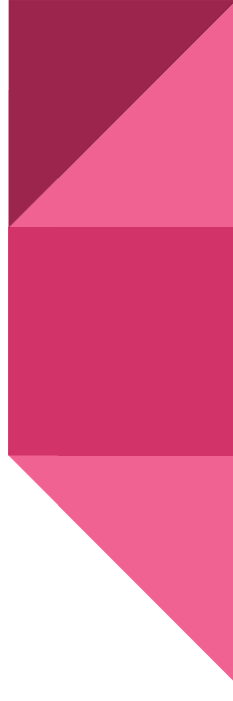
Top 10 // Focus Areas, from Brainstorm

1. Complete the Complete Streets Program: Sidewalks, Protected Bike Lanes, Walkable Streets - SCT #6
2. Invest in / Incentivize Clean and 100% Renewable Energy Programs - SCT #7
3. Support an Urban Forestry and Landscaping Initiative - SCT #3
4. Improve Public Transportation, Offer Better Commuting Options (connect to #1) - SCT #6
5. Prevent homelessness, provide wrap around services for the unhoused, and support affordable housing programs - SCT #11, #12
6. Invest in Anti-Racism programs, initiatives, efforts etc., - SCT #1, #13
7. Develop a food waste reduction / compost program- SCT #9
8. Address gap in healthy food programs: offer more fresh food / farmer market programs - SCT #10
9. Pass a climate emergency resolution and incorporate climate change into planning - SCT#5
- 10 A. Invest in attracting new businesses that support the circular economy - SCT #2, #13
- 10 B. Invest in accessible energy efficiency programs - SCT #7

