



WEST
HARTFORD

Sustainability Advisory Group

Virtual Meeting

Date: October 13, 2021

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement
- Sustainable CT News & Updates
- Path Forward: Plan to Wrap Up/Present to Council
- Recap Priorities: Additional Info from Matt Hart
- Subgroup Teams - Breakout Discussion
- Round Table
- Next Steps





Land Acknowledgement

Sustainable CT News & Updates

- Sign up for [newsletter](#), attend coffee hours, check out Sust CT [Trainings & Events Calendar](#)
- NEW from Data Haven: CT Town Equity Reports - [West Hartford](#)
- CPTV showcases Sustainable CT grantees in the film [Re:source:ful 2, Growing Sustainable Communities](#)

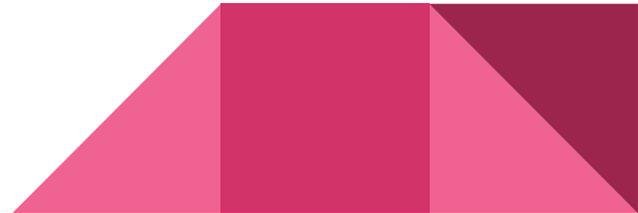




Path Forward: Plan to Wrap Up Our Work

RECAP: WHAT'S HAPPENED THUS FAR

- SAG assisted Catherine Diviney and Town of West Hartford in Submitting to Sustainable CT
- SAG learned about efforts town has invested in in order to meet Sustainable CT Goals
- SAG sent letter to the Town sharing our “wishes”
- SAG brainstormed list of top 11 priorities
- Matt Hart presented a list of items on the town’s radar...



Town priorities - In no particular order

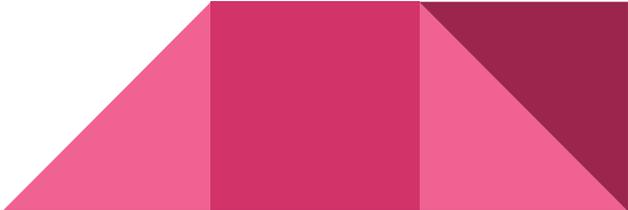
Town Priorities		Aligned?	Staffed?	Highlighted Plans
1	Affordable Housing	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advisory Group for Affordable Housing Plan• Expect to include zoning updates and mixed income and supportive housing• ADUs
2	Clean and Renewable Energy	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipal facilities more efficient• Investment in solar on residential lots• Seeking ARPA funds for EV Charging Stations• Expect GHG inventory and climate action plan
3	Complete Streets Program	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focused on 10 miles per year• Wants to add more sidewalks and bike lands• Road diet, New Park Ave, Trout Brook Trail improvements• Transit-Orientated Development Ordinance
4	Diversity Equity and Inclusion	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Civilian Police Review Board• DEI training for town staff• Hiring Equity Officer

Town priorities - In no particular order

Town Priorities		Aligned?	Staffed?	Highlighted Plans
5	Arts and Culture	✗	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission on the Arts• Seeking ARPA funds for supporting artists• Wants SAG input on ARPA
6	Stormwater and Drainage	✓	✗	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning a 20-30 year infrastructure plan• Hopes Green Infrastructure included• Plans to add local stormwater utility and additional staff to engineering
7	Tree Canopy	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has dedicated urban forestry staff• Wants to work with non profit or citizens group to implement a tree replacement program• Limited budget; knows issue is bigger than funds
8	Waste Management	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wants to improve recycling rates• Hired recycling specialist last year• Wants council to reconsider Pay-as-you-throw program, and wants residential support

Path Forward Plan: October - January

SAG will:

- Compare our priority issues with the town's priority issues
 - Highlight the differences and the similarities through a gap analysis
 - Recommend how the town will proceed to close the gap
 - Include a recommendation on how to establish a permanent group of sustainability focused team to take identified gaps and initiate action
 - Recommendation might include town staff; other commissions; current SAG members staying onboard to create continuity
 - Group will be formal commission? Or something else? TBD
 - Make sure to frame with Sustainable CT links
 - Include the issues in the Bike Lot
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Timeline

