

Wilton Go Green

Media Kit





What is Wilton Go Green?

Incorporated in 2010, Wilton Go Green is a 501(c)(3) created by a group of citizens eager to engage the community of Wilton, CT in sustainable initiatives.

We came together in the fall of 2009 as a committee of the Wilton Energy Commission charged with putting on the first Wilton Go Green Festival. Sharing a mutual passion for conservation and sustainability, we wanted to create a fun, informative day for people to learn about the simple steps they can take to make better use of energy, money, and our scarce resources. We found that many organizations in and around our town were eager to participate from non-profits and corporations, to pre-schools and faith communities. With over 80 exhibitors, 20 workshops, and more than 1,000 attendees, the Festival was a huge success.

And so, this group of volunteers, led by cofounders Jana Bertkau, Becky Bunnell and Jerry Goodwin, spun-off from the Wilton Energy Commission to establish Wilton Go Green, Inc. Our goal is to develop a wide range of sustainable initiatives in cooperation with the town and other area nonprofits.

Our Vision:

Wilton will be the most environmentally sustainable town in Connecticut.

Mission Statement:

Engage the community in initiatives that advance a culture of conservation and educate residents, schools, and businesses about the best practices in building, energy, food, transportation, and waste/recycling to drive responsible stewardship of air, land, water, wildlife, and other natural resources -- thereby promoting and supporting efforts by the Town of Wilton and other Wilton organizations to achieve environmental sustainability.



Peg Koellmer, past president at 2017 Wilton Go Green Festival
Photo: Wilton Go Green



“

Let the future say of our generation that we sent forth
mighty currents of hope and that we worked together to heal
the world.

”

- Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute



2017 Wilton Go Green Festival, Community Art Project
Sponsored by The Montessori School
Photo: Bryan Haeffele, Wilton Bulletin



Board of Directors



Dana Gips
President
Joined in 2013



Patrice Gillespie
Joined in 2010



Becky Bunnell
Co-founder & Vice President
Joined in 2010



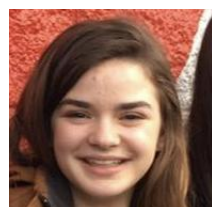
Ann Mitrione
Joined in 2017



Eve Silverman
Co-secretary
Joined in 2014



Peg Koellmer
Past president
Joined in 2014



Libby Scaperotta
Co-Secretary
Joined in 2016



Ted Stonbely
Joined in 2016



Sara Curtis
Joined in 2016



Lynn Stack
Joined in 2014



Tina Duncan
Joined in 2016



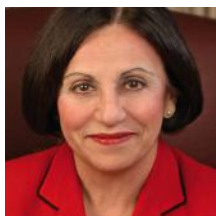
Brian Shea
Treasurer
Joined in 2017



Daphne Dixon
Executive Director, Board Member 2010-2016



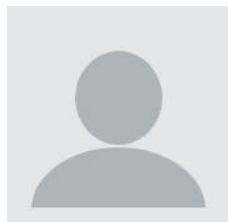
Advisory Council



Toni Boucher
CT State Senator



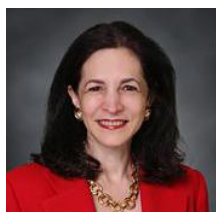
Peter Wrampe
Wilton Energy Commission



Jennifer Fascitelli
Program Coordinator
Department of Public Works
Town of Wilton



Christene Freedman
Development and
Marketing Director
Wilton YMCA



Gail Lavielle
CT State Representative



Steve Pierce
Director
Parks and Recreation
Town of Wilton



Mike Rubbo
Executive Director
Woodcock Nature Center



Kevin Smith
Superintendent of
Wilton Schools



Elaine Tai-Lauria
Executive Director
Wilton Library



2017 Spring Intern Team

Wilton High School students Catherine Vose, Emily Mitrione, and Emily Zimmerman are Wilton Go Green's 2017 Spring Interns. Under the direction of the Executive Director, the intern team built a media kit, communications plan, social media strategy, updated the Wilton Go Green website, met with local business and community leaders, and increased the number of Wilton Go Green Business Designees.



Catherine Vose, Dutchess University

Catherine Vose is a senior at Wilton High School. In her free time, she attends the Recycling Club and has been on the volleyball as well as the track team. Catherine is passionate about running, cooking, and gymnastics. For the past two years, she has worked at the Wilton YMCA as a volunteer working with children.

"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough."

The determination Catherine has is especially present in her love and care for the environment. She has always been interested in decreasing emissions and in finding new ways to conserve energy. Her love of the environment sparks from the desire she has towards science. Catherine is going to be majoring in Criminal Justice eventually leading her towards forensics, a science-inclined field of study.



Emily Mitrione, Tufts University

Emily Mitrione is a senior at Wilton High School. She is the President of the Spanish Honor Society and on the Executive Boards of the German Honor Society, Key Club, and Relay for Life of Wilton. She enjoys baking, reading, and meeting new people. Emily is a tutor at the Wilton chapter of Kumon Learning Center. Of her internship, She said, "I chose Wilton Go Green because my love for the environment was really enriched this year through AP Environmental Science. The class made me want to make a difference." She will study International Relations at Tufts University this fall.