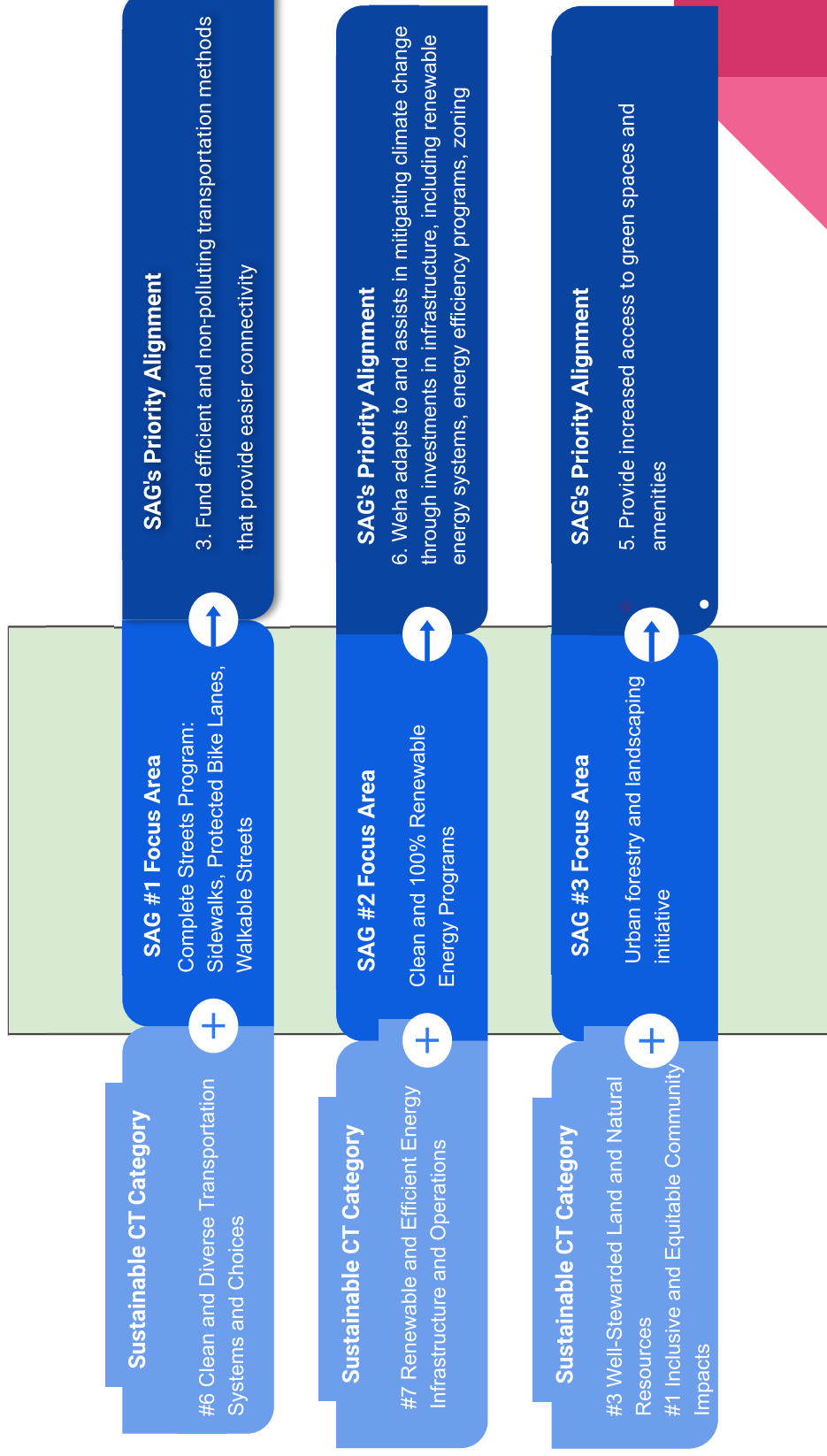


Consolidated Priorities

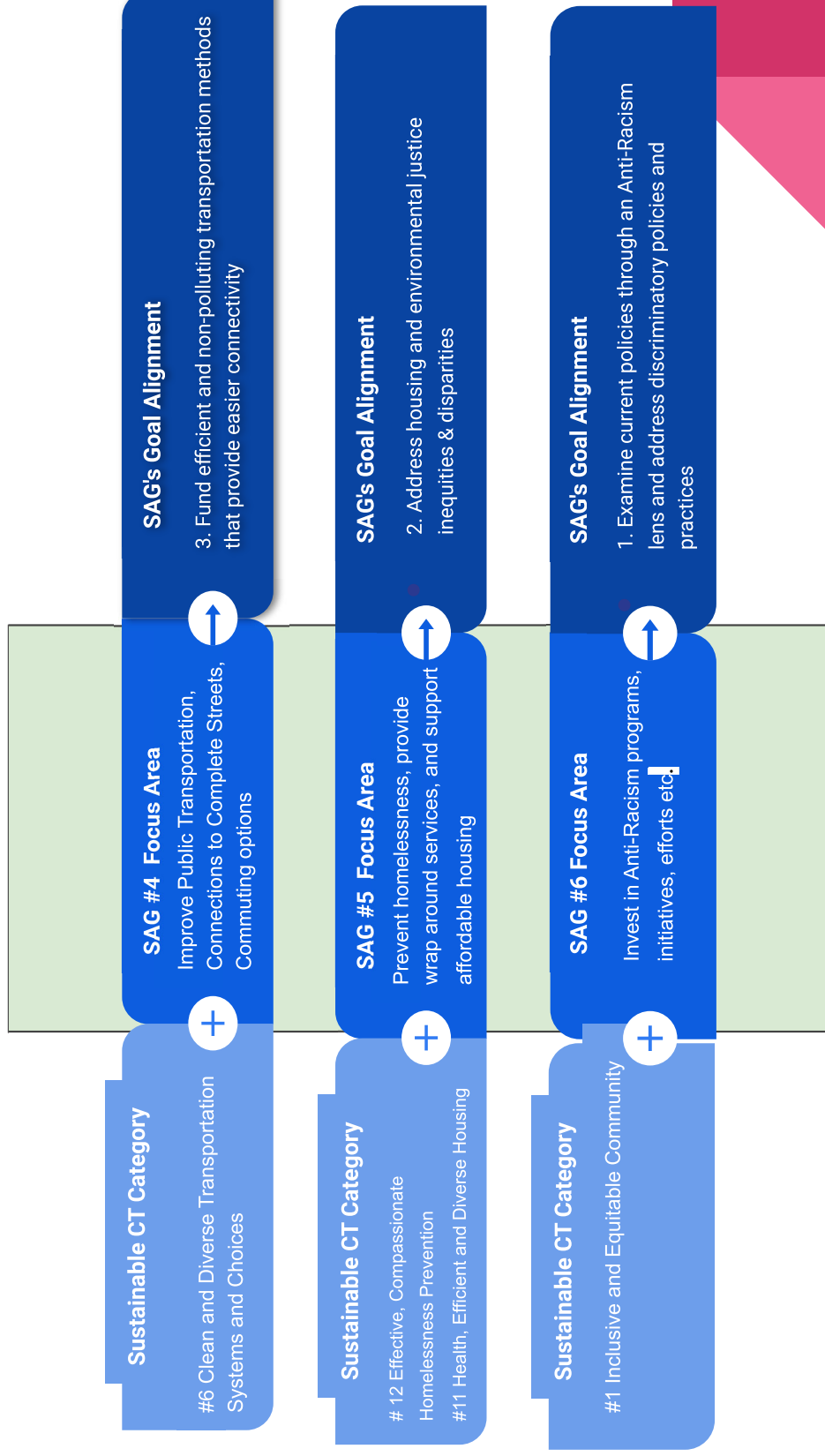
1. Examine current policies through an Anti-Racism lens and address discriminatory policies and practices
2. Address housing and environmental justice inequities & disparities
3. Fund efficient and non-polluting transportation methods that provide easier connectivity
4. Establish a thriving sustainable food system for all
5. Provide increased access to green spaces and amenities for all
6. Adapt to and assist in mitigating climate change through investments in infrastructure, including renewable energy systems, energy efficiency programs, waterways and zoning changes
7. Attract businesses and start programs that support a circular economy (renewability, recycling)