SAG Meeting

Review notes from Matt Hart
Divide into 11 sub groups

Present draft / final to SAG

Present the presentation of findings to SAG &
Gather feedback if any

Nov 3, 2021

Jan 2021

Oct 13, 2021

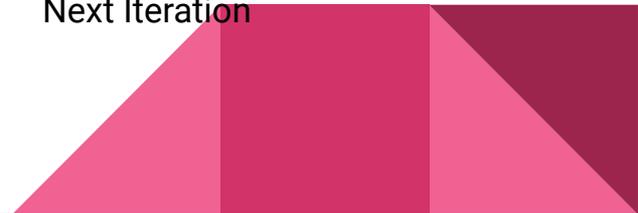
Dec X, 2021

SAG Meeting

Final Report Delivered to Town Council

Present draft slides to SAG
Draft report

Present, Gather Feedback and Get Approval to Move Forward with Next Iteration





SAG Vision, Goals & Objectives

For Phase 2

Pitch: KEEP and PRESENT THEM ALL

Mission & Vision Statement for SAG

Mission (for SAG):

To create a sustainability framework that challenges and inspires 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
 8. To push the town towards "walkable streets, lush, verdant parks with bike lanes, sidewalks, EV cars, scooters, buses, connected hubs and neighborhoods
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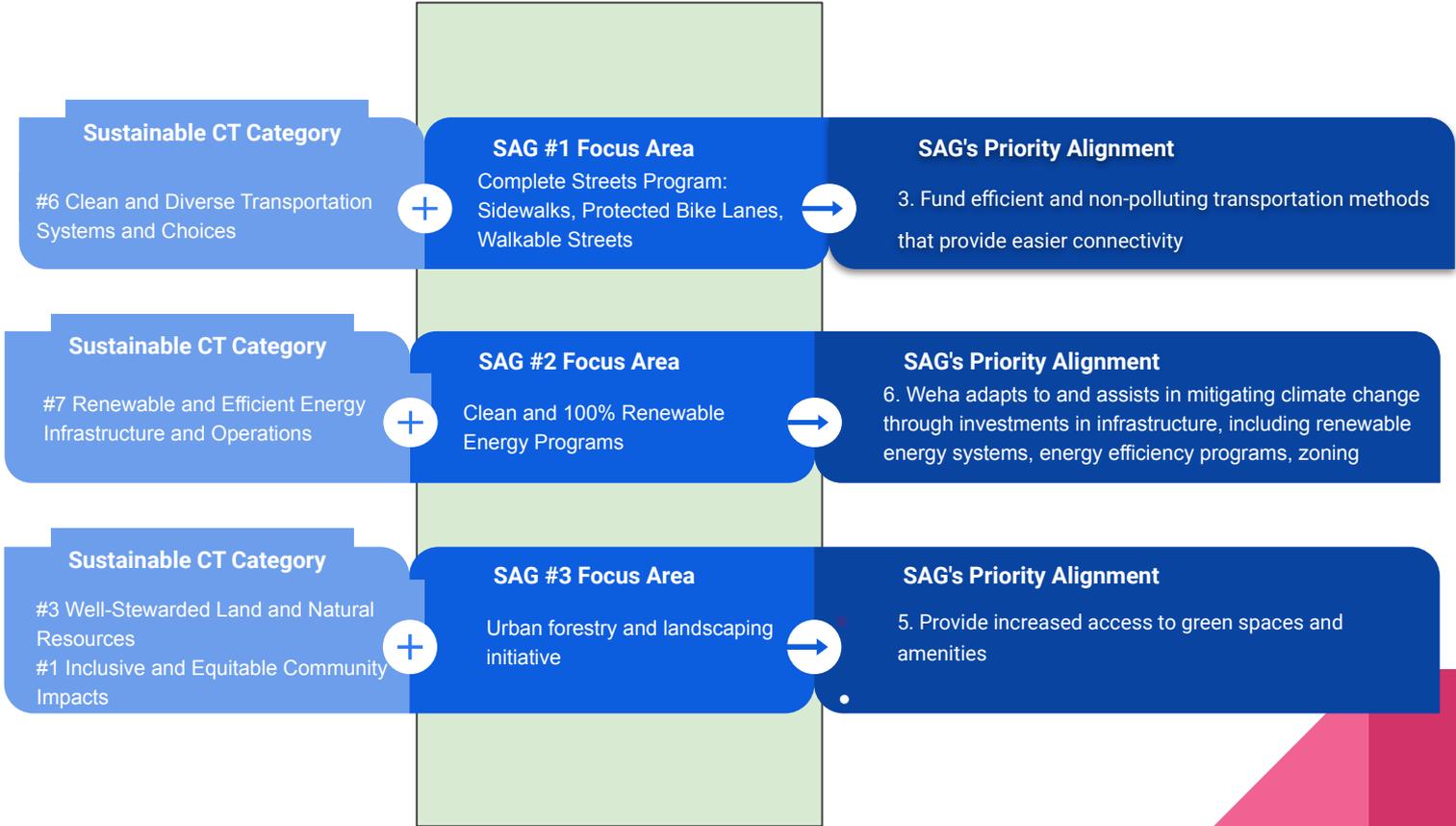
Pitch: Divide into these 11 Groups