Emily Zimmerman, Rochester Institute of Technology

Emily Zimmerman is a senior in high school. She has been passionate about environmental issues since she was young, and currently participates in the Wilton High School Recycling and Gardening Clubs. Emily believes that "every individual can make a large impact, even by doing the smallest thing." She does her part by attending local events like the Wilton Town Cleanup Day, and working with the community to protect the environment. In her free time, Emily likes to do photography, draw, and read. After taking AP Environmental Science in high school, she was inspired to intern with Wilton Go Green. She is planning to attend Rochester Institute of Technology for computer science with a minor in environmental science.



Wilton Go Green - 2017 Partners & Festival Sponsors



Title Sponsors – Home Comfort Practice, Ross Solar Group

Emerald Sponsors – Bankwell, Blue Buffalo, Deloitte, Gardel Home Improvement, Realty Seven, Whole Foods, The Junkluggers

Gold Sponsors – Alteris Renewables, Bay State Textiles Inc., Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, Next Step Living, Nod Hill Soap, PurePoint Energy

Silver Sponsors – Apple Blossom & Family Center, Aquarion Water Company, Bright Horizons, Chevrolet Buick of Wilton, City Carting Inc., Greater Bridgeport Community Enterprises Inc., Mow Green, New England Smart Energy Group LLC, Outdoor Sports Center, Ring's End, South Wilton Veterinary Group, Stop and Shop Wilton, Sustainable America, Winters Bros.

Media Sponsors – 95.9 The Fox, Connoisseur Media, GOOD Morning Wilton, Kids Out and About, Macaroni Kids, Natural Awakenings, News 12 Connecticut, Star 99.9



Organizations We Have Worked With:

Adopt a Dog	Friends of the Norwalk River Valley	ROAR-Ridgefield Operation for
Ambler Farm	Trail	Animal Rescue
American Cancer Society	Girl Scouts of Connecticut, Wilton	Rugamarole
Citizens Campaign for the	Service Unit	Slow Food
Environment	GMO Free CT	Smart USA
Citizens Emergency Response Team	Matress Recycling Council	SoundCyclists Bicycle Club
Clean Air-Cool Planet	Gustave Whitehead Plane	Sterling Planet
Clean Cities Energy Alternatives of	Housatonic Habitat for Humanity's	Weir Farm National Historic Site
Southwest CT	ReStore	Westport Electric Car Club
Clean Energy Finance & Investment	Little People Big Changes	Wildlife in Crisis
Authority	Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited	Wilton Chamber of Commerce
Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT	Millstone Farm	Wilton Democratic Town Committee
Community Plates	Mom's Club of Wilton	& Environmental Committee
Comstock Renovation Building	Moveable Feast Farms	Wilton Family YMCA
Committee	Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy	Wilton Garden Club
Connecticut Chapter of the Northeast	Challenge	Wilton Go Green - No Idle
Organic Farming Association	Norwalk River Valley Trail	Wilton Historical Society
Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund	Norwalk River Watershed	Wilton Land Conservation Trust
Connecticut Resources Recovery	Association	Wilton Newcomers Club
Authority Garbage Museum	Norwalk River Watershed Initiative	Wilton Roots and Shoots
Connecticut Sierra Club	Open Road	Wilton Volunteer Ambulance Corps
CT Energy Efficiency Fund	Parents Ending America's Childhood	Wilton/Norwalk CSA of Stoneledge
CT Green Building Council	Epidemic (PEACE)	Farm
Earthplace	Peaks Over Poverty	Wilton/Norwalk CSA of Stoneledge
Food Rescue US	Recycling Creation Station	Farm
Food Runners CT	Ridgefield Action Committee for the	Wolf Conservation Center
Friends of Horseshoe Pond	Environment (RACE)	Woodcock Nature Center



Businesses We Have Worked With:

Businesses

3Degrees
Ancona's Market
Apollo Solar
Aradia Farm LLC
Arboone Independent Consultant
Astrum Solar
Ava Anderson Non Toxic
Beauty Counter
Best Friend's Total Pet Care
Big Brothers Big Sisters Southwest CT
Blu-Print automotive conversions
Blue Star Bazaar
BPC Green Builders
Brain Balance Achievement
Center/Pathways to Learning
Bruce Bennett Nissan
Candles Cake & Cream
Canine Company
Cannon Grange of Wilton
Capitol Region Education
Council/eemarks
Chevy Volt
Clear Conscious Pet
Community Energy
Comprehensive Nutrition
Connecticut Farm Fresh Express
Connecticut Gardener Magazine
Connecticut Green Painters
Contented Critters Country
Crave Food Services
CT Farm Fresh
Culpen & Woods Architects LLC
Curbside Compost
D.A. Vento Refuse
Dale's Dollar Plants
Direct Eats
Direct Energy Solar
Donnelly /Colt Progressive Resources
DoTERRA
Dragone Classic Cars
Earthmint/Ductmint
Easy Care Energy Solutions