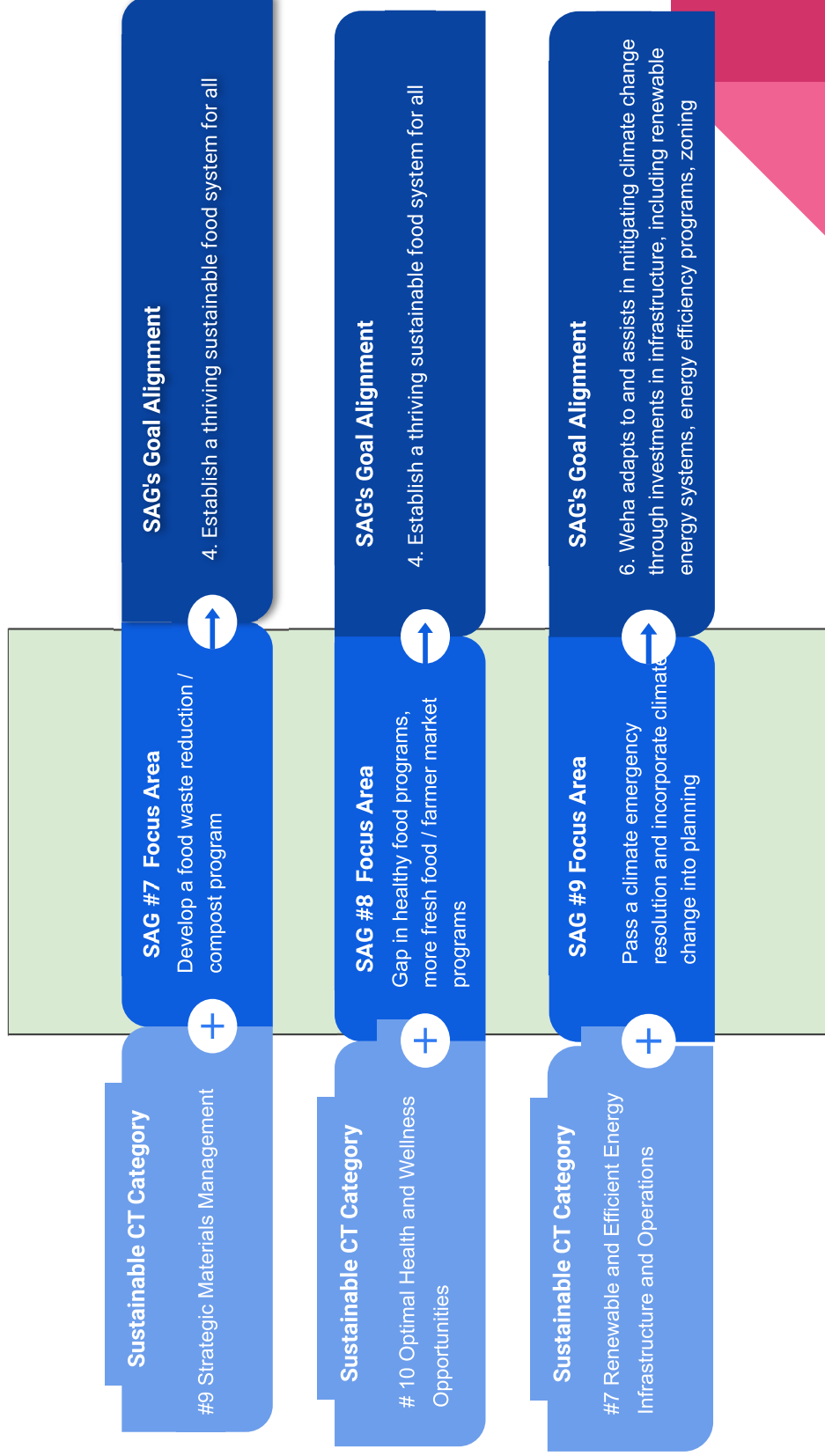
Mapping Priorities to Focus Area/Sustainable CT Categories



