

Community Story



Kristen Gorski's Commitment to Economic Development and Sustainable Growth

For more than a decade, Kristen Gorski has been shaping the economic future of Connecticut communities by integrating sustainability into local development. Early experiences in disaster preparedness and business continuity opened her eyes to the challenges businesses face in staying resilient — and the opportunities that come from integrating sustainability into economic development.

As West Hartford's Economic Development Manager, Kristen has expanded her focus, championing small business, housing development, and commercial retention and revitalization. Kristen and her team are busy raising awareness about programs and resources for their portfolio of 2,660 brick and mortar businesses and 1,500 multifamily housing units. Kristen emphasizes the importance of programs like Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) which can help fill financing gaps and reduce operating costs for existing properties. West Hartford has seen over \$15 million invested across 5 projects using C-PACE, including over \$13 million for the redevelopment of One Park Road into a multi-family housing complex.

Kristen's Accolades:

Hartford Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 (2022), Hartford Business Journal Real Estate Power Players (2023), Former President of Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS)

“Economic developers are the conduit. It’s our job to know what resources exist and connect businesses to the tools—like C-PACE—that make projects possible.”

— Kristen Gorski, Town of West Hartford Economic Development Manager



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