Elen Sotzing Jewelry
Emmy Star Designs
ErinCo Marketing & Publishing
Expect Natural Children's Boutique
Fairfield Green Food Guide LLC
From Farm to Market
Front Yard Coop
Gardens by Design
Go Organic
Going Green Waterless Handwash LLC
Good Life Energy Savers
Gourmavian Chickens
Graze
Green Lab LLC
Green Maid, LLC
Highstead
Honda of Westport
Jamie's Organic Candles
Jardin de Lila
Jeffrey A O'Brien Lawn Tree and Shrub
Care
Jill Dunn- Children's Book Author
JR's Comfortable Heat
Juice Plus+
Kaiser Battistone
Kia - Drive and Ride
Kure Spa
Leaf Filter
Marvin Gardens
Medelco Incorporated
Mikes Organic Delivery, LLC
Molly and Murphy's
Moorefield Herb Farm
My Pet Chicken
New Country Toyota of Westport
Northeast Power
Northeast Smart Solar
NYR Organic
One Minute Green
Patriot Bank
People's Bank
Peoples Products, Inc.
Pet Pantry Warehouse

Power Home Remodeling Group
Practically Green
Professional Water Systems
Qivana
Renewable Resources Energy
Solutions
Renewal by Andersen
Robb's Jobs/Roaming Homes
LLC
Saltbox Press
Scentsational Scrubs, LLC
Sea Beans Studio
Shaklee Authorized Distributors
Shalva Clinic
Sidetex
Sky Properties
Smart Roofs CT
Soulbryd Therapies, LLC
Southern Yankee
Take 2 Inc
Tesla Motors
The Care of Trees
The Clean Bedroom
The Entre-Manure
The Junk Recycler
The Reiki Healing Stone Co.
Three Bluebirds
Tower Garden
Toyota of Stamford
Trillium Architects
Union Savings Bank
Universal Intelligence
Vagabond's Daughter
Venture Photography
Verengo Solar
Vibrant Moves
Viridian
Webster Bank
WEC
Werecycle LLC
Whole Foods
Wildtree

Schools, Food Vendors, Artists, Commissions, and Town Departments



Schools:

Bottled Up! For Wilton Schools
Children's Day School of Wilton
Community Nursery School of Wilton
Connecticut Friends School
Fairfield School Gardens
Helen Gander Friends Nursery School
Middlebrook Recycling Club
Miller Driscoll Building Committee
The Montessori School
Wilton High School

Artists:

Acoustic Wilton Family
Animate Your Face
Arthur Lipner & Wilton Community Steel
Black Tie Affair (Jazz)
Carter Vail Musician
Cyril the Sorcerer
Grey Rocks (Acoustic Band)
Homespun Merry-Go-Round
Joni Wallace and Friends
Ken Coulson
Ken McGarry/Joan Wallace teen bands
Kenn Morr
Peter McDowell
School of Rock
Silk'n Sounds

Food Vendors:

Ben's Ice Cream Truck
Cafe Ruche
College Creamery
Cowabunga Food Truck
Dash of Salt
Green Leaf Organic Bakery
Izzi B's Allergen Free Cupcakes
Melt Mobile
Naked Greens
Planet Fuel
Skinny Pines
The Farmer's Cow
The Stand
The Well

Town Departments and Commissions:

Town of Wilton, Department of Public Works
Town of Wilton, Department of Parks and Recreation
Wilton Conservation Commission
Wilton Energy Commission
Wilton Fire Department
Wilton Health Department
Wilton League of Women Voters
Wilton Library Association
Wilton Police Department
Wilton Registrar's Office
Wilton Tree Committee

Special Thanks:

Paragon Management



Realty Seven



Trackside Teen Center



Wilton Library Association





Wilton Go Green Highlights

Ongoing Programs

- Community-wide Initiative Platform: 2017
- Zero Food Waste School Initiative: 2017
- Home Energy Challenge: 2012-2017
- Green Business Designation Program: 2013-2017
- Wilton Go Green/Wilton Library Green Speaker Series: 2012-2017
- No Idle Program: 2015-2017
- Green LEAF Schools Program: 2015-2017



2017 "How green could wilton be?" Symposium Committee Patrice Gillespie, Tina Duncan, symposium chair; second row: Jackie Algon, and Sara Curtis; third row: Mike Murray, Daphne Dixon, and Lynn Stack, fourth row: Joe Cea, Peg Koellmer, and Donna Merrill; fifth row: Dan Delventhal, and Ted Stonbely.

Photo: Tony Spinelli, Wilton Bulletin

Major Events

- Wilton Go Green Festival: 2010-2017
- "How Green Could Wilton Be?" Community Sustainability Forum: 2017
- "How Green Could Wilton Be?" Symposium: 2016



Wilton residents can participate in a Norwalk River Walk Sunday during the Wilton Go Green Festival