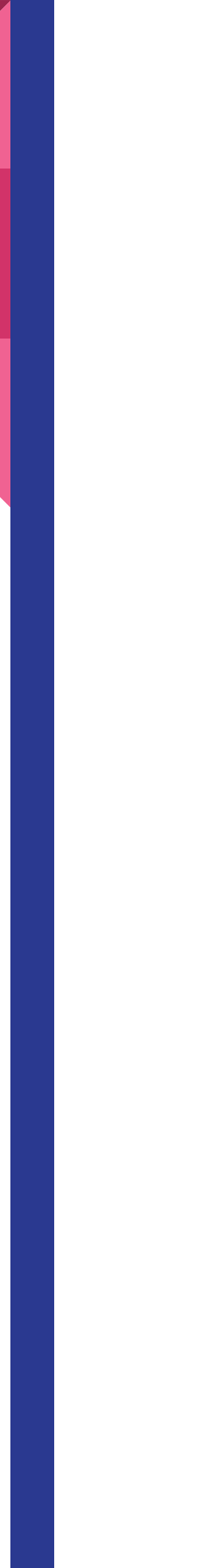
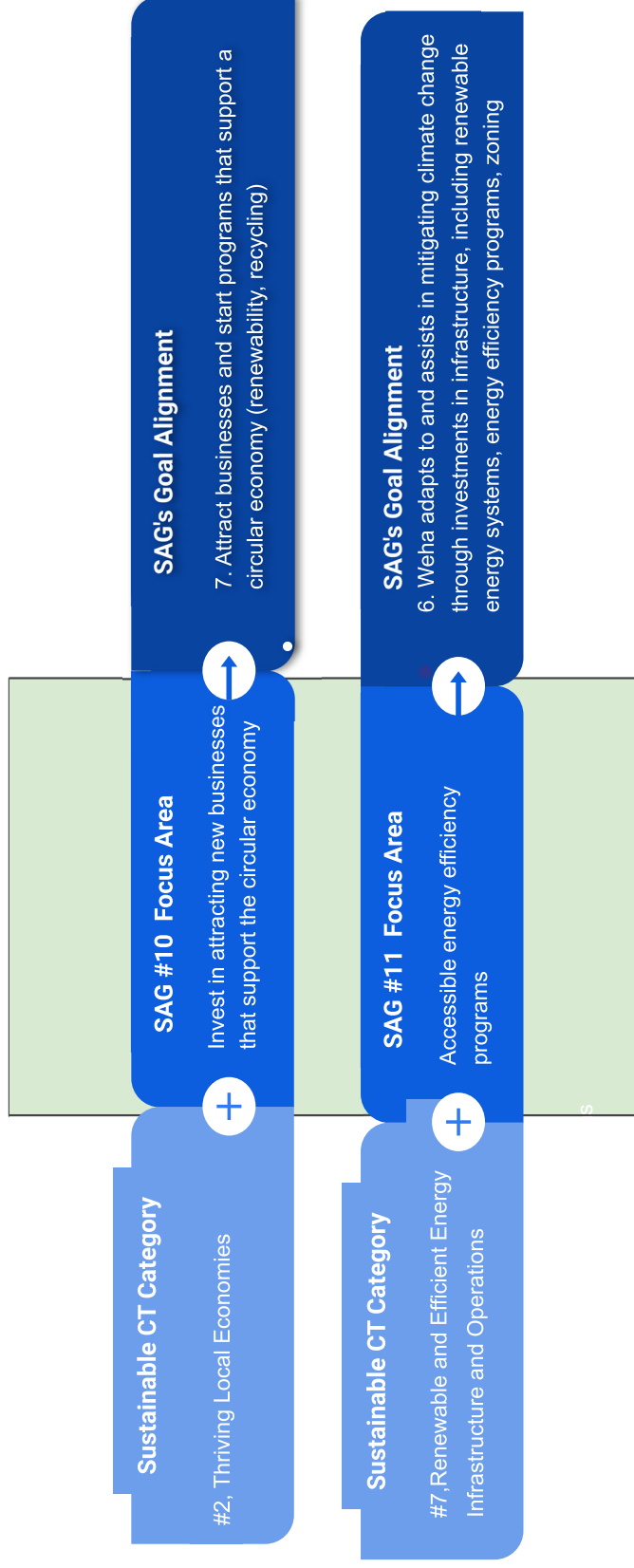
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Mapping Priorities to Focus Area/Sustainable CT Categories