Top 10 // Focus Areas, from Brainstorm

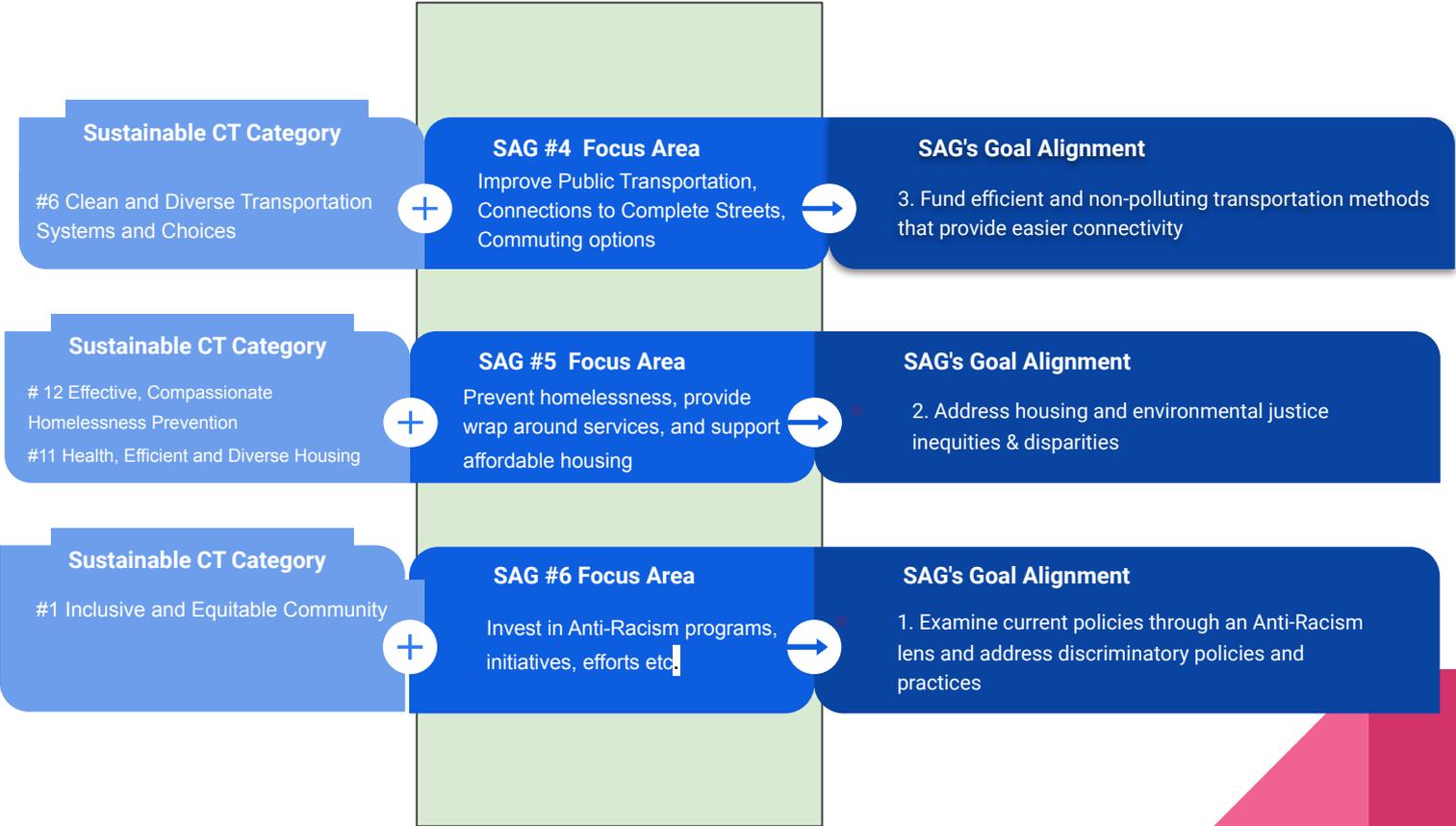
1. Complete the Complete Streets Program: Sidewalks, Protected Bike Lanes, Walkable Streets - SCT #6
2. Invest in / Incentivize Clean and 100% Renewable Energy Programs - SCT #7
3. Support an Urban Forestry and Landscaping Initiative - SCT #3
4. Improve Public Transportation, Offer Better Commuting Options (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



