

Reusable bags at your fingertips

Written by Jeannette Ross
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Do you sometimes forget your reusable bags when you go shopping? Wilton Go Green's got your back on this one. For the next week or two or three, depending on how long supplies last, the organization will give away 2,000 bags at kiosks around town. The intention is to get 50% of Wilton shoppers to go reusable, Becky Bunnell, Wilton Go Green president said.

The bags are highly recognizable, imprinted with designs by Wilton students. Four students won a contest earlier this year that challenged them to combine a compelling recycling and conservation message along with a Wilton Image.

The winners, 12th grader H.G. Siewert, 10th grader Terrence McLaughlin, seventh grader Sarah Perry, and third grader Teresa Nobles all had their submissions adapted onto brightly colored reusable bags.

Wilton Library is also passing out bags along with cling window stickers for car windows to remind shoppers to take their bags into the store with them.

"Many people say they want to use reusable bags, they just forgot them at home, or left them in the back of the car," Ms. Bunnell said.

This latest effort, dubbed BYOB for Bring Your Own Bag, was augmented by Wilton Stop & Shop giving away 10,000 reusable bags for Earth Day.

The BYOB program is partially underwritten by the town as part of an ongoing townwide discussion on whether plastic bags should be banned outright. Westport has a ban in place and

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Norwalk is the most recent Connecticut town to take up the issue.

According to Wilton Go Green, the business community could realize substantial savings if enough people use recyclable bags, since disposable bags cost between four and 10 cents each.

If too few people adopt the reusable habit, other options will be on the table, including a ban or plastic/paper bag surcharge to shoppers, a Wilton Go Green press release said.

Billions of plastic shopping bags are used in the U.S. each year, according to envirosax.com, and most go right into landfills. However, they are easy to recycle and can be remade into many things such as plastic decking, park benches and playground equipment.

Information: info@wiltongogreen.org.