Execution Plan

Goal to Objective Attainment Plan

- Establish 7 sub- committees , one for attainment of each goal and its objectives.
- Each sub-committee to redefine goals
 - “Measurable” goals and objectives
 - Key success factors
 - Attainment roadmap/timelines
 - Alignment to in-flight initiatives - town wide, company sponsored, non-profit led.
- Goal execution to focus on attainment via an establishment of an common operating model - common people, process and technology resources.





Break into teams!

Recap: 7 Categories

1. Examine current policies through an Anti-Racism lens and address discriminatory policies and practices
2. Address housing and environmental justice inequities & disparities
3. Fund efficient and non-polluting transportation methods that provide easier connectivity
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Round Table

Q&A, comments, announcements

Staff:

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860-561-8107

Park Road Parade - Sat 10/2, 10:30 AM

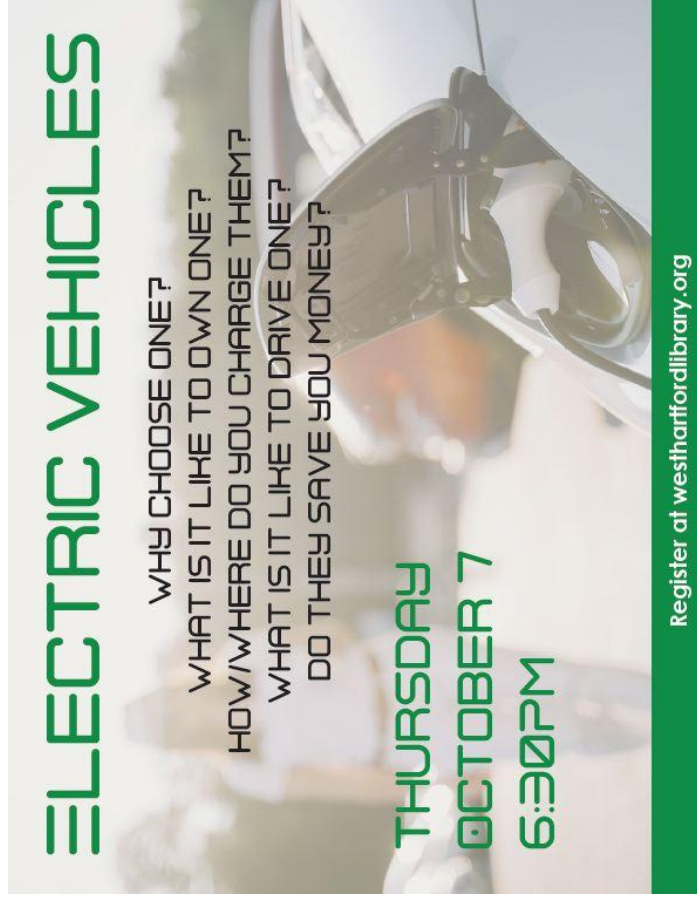
- Christine Feely and Sam Dynowski (Sierra Club CT) are looking for volunteers for the Park Road Parade on 10/2 to march as the

THE ELECTRIC LAWN BRIGADE
Quiet & Climate Friendly



Electric Vehicle Q&A - Thurs 10/7, 6:30-7:30 PM

- The Clean Energy Commission is looking for **EV owners** to volunteer for a Q&A session hosted through WH Library on 10/7, as a follow on to National Drive Electric Week (Sept 25 - Oct 3)