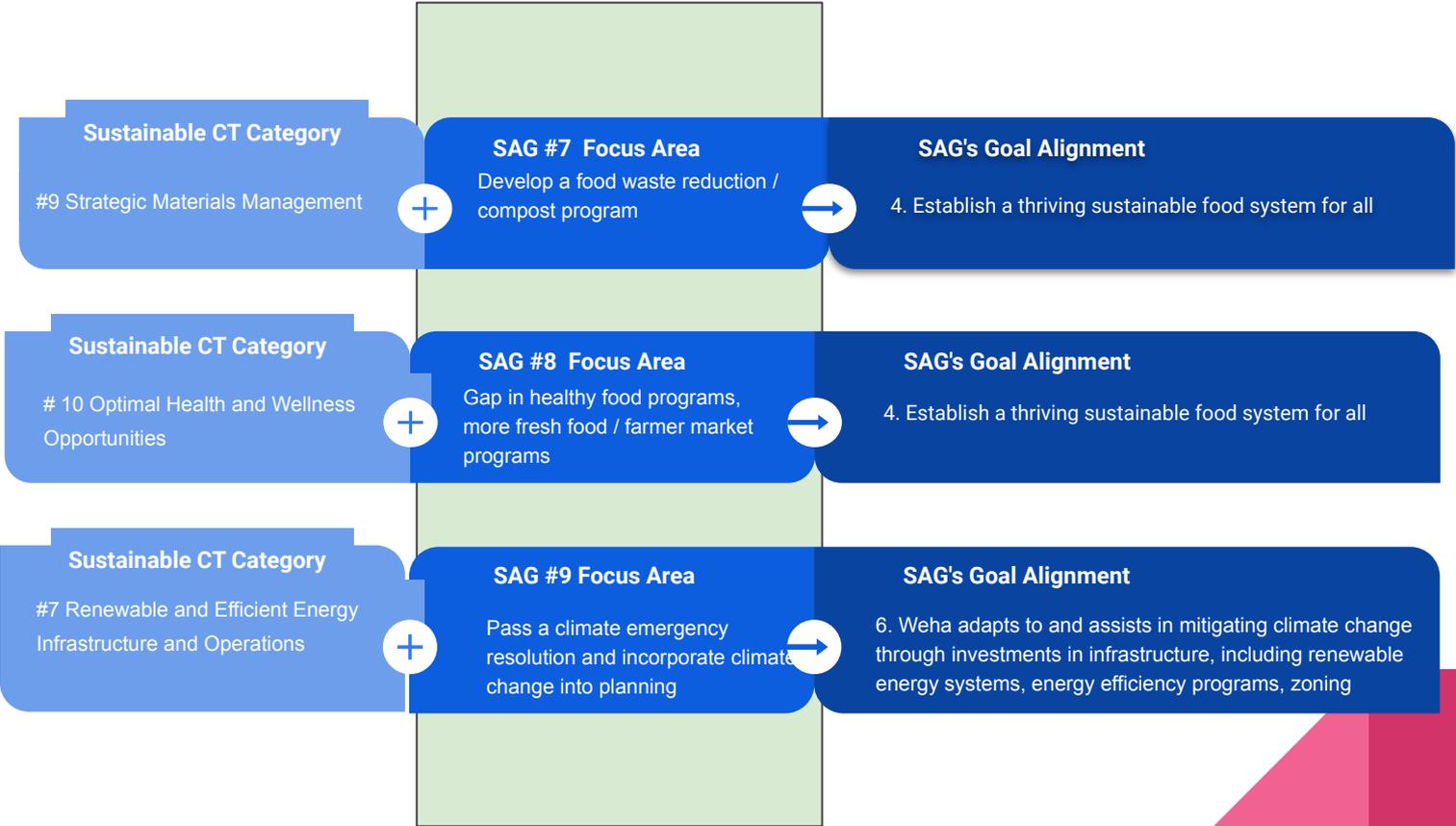
Mapping Priorities to Focus Area/Sustainable CT Categories



