

NEWSLETTER

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2021

PURCHASING

The Municipal Procurement Training Series, which began in November 2020, held its third session titled "Bids" on Jan 14. This session described the tools needed to create a successful bid and covered common major and minor bid flaws.

The purpose of this training series is to offer professional development opportunities to municipal employees where they can learn best municipal procurement practices. [Click here](#) to view the schedule of the entire training series.

Each session is recorded. The recording and other course materials are distributed to finance directors, public works directors, and purchasing officers after each meeting.

The trainings are facilitated by Wilma Petro, CPM, SCRCOG's purchasing consultant.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Live Green's Municipal EV Readiness Program concluded their 12-week "toolkit" program in December. Earlier this month, they published highlights from that program and a preview of events for 2021. [Click here](#) to read the report.

SCRCOG is working toward achieving regional SolSmart designation by promoting the use of solar throughout the region. Receiving SolSmart recognition would demonstrate our region's readiness to foster the development of local solar markets and create opportunities for towns to streamline the process of solar power implementation. SCRCOG will be hosting two training sessions in February focused on best practices. See dates below.

KEY DATES | FEBRUARY 2021

IT Working Group Meeting

Thurs. Feb 4 | 10am to 11am | [Register Here](#)

Housing Working Group Meeting

Tues. Feb 9 | 1:30pm to 3pm | [Click Here to Join](#)

Municipal Procurement Training Series

Session 4: Request for Qualifications and Proposals

Thurs. Feb 11 | 10am to 11:45 am | [Register Here](#)

SolSmart Regional Training - Planning and Zoning

Weds. Feb 17 | 2pm to 3:30pm | [Register Here](#)

SolSmart Regional Training - Permitting and Inspection

Weds. Feb 24 | 2pm to 4pm | [Register Here](#)

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING (SW&R)

SCRCOG is exploring options to reduce solid waste by supporting recycling and food waste diversion programs. These initiatives are becoming more critical as the MIRA facility nears closure, other aging incinerators approach the end of their serviceable life (30+ years old), and tipping fees continue to increase.

Pam Roach, SCRCOG's SW&R and Energy Conservation consultant, has been an active participant in the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) meetings where regional and statewide solutions are being discussed. The final CCSMM meeting was held on Jan 11th where the coalition discussed their final report and solutions which include unit based pricing, various organic diversion methods, education and outreach, legislation, and grant opportunities.

CYBERSECURITY

SCRCOG has engaged Novus Insight, Inc. to assist in deploying KnowBe4, an integrated simulated phishing program, across the region. This program increases employees' cyber-awareness and trains them on how to detect fraudulent emails that make it passed the municipality's firewall and into their inbox. SCRCOG is offering this program free to municipalities.

SCRCOG introduced the program to the IT Directors in the fall and received feedback on the initial implementation plan. A revised plan will be presented to the IT Working group on Feb 4th. We hope to begin onboarding municipalities by the end of February.

HOUSING

The Housing Working Group meeting held on Jan 12 was facilitated by David Fink, SCRCOG's housing consultant, and focused on creating a local affordable housing plan. This session offered tools and best practices to help towns develop an affordable housing plan by July 2022, which is required under CGS 8-30J. [Click here](#) to access a recording of this meeting.

The Regional Plan Association (RPA) in partnership with the CT Department of Housing created the affordable housing plan and process guidebook containing tools and strategies for towns.

Melissa Kaplan-Macey from RPA presented the guidebook and John Guskowski from CHA Consulting talked about his experience assisting towns in preparing their plans.



If you would like more information on any municipal service program, please contact:

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