Next Steps

1. Still ok? Meetings every 3 weeks, Wednesdays at 6:30 PM, **10/13**, 11/3, 11/24?, 12/15 (WH-CEC), 1/5, 1/26
2. Break into groups
3. Appropriate use of WH-SAG email listserv



Appendix

Vision Examples

- To strike a balance between growth, protection of natural resources and access to community spaces.
- To be the most resilient, welcoming, accessible, and livable community in Connecticut
- To build a framework for a more sustainable, equitable, livable community
- To create a community that prizes well-being of its citizens above all else



What is your vision for West Hartford?

- What do we want to accomplish for West Hartford?
- What is the future you want to see?
- Describe the experience of walking down a street.
- What phrase explains what that really means to you?
- What will WeHa Do? Get? Be?
- By working with us the town will improve what?
- By choosing our recommendations our community will have the ability to do what?
- By doing this work how will the community feel?



NOTES - VISION STATEMENTS

- To create sustainable and resilient community, with equity,
 - Waste management
 - Increased recycling
 - Local food production
 - Address climate change
 - Plan for being a resilient town
- Improve and maintain its tree canopy, cool shaded streets and parks, with tree ordinances to limit tree cutting. Safe community with low crime rates, efficient transportation means, vibrant town center
- Town is actively implementing a set of connected actions,
 - Equitable housing
 - Climate change
 - Electric vehicles to be used broadly



NOTES - VISION STATEMENTS

- Town that shows up, they are the town where people show up at community meetings, town meetings, boe meetings
- Quiet town resulting from fewer vehicles and more spaces that connect the various town intersections that enable people to gather and mingle, a town re-designed around people
- Green WEHA with a lot of trees, community/shared solar, more representative, and inclusive, more racially diverse with emphasis on things like backyard food production, etc.
- Town that links all the green spaces and gives the community a great connectivity. Linked common spaces, improve, it more healthy. Using volunteers like seniors to enable certain projects to be implemented

Notes - Vision Statements Cont

- All town planners incorporate sustainability in their planning, and all of our residents are concerned about our environment, and are adopting sustainable lifestyles. Solar energy should be the norm
- To establish a framework for a more sustainable and environmental future
 - consistent communication on sustainability
 - Financial incentives on sustainability
 - Drive towards benefits that are shared by everyone
- Town that is committed to sustainability, ensuring that it is thriving for generations to come
- Family friendly and pet friendly town, with electric vehicles , garden produce that is affordable and available to all residents, increased engagement from our community, reducing litter,

Notes - Vision Statements Cont

- Ability to use transportation that is non-polluting, community that is carbon neutral that is more connected and has greater access, and is multicultural, and a quieter community.
- Having sustainability education integrated into the school curriculum, and establish foundations of sustainability at an early age
- Residents are focused on sustainability, businesses are involved in a circular economy, also a shareable economy (tool, bike sharing, etc), focus on green spaces that are clean, more trees, plants.
- Research identify and reckon with policies that have left us segregated., and resulted in envt. Injustices, and moving fwd prioritize and course correct these injustices, taking these on as our responsibilities.

Notes - Vision Statements Cont

- Dynamic place with multiple options for housing, sustainability considered in all aspect of development, efficient and safe transportation network - town can improve bike networks , connecting certain neighborhoods, providing more housing choices.
- The Town of West Hartford is committed to a sustainable community with emphasis on preserving our natural resources, encouraging all to work as a community and commit to insuring a thriving environment for generations to come.
- Everyone in West Hartford would have access to affordable housing (not just shelter), students in WeHa would be educated on their right to housing and given access to homelessness prevention tools at an early age. Biking/walking would be more often used than other forms of transportation. Community members all feel represented by their local government and see someone in a position of power that shares a similar backg
- Equity & inclusion in the schools - promote activities that bring together kids of all backgrounds and cultures, activities that break down the barriers that separate blacks, whites, Asians, and others. WH, like the rest of America is becoming increasingly diverse.

Notes - Vision Statements Cont

- People in West Hartford will be able to use active transportation to get to school, work, church, stores and recreation/health care in 15 minutes in a community that will be interconnected, carbon neutral and multicultural.