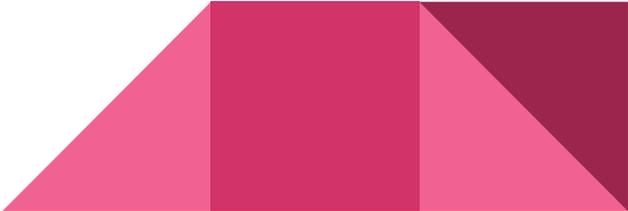
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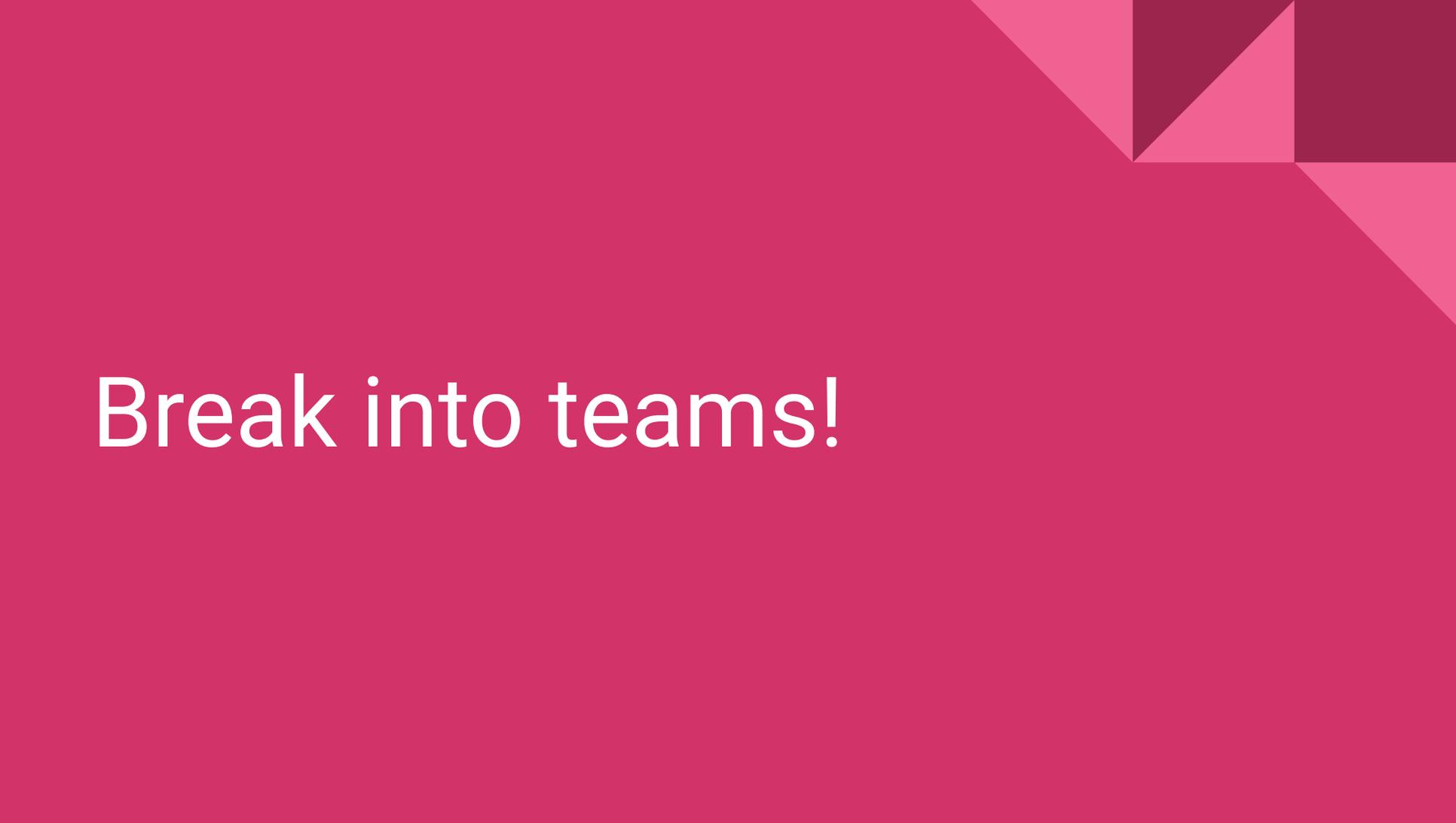