Photo: Daily Voice



Educational Events: 2010-2017

- Bianco Rosso Green Drinks: April 25, 2016
- Autumn Drinks 2016: November 6, 2016
- Solarize Wilton Campaign: January 12th- May 18th 2016
- Home Energy Upgrade Workshop at Bankwell Wilton: April 17, 2015
- People's Climate March: September 21, 2015
- Norwalk River Valley Trail Partnership: 2015
- Earth Month Celebration, Network and Socialize: April 2014
- Home Energy Upgrade Workshop: October 29, 2013
 - A Dummy's Guide to Home Energy Upgrades- Part 1 Promoting the Home Energy Solutions program
- "Switch" energy film screening at Wilton Library: January 31, 2013
- Walk Through the Woods: 2012
- Green Homes Tour: 2012
- Co-hosting Neighbor-to-Neighbor Solar Workshop: July 25, 2012
- Dan Etsy Speech- Wilton Earth Day Celebration: April 22, 2012
- "Enjoy Earth Day" Environmental Celebration: April 22, 2012
- Bring Your Own Bag Campaign: 2011
- District-wide reusable bag logo contest: 2011
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge: 2011
- Wilton Go Green and Neighbor-to-Neighbor Home Energy Savings Workshop: October 26 2011
 - Workshop about home energy efficiency and CL&P sanctioned Home Energy Solutions (HES)
- Moving Planet - Ride for the Trail: September 24, 2011
- Home Energy Basics Workshop: April 7, 2011
- Wilton Go Green and Neighbor-to-Neighbor Home Energy Savings Workshop: October 26 2011
 - Workshop about home energy efficiency and CL&P sanctioned Home Energy Solutions (HES)
- "Nourish" film screening at Wilton Library: November 21 2010



Board Members at People's Climate March
Photo: Wilton Go Green



Wilton Go Green Festival

The Wilton Go Green Festival has been a town favorite since 2010. Each year, we have had more than 80 informative, fun exhibits and activities related to land, water, energy, food, materials management, and transportation. Since its inception, the festival has had over 5,000 participants. The 2017 festival was a zero food waste event that included a nature walk to Schenck's Island, musicians, an electric car showcase, a dog parade, and much more.



2011 Wilton Go Green Festival Rugamarole Recycling Creation Station

Photo: Heather Borden Herve, Good Morning Wilton



2013 Wilton Go Green Festival, Go Green Farmer

Photo: Rusty Hurd

2010 - 2017 Festival Highlights

- 5,000+ Attendees
- Over 75 Environmental Organizations
- Over 125 Sustainable Businesses
- Over 15 Artists
- 11 Town Commissions and Departments
- More than 100 EV and hybrid cars on display
- Over 60 EV "Drive and Rides"
- "Atka the Wolf"
- Nature Walk to Schneck's Island
- Stroller Derby
- SoundCyclists Bike Ride
- Westport Electric Car Club Rally
- Recycle Creation Station
- Mattress, Textile, and Sneaker Recycling
- Educational Panels and Green Speakers
- Over 15 news articles in print and online
- Go Green Festival is a Zero Food Waste Event*



2017 Wilton Go Green Festival Transportation Exhibitor, Kia

Photo: Wilton Go Green



WILTON GO GREEN FESTIVAL

Sponsored by **Ross Solar Group, Realty Seven,
Aquarion Water Co., and more!**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017
11am-4pm, Wilton Town Center**

A Community-Wide Celebration of Green Living!

The Wilton Go Green Festival is all about the small, thoughtful things we can do every day to make a difference. Don't miss this wonderful family day filled with fun and discovery.

- 14 Community-Wide Initiatives Showcased
- Face Painting ■ Dog Parade with Prizes ■ Delicious Food & Live Music ■ Silent Auction ■ Nature Walk to Schenck's Island ■ Wilton Fire Engine on Display ■ Learn How to be Part of the Pollinator Pathway ■ Gustave Whitehead Replica Plane ■ Solar-Powered Merry-Go-Round ■ Interactive Art Activity for All Ages ■ Furry Animals & Exotic Reptiles
- Land, Water, Food, Energy, Materials Management Exhibits

Come Sign the Wilton Sustainability Pledge!

Media Sponsors: GOOD Morning Wilton, Natural Awakenings, News Channel 12, Star99.9, 95.9 The Fox

Wilton Go Green Festival is a Zero Food Waste Event

www.wiltongogreen.org for more information

Attendance is Free. Hosted by Wilton Go Green, Inc. and the Wilton Library Association.



Green Speaker Series:

Co-hosted by Wilton Go Green and the Wilton Library Association

2017

- Christopher Belknap, 2050 Clean Energy Initiative
- Scott Thomson, Electric Vehicles

2016

- Jeff Howard, Climate Change 101
- Alison Nichols & Daryl Hawk, Conservation Sketching Expeditions
- Gordon Wiltsie, Expedition Photographer & Explorer



George Schaller at Green Speaker Series
Photo: Wilton Go Green

2015

- Michelle Dietz, Low Impact Development
- Lisa Fernandez, Global Climate Change & the American Perspective
- Dr. Diane Lewis, The Great Healthy Yard Project
- George Schaller, Wildlife Conservation
- *Idle Threat* Screening & Panel Discussion

2014

- *Chasing Ice* Screening & Panel Discussion
- Alison Nichols & Daryl Hawk, Conservation Sketching Expeditions
- Gaelin Rosenwaks & Daryl Hawk, Studying Ocean Resources
- Liz Walker, Work of Ecovillage

2013

- Gregg Treinish & Daryl Hawk, Andes Mountain Journey

2012

- Jim Motavalli, The Fast Track to Plug in the Auto Industry



Wilton Go Green Community Forum: How Green Could Wilton Be?

