

Western Connecticut

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



For Reporting Period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018



WCEDD 2017 Annual Report

Reporting Period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

This Progress Report tracks activities according to the following six WestCOG 2017 CEDS goals:

1. Foster Regional Planning and Cooperation
2. Develop an Improved Business Climate
3. Cultivate Support for a Diverse Workforce
4. Improve and Maintain Transportation and Public Infrastructure
5. Foster A More Sustainable and Resilient Region
6. Cultivate a Positive Regional Identity

Additional details on these studies may be found in [WestCOG's Annual Reports](#)

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2017 WCEDD Activity

The 2017 CEDS was formerly adopted in December 2017 and therefore has no activity to report between July – November in 2017.

EDD Designation

Goals 1.1

Staff prepared information in December to submit to EDA for EDD designation. As advised, EDD status would enable local governments and organizations in the region to apply for additional federal grants and give projects preferential status under state programs. In addition, it would help build regional capacity for economic development and provide support for local and regional economic development activities.

Sustainable CT Fellowship

Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program that recognizes communities for their sustainable and resilient efforts. The Program provides a list of best practices (actions) for municipalities to choose from, along with potential funding. A menu of nine categories constituting 55 actions and 1,645 certification points are offered. To be certified, a community must complete at least one action in each of the nine categories and receive a minimum number of points. This program is independently funded and originates in the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University. WestCOG was assigned two fellows to assist WestCOG member communities to participate in the Sustainable CT program.

Opportunity Zones

Staff analyzed data for all WestCOG communities and prepared a map showing the locations of low-income communities and Enterprise Zones in January. The cities of Danbury, Norwalk and Stamford applied to the State of Connecticut for nomination of specific Census tracts within their communities as Opportunity Zones during the year.

City of Norwalk's zones — three tracts (Census Tracts #434, #437, #441) in the central part of the city within the bounds of South Norwalk, downtown and the area north of Wall Street — were endorsed by former Gov. Dannel P. Malloy in early 2018 and approved by the U.S. Treasury in May 2018.

Danbury was awarded one (Census Tract #2101)

The City of Stamford received five (Census Tracts #201, #214, #218.02, #222, #223): downtown is now an opportunity zone, along with the South End, Waterside, the westernmost half of the West Side and a census tract that picks up the bulk of the East Side and part of Glenbrook.

Opportunity Zone Activity

- [Boon or burden? What Trump's investor-enticing tax breaks mean for Norwalk](#)
- [Designated Opportunity Zones \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [Stamford: The new land of opportunity, but whose is it? \(stamfordadvocate.com\)](#)