Mapping Priorities to Focus Area/Sustainable CT Categories



Mapping Priorities to Focus Area/Sustainable CT Categories



The background is a solid pink color. In the top right corner, there is a decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes, including triangles and squares, in various shades of pink and magenta.

Break into teams!

Round Table

Q&A, comments, announcements

Staff:

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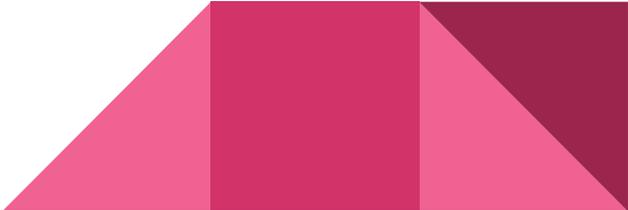
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Next Steps

1. Next Meetings 11/3, 12/1
2. Appropriate use of WH-SAG email listserv
3. Break into teams, report to group!

Appendix

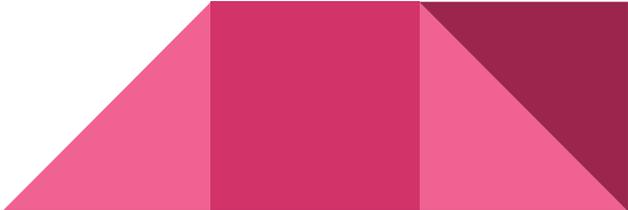
Vision Examples

- 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.

