

## **PE5 Action: Resource Recovery Center**

**6 Points**

### **A. Why is this action important?**

Many people are familiar with the saying, “one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.” Material reuse is gaining momentum as a way to keep usable materials out of the waste stream. In addition to consignment stores and Habitat for Humanity’s ReStores, some local governments are establishing resource recovery centers, swap shops, or reuse marketplaces at public facilities to keep items from being disposed of in their landfills, incinerated, or transported elsewhere. This reduces solid waste disposal and transport costs, reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and eliminates the need to use precious resources and energy to create new items.

### **B. How to implement this action**

Local governments should evaluate options for implementing resource recovery centers and determine if such a program is appropriate for their communities. They must determine what types of materials the center will accept, and what requirements the center may have in terms of the condition of the materials. Local governments may elect to pilot such a program initially to gauge public interest and support in a recovery center, before moving forward with implementing a full program. Such outreach should also be used to inform the design of educational and promotional materials. To measure the program’s success, local governments should establish metrics to track the quantity of materials donated to the center, number of residents donating and reusing materials, GHG emissions avoided, and other similar metrics.

Local governments can earn points for centers that they implement alone or in partnership with other entities, such as county governments, neighboring jurisdictions, or regional organizations. To earn points for an action in which the local government is not the lead actor, the local government must demonstrate substantial involvement in the action. More information on how to demonstrate substantial involvement in an action, refer to this web page:

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/certification-overview/collaborating-with-partners/>

### **C. Time frame, project costs, and resource needs**

The time and resources associated with establishing a resource recovery center depend on the type of center and the approach to implementing the program, such as operating hours and frequency of operation. Local governments might elect to pilot such a program, before turning it into an ongoing service.

### **D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this?**

Any local government that manages solid waste collection and transport can implement this program. Departments of public works or sanitation are the most likely departments to implement this action.

### **E. How to obtain points for this action**

Six points are available for establishing and managing a resource recovery center.

### **F. What to submit**

Submit copies of the rules and regulations for center use and any other educational and promotional materials, including links to websites. Provide confirmation that the center is actively in use at the time of submittal.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the public.

#### **G. Links to additional resources or best practices**

- [Town of New Paltz Reuse Center](#)
- [Salisbury, Connecticut Swap Shop](#)
- [Reuse Marketplace](#)

#### **H. Recertification requirements**

The requirements for recertification are the same as the requirements for the initial certification.