A recap of the 2016 Symposium



Thursday, February 23
7 - 8:30 pm
Wilton Library

Features include a recap of the How Green Could Wilton Be? Symposium, sharing of 15 collaborative, sustainability initiatives in the areas of land, water, energy, food, and recycling, ways to get involved in working groups that will create initiative plans, Zero Waste School program and refreshments.

Special Guests:

Land: **Donna Merrill**, Executive Director, Wilton Land Trust

Water: **Louise Washer**, Norwalk River Watershed Association and **Jeff Yates**, National Director of Volunteer Operations, Trout Unlimited

Energy: **Richard Creeth**, Co-Chair, Wilton Energy Commission

Food: **Ted Stonbely**, Director of Admissions, The Montessori School

Materials Management (Recycling): **Tina Duncan**, Wilton Go Green

Zero Food Waste Program: **Gary Cuneen**, Executive Director, Seven Generations Ahead

Questions? Contact Daphne Dixon, 203-536-4695

See Wilton Library's website for more details.

Co-sponsored by Wilton Go Green and Wilton Library.

No charge. Registration recommended.



To register: www.wiltonlibrary.org and click on "Events"
or call the Circulation Desk at (203) 762-6334.

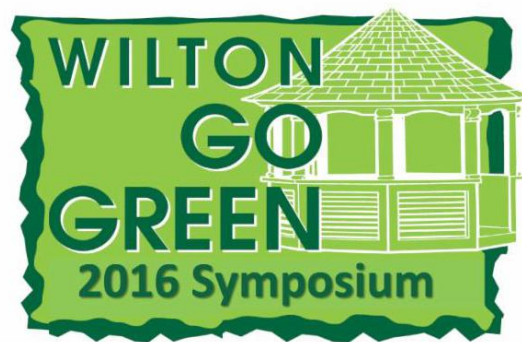
Wilton Library, 137 Old Ridgefield Road, Wilton, CT 06897 www.wiltonlibrary.org

203.762.3950



2016 Symposium - November 29th

On Tuesday, November 29th, 2016, over 75 of Wilton's educational, municipal, faith, business, and community leaders gathered at the Wilton Library for the "How Green Could Wilton Be?" Symposium. Their discussion included identifying sustainability priorities, brainstorming solutions, sharing successes, and establishing the foundation for a strategic plan to move Wilton closer to its goal of becoming the most sustainable town in Connecticut. This event served as a catalyst to spark community interest for town-wide engagement in sustainability initiatives. The symposium featured insight from keynote speaker Gary Cuneen, founder and executive director of Seven Generations Ahead, who praised Wilton Go Green's conservation efforts.



"It's very encouraging what you all are doing here through Wilton Go Green in really trying to make sustainability happen and have it ripple out and impact the other communities."

Initiative Partners:

Norwalk River Watershed Association
Woodcock Nature Center, Wilton Land Conservation Trust
Wilton Garden Club, Trout Unlimited

Special Thanks:

Wilton Library
Tusk & Cup
Curbside Compost

Sponsors:

Bay State Textiles

Aquarion Water

New England Smart Energy

MowGreen



"How green could Wilton be?" Symposium
From left to right: Peg Koellmer, Tina Duncan, Daphne Dixon
Photo: Norwalk Hour, Stephanie Kim



Solarize Wilton January 12, 2016 - May 18, 2016

Solarize Wilton was a cutting-edge solar program introduced as an extension of the Solarize Connecticut initiative. By partnering with Ross Solar Group and Wilton Go Green, the local subset of this statewide program offered Wilton residents the opportunity to receive reduced installation costs for solar panels. This helped to convince locals that this was not only an environmentally-friendly decision, but also an economically-sound one.

"This exciting program offers a new choice for residents at reduced rates, an opportunity to take control of their energy costs, saving money while using sustainable energy."

- First Selectwoman Vanderslice



Wilton Energy Commissioners, Wilton Go Green and co-founder Jana Bertkau
Photo: Wilton Go Green

120+ participants

at kickoff

226 people

Inquired for more information

123 qualified

for the solar installations

12+ outreach programs

held, including workshops, tabling events, and seminars.

300+ families

attended these workshops.

33 installations

completed

360 kWh

of electricity saved per year

635 gallons

of oil saved each year, the equivalent of taking

54 cars

off the road each year

275 tons of CO₂

reduced annually

Supporting Organizations:

- Democratic Town Committee
- Miller Driscoll Science Fair
- Seniors at Comstock
- Wilton Go Green Festival
- Wilton High School Science Department
- Wilton Library
- Wilton Rotary Club
- Wilton Riverside YMCA
- Woodcock Nature Center



Green Business Designation

Wilton Go Green is celebrating companies and organizations that demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices. Each designee will receive a certificate of recognition and a green ribbon cutting ceremony to show the public, clients and employees that it is committed to the practice of good earth stewardship.



From left to right: Tom Sato of Wilton Hardware, Ann Mitrione of Bankwell, and Peg Koellmer of Realty Seven
Courtesy: Wilton Go Green



Green Business Designation Tasks:

Education

- Plan a strategy for the green initiatives you want to implement.
- Plant a native tree, and use the occasion to spread the word! Publicize your Green actions on your website and through the media.
- Educate your employees about your plans to green your workplace.

Water

- Repair all drips and leaks.
- When installing new fixtures, buy fixtures with an auto-shut off.
- Post signs in restrooms and kitchens encouraging water conservation by turning off water between tasks.
- Install low flow aerators on existing faucets.
- Replace faucets with WaterSense approved low flow or metered faucets.
- Replace toilets and urinals with WaterSense approved low flow (1.6 and 1.0 gallons/flush or less) or dual flush appliances.
- Serve water only on request; have information about water- saving efforts available through servers or signage.
- Whenever possible use cold water instead of hot.

Indoor Environment

- Use low or no VOC paints.
- Use recycled or environmentally friendly carpeting or flooring.
- Use non-toxic, environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- If you hire a cleaning service, hire a green cleaning service.
- Recycle all plastics, aluminum, glass, paper and cardboard.
- Use recycled paper and/or paper goods.
- Do not offer disposable/single use bags to customers; if asked, offer bags made from recycled materials.
- Actively promote customers bringing their own bags.
- Provide recycling bins for employees in break rooms.
- Encourage employees to bring coffee mugs rather than using paper cups.
- Provide mugs for visitors.

Transportation

- Encourage and incentivize employees and customers to use active transportation as an alternative to driving (biking, walking, public transportation, carpooling or car sharing).
 - While traveling for business and whenever possible: Use public transportation, stay at eco-friendly hotels, fly direct, rent hybrid cars and observe the same energy-saving behaviors at your hotel that you practice at home.
 - Offer safe and secure bicycle parking areas for employees, customers and other visitors.
 - Use conference calls and video conferencing instead of travel, when possible.
-



Wilton Go Green Awards

2017 TownVibe Green Award: Honorable Mention



Dana Gips, President, Daphne Dixon,
executive director, Patrice Gillespie
Photo: TownVibe

2016 Hartford Business Journal Green Circle Award: No Idling



2016 No Idling Initiative
Photo: Hayden Turek, Wilton Bulletin

2013 Neighbor-to-Neighbor Energy Challenge 3rd Place



2013 Third Place Neighbor to
Neighbor Energy Challenge
From left to right: Gail
Lavielle, Bryan Garcia, Karen
Stanley, George Geller, Bill
Brennan, Patrice Gillespie,
Dan Etsy
Photo: Connecticut House Republicans

2012 Green Coast Award Category- Environmental Organization



Jana Bertkau, Wilton Go Green Co-founder
and past president, Debbie Hunsberger,
Gail Lavielle, State Representative,
Dana Gips
Photo: Wilton Go Green



Annual Dinner Green Awards

2016 Awards

- James Hunter, WHS Science Teacher - "Green Educator Award"
- Tina Duncan - "Sustainability Visionary Award"
- Ross Solar Group - "Clean Energy Award"
- Jana Bertkau, Becky Bunnell, Jerry Goodwin - "Founders Award"

2015 Awards

- Heather Priest, Middlebrook School teacher - "Outstanding Green Teacher"
- Eve Silverman, Wilton Go Green Co-secretary - "Energizer Bunny Award"
- Willa Ratner, Graphic Designer - "Outstanding Graphic Designer"

2014 Awards

- Henryk Teraskiewicz, Executive director at Woodcock Nature Center - "Green Partner Recognition Award"
- Janet Nobles, Middlebrook School teacher - "Green Teaching Award"
- Alex Scaperotta, WHS student - "Green Student Award"
- Bruce Hampson, Chairman of the Wilton Energy Commission - "Energy Effectiveness Award"



Henryk Teraskiewicz, Alex Scaperotta, Janet Nobles
Photo: Wilton Go Green



Ross Solar Group, Stephan Hartmann, Aaron Schlechter
Photo: Wilton Go Green



Heather Priest, Eve Silverman, Willa Ratner
Photo: Good Morning Wilton

Why We Do What We Do



Every ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees and 7,000 gallons of water.

(Environmental Protection Agency)

The cost of solar panels has dropped by 80% since 2008.

(CleanTechnica)

Fluorescent light bulbs use 75% less energy than conventional incandescent bulbs.

(U.S. Department of Energy)

In 2016, there was one new solar panel installation every 84 seconds.

(Alba Energy)

Organic farming yields 10 times more profit than conventional farming.

(The Wall Street Journal)

In 2010 the EPA created stricter regulations for automobile companies which is projected to save 1.8 billion gallons of fuel.

(The New York Times)

The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

(Connecticut DEEP)

14% of the average family's indoor water footprint is lost to leaks, making repairing them cost- and energy-effective.

(National Geographic)

By standardizing American food label dates, \$4,547 can be saved per ton of food.

(ReFED)

Sustainable Living.

For the Good of all of Us.



Join The Sustainability Pledge

I pledge to...

Support efforts by the Town of Wilton, Wilton organizations and Wilton businesses that strive to advance a culture of conservation within our community. Commit to incorporating sustainable practices that will protect and preserve our resources and promote best practices in land, water, energy, food, transportation, and materials management. Joining others to help create a more sustainable and environmentally sound Wilton today and in the future.

First and last name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Check your area of interest:

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Food
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Materials Management

Please check one:

- ☐ I'm ready to get involved and join the team!
- ☐ I'm willing to volunteer occasionally
- ☐ I can't be involved right now, keep me posted





2017 Road Map

Date	Action
2/23/2017	Community Wide Forum to share draft initiatives and engage community
5/7/2017	Wilton Go Green Festival to share draft initiatives and engage community
6/1/2017 - 6/17/2017	2017 WGG Initiative Partner Follow-up
6/15/17 - 6/30/2017	Home Comfort Solutions - HES
6/15/17 - 6/30/2018	Bankwell - Green Business Designation
6/15/17 - 6/30/2019	The Junkluggers - Materials Management
6/15/17 - 6/30/2020	Baystate Textiles - Materials Management
6/15/2017	Media Kit Completed
6/15/2017	Communications Plan Completed
6/15/2017	Social Media Strategy Completed
6/15/2017 - 7/15/2017	Re-engage Advisors - Initiatives and Support
6/15/2017 - 7/15/2017	Confirm Board Member's Commitments on Sustainability Platform
6/15/2017 - 6/30/17	Confirm Platform leads
6/16/2017	Spring Internship Program concludes
7/1/2017 - 7/15/2017	Outreach and engagement of Initiative Action Team Core Members that are interested in developing initiative action plans with metrics. Use a combination of email, calls, social media and meetings to recruit team members.
7/15/2017 - 8/15/2017	Set up Initiative Action Team Planning Meeting 1. Review materials and chose initiative(s)
8/15/2017 - 9/15/2018	Set up Initiative Action Team Planning Meeting 2. Prioritize initiatives by completion in 1 year, 2-3 years and 4-5 years
9/15/2017 - 10/15/2019	Set up Initiative Action Team Planning Meeting 3. Action plan for each initiative with metrics
10/15/2017 - 10/30/2017	All Action Teams Meet for Review
11/1/2017 - 11/37/2018	Platform Leads share initiative action plans with board members, advisory council, sponsors and potentially town departments, commissions and/or environmental organizations.
11/8/2017	Initiatives Presented at WGG Board Meeting
11/13/2017	Initiative Platform Complete and Officially Launched



Contact Us

Daphne Dixon
Executive Director
250 Danbury Road, Wilton CT 06897
Email: daphne@wiltongogreen.org
Phone: (203) 536-4695

Mailing Address:
Wilton Go Green Inc.
PO Box 7652
Wilton CT 06897-7652

For more information: wiltongogreen.org



Sunday's WGG Festival: Fun Activities—But Also Important Community Action

By [Heather Borden Herve, GMW Editor](#) on May 5, 2017



There are exciting things planned for the 2017 Wilton Go Green Festival, being held this Sunday, May 7 in Wilton Center—a nature walk, electric vehicle test drives, dog parade, live music, great food, and much more. What organizers are thrilled about is the opportunity for community members and festival attendees to come for the fun—but walk away with a renewed commitment to making Wilton the most environmentally sustainable town in Connecticut.

The new energy that is the motivation are the initiatives that emerged out of the fall symposium, that was held at the Wilton Library, November 29, 2016 as well as supporting initiatives like the Pollinator Pathway, all of which support long-term sustainability. This year's festival will feature not only fun-for-the-whole-family activities but also opportunities for residents to learn about and get involved in supporting local, specific initiatives in the areas of food, land, water, materials management, energy and transportation.

Organizers say that one major goal of the festival is to engage 1% of Wilton—180 people—in one or more of these initiatives at the festival. People will be encouraged to sign The Pledge and commit to an area of focus. Wilton Go Green is looking to get that commitment from residents to take part in activity over the summer months, which will be dedicated to creating action teams to develop initiative plans that will then be shared at the fall symposium.

As Wilton Go Green's work in the community deepens, the organization is broadening its outreach and communication efforts.

Wilton Go Green has accepted three Wilton High School students into the Wilton Go Green Summer Internship Program: Emily Mitrione, Catherine Vose and Emily Zimmerman. Amanda Eason, an environmental studies major at Santa Clara University, has also been accepted into the program and will begin her internship in June.

The interns will be working on a communications plan, website updates, the Green Business Designation Program and a social media campaign.

Wilton Go Green is fortunate to have a core of dedicated board members led by president Dana Gips. Board members include Becky Bunnell, Sara Curtis Tina Duncan, Patrice Gillespie, Peg Koellmer, Lynn Stack, Alex Scaperotta, Libby Scaperotta, Eve Silverman and Ted Stonbely. The organization now welcomes its two newest board members—Ann Mitrione of Bankwell and Brian Shea of Gregory and Adams, P.C..

Much of the energy has been driven thanks to the organization's step of bringing on Daphne Dixon as an executive director last September.

Incorporated in 2010, Wilton Go Green is a 501(c)(3) created by a group of citizens eager to engage the community of Wilton, CT in sustainable initiatives. The group came together in the fall of 2009 as a committee of the Wilton Energy Commission charged with putting on the first Wilton Go Green Festival. Sharing a mutual passion for conservation and sustainability, the goal was to create a fun, informative day for people to learn about the simple steps they can take to make better use of energy, money and our scarce resources.

The group of volunteers spun-off from the Wilton Energy Commission to establish Wilton Go Green, Inc., with a goal to develop and support a wide range of sustainable initiatives in cooperation with the Town and other area nonprofits.

2017 WGG Festival RUN OF THE DAY

11:00am – 11:30am Opening Ceremonies – Gazebo

11:30am – 12:30pm Nature Walk to Schenck's Island – Meet at the Gazebo

11:30am – 3:00pm Joni Wallace and Friends – Music Stage

12:00pm – 1:00pm Westport Electric Car Club EV Rally Cars Showcased – Library Parking Lot

12:30pm – 1:30pm Cyril the Sorcerer – Town Green Center

1:45pm – 2:30pm Dog Parade with Prizes – Register at Canine Company and Pet Pantry

2:50pm – 3:00pm Salute to Bob Wall – Gazebo

3:00pm – 4:00pm Arthur Lipner and Wilton Steel – Music Stage

Wilton Go Green is a XERO FOOD WASTE event

First 100 Attendees Receive a Reusable Bag

Ongoing Activities ALL DAY

Sign The Pledge and join an initiative team to receive a free solar – powered flashlight – Gazebo

Visit the Kia display and test drive the Soul EV, Optima HEV, and the all new Niro. Receive an exclusive thank you gift as a qualified driver. – Library Parking Lot

Visit the Gustave Whitehead Replica Plane – Library Parking Lot

Dispose of unwanted clothing and furniture with The Junkluggers and Bay State Textiles – Library Parking Lot

Wilton Fire Engine and WVAC ambulance on Display – Library Parking Lot

Dog Parade with Prizes – Library Parking Lot and Town Green

Sign up for a Home Energy Assessment with Home Comfort Practice – Town Green

Bring 5 incandescent light bulbs and exchange for 5 FREE LEDs! – Town Green

Ride on the Solar Powered Merry-Go-Round – Town Green

Learn about the Pollinator Pathway – Town Green

SHOP SHOP SHOP – Town Green

Check out the Silent Auction – Town Green

Face Painting! – Town Green

Art project for the whole family – Town Green

Exotic reptiles and creatures – Town Green

Delicious Food and LIVE Music

GOOD Morning Wilton is pleased to be a media sponsor of the 2017 Wilton Go Green Festival.

THE HOUR

Wilton Go Green Festival set for Sunday

By Stephanie Kim, Published 12:28 pm, Tuesday, May 2, 2017



WILTON — Wilton Go Green invites the public to its 7th annual festival Sunday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 4p.m. in the Town Center. Attendance is free.

The day showcases 14 community-wide initiatives focused on food, land, water, materials management, energy and transportation.

New to this year's activities include interactive art activities for all ages, taking a brand new electric vehicle for a test drive, learning how to be a part of the new Wilton Pollinator Pathway, exchanging five incandescent light bulbs for five free LEDs, riding a solar-powered merry-go-round, and more.

The event will also have festival favorites, including face painting, shopping exhibits, furry animals and exotic reptiles, live music and food.

The festival is a zero food waste event and is sponsored by Wilton Go Green and Wilton Library Association.

For more information, visit www.wiltongogreen.org.

Wilton Go Green keeps pushing forward

By [Tony Spinelli](#) on March 6, 2017 in [Community](#), [Lead News](#)



The sign on the table that Wilton Go Green board member Patrice Gillespie was standing next to said it all: No Idling.

"People can ask me anything about energy, including gasoline," Gillespie said, explaining how the sign pertained to automobile idling, which is not fuel efficient and pollutes the air.

But no idling, in another sense, also reflects the can-do and must-do attitude of Wilton Go Green, which drew 80 people to Wilton Library Feb. 23 for a discussion of how green Wilton can become.

The discussion was based on the daylong symposium conducted by Wilton Go Green last November.

"Wilton will be the most environmentally sustainable town in Connecticut," the organization wrote as its vision statement, which was the first of many slides to be shown in a presentation in the library's Brubeck Room.

The goal of making Wilton the leading green town in Connecticut is not far-fetched, according to Gary Cuneen, executive director of Seven Generations Ahead, who spoke about eliminating food waste.

"I am impressed by the commitment and passion of the people of Wilton," Cuneen said of the town.

Jeff Yates, national director of volunteer operations for Trout Unlimited, Michael Rubbo, executive director of the Woodcock Nature Center, and Louise Washer, of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, talked about water issues and efforts to prevent pollution from storm water runoff.

Donna Merrill, executive director of the Wilton Land Conservation Trust, spoke about land issues.

Richard Creeth, co-chair of the Wilton Energy Commission, spoke about energy issues.

Ted Stonbely, director of admissions for The Montessori School, spoke about food.

Tina Duncan of Wilton Go Green talked about recycling.

One of the high points of the evening came when Daphne Dixon, executive director of Wilton Go Green, asked the audience to close their eyes and remember a time in their lives when they felt close to nature, to be energized by it and carry it forward.

“You may have been in the woods, or you may have seen some birds,” Dixon said. “What are you able to contribute?”

The nonprofit Wilton Go Green was founded by a group of citizens to engage the community in conservation and sustainability practices. It complements the work of the Wilton Energy Commission, in collaboration with town officials and schools, and also with kindred nonprofits across the state.

“We want to engage all sectors of the community and highlight all the great programs and initiatives that existing organizations currently have and make all the good work that’s going on in Wilton transparent, so we can leverage everything we’re doing, and work toward Wilton Go Green’s vision