Decarbonizing During a Crisis: Looking to the States
Decarbonizing During a Crisis: Looking to States & Local Governments

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I will focus on land use.
Land use laws can address climate, COVID, & equity.
Land use laws affects climate.
Land use laws affects COVID response.
Land use laws affects equity and opportunity.
Racism Drives Inequities in COVID-19, He
— Poor CDC data characterized as "neglect"

by Shannon Firth, Washington Correspondent, MedPage Today June 22, 2020
Local Zoning.
It was a unanimous vote in one night
New Zoning Code Enables A More Modern Hartford

Hartford’s progressive new zoning code de-emphasizes parking and traditional zoning by uses.

By TONI GOLD

JANUARY 24, 2016, 5:00 AM

HARTFORD BUSINESS.com
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IN THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2016 EDITION

City's new zoning regs create a 'high opportunity' for development

GREGORY SEAY
The city of Hartford since the start of this year has been using a revised template to assess and approve zoning and land-use applications, a format that could hasten development citywide, city officials, developers and land-use professionals say.

Among the biggest changes is the city's reworking of its parking space requirements for all new development downtown and
Energy
Cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy that reduces the likelihood of power outages during storms, creates green jobs, reduces dependence on fossil fuels, and cuts energy costs for consumers.

Food
Nutritious food that is locally grown or non-carbon-intensive, and is readily available across all neighborhoods, leading to improved health and greater resiliency for area families.

Green Space
Private and accessible public landscapes filled with trees and meadows that together mitigate the effect of high heat days and flooding, provide ecosystem services, and clean our air.

Transportation
A multi-modal, interconnected transportation network with complete streets, safe biking and walking options, and fewer vehicle-related emissions, which improves air quality and cuts asthma rates.

Waste
Eradication of the worst trash and blight, and public engagement that increases recycling and reuse rates - which in turn slashes disposal costs, related emissions, and environmental degradation.

Water
More efficient use of potable water, better protection against floods and droughts, and waterways made cleaner through green infrastructure that reduces and cleans stormwater runoff.
HARTFORD CITY PLAN

City of Hartford
Planning and Zoning Commission
Adopted May 12, 2020
Statewide Zoning Issues.
Connecticut towns are declaring racism a public health crisis. Advocates want the state to follow.

Protestors gather in Hartford’s Bushnell Park.

Connecticut cities and towns eager for change in the wake of George Floyd’s death are taking the symbolic step of declaring racism a public health crisis in their communities.
Coalition Launched To Move Forward With Housing Desegregation

by Christine Stuart | Jul 14, 2020 4:17pm

0 Comments | Log in to Facebook to Post a Comment | Share
Posted to: The Economy, Housing, Jobs, Legal

Lamont, legislators agree on July agenda housing segregation.

POLITICS I by JACQUELINE RAE THOMAS and MARK PAZNIKAS | JULY 14, 2020 | VIEW AS CLEAN READ

HARTFORD, CT — Legislation to change land use laws in Connecticut is
Among 60 towns that require 1+ acres for a single-family home, 50 have above-average median income

Towns with 1+ acres requirement are in purple
Red line represents state’s median household income of $76,106

Sources: Desegregate CT, 2018 American Community Survey

Visualization: ICTdata
Hartford Eliminates Parking Minimums Citywide

By Angie Schmitt Dec 13, 2017

This building was converted to apartments in downtown Hartford after parking mandates were eliminated. Photo: Google Maps

Hartford, Connecticut, is getting rid of mandatory parking minimums citywide, the second major American city to do so in the past 12 months, following Buffalo.
Minimum parking spaces required
Per dwelling unit of multifamily housing

0-1 towns
16

1-2 (exclusive) towns
24

2 towns
84

Over 2 towns
17

Not found/Undefined towns
28

Source: Desegregate CT
Visualization: CTData Collaborative
Maximum land multifamily housing can occupy
Lot coverage, measured as % of lot covered by building

- Of these, 12 towns allow only up to 10% of coverage
- 35 towns
- 58 towns
- 14 towns
- 3 towns
- Not found/Undefined: 59 towns

Source: Desegregate CT
Visualization: CTData Collaborative
Among 35 towns that cap lot coverage at 25% for multifamily homes, 30 have above-average median income.

Towns with maximum lot coverage of under 25% are in purple. The red line represents the state’s median household income of $76,106.

Sources: Desegregate CT, 2018 American Community Survey

Visualization: CTdata
Here are our **Top 10 Ideas** to achieve the following 3 goals:

- **Housing Supply:** Right now, we’re stuck with the expensive housing we already have. We have to make it easier to convert existing development to create housing, or to build new housing.

- **Housing Diversity:** We have too many freestanding single-family homes, which are expensive and, for many, undesirable. We have to give people more opportunities to choose where and how they live.

- **Process Improvement:** We’ve seen coded discrimination, abuses of the “process,” and high fees stop great housing from being built. We need to make decisions fairer and better.

Our supporters support these three broad goals.
The type of housing that opinion writer Chris DeMuth says Connecticut legislators are pushing.
Cities can rezone to:

- Make housing denser.
- Eliminate minimum lot sizes.
- Eliminate parking requirements.
- Concentrate housing near transit.
States can guide land use to:
- Lift unnecessary environmental barriers.
  - Incentivize good zoning.
  - Prohibit bad zoning.
We must act now.
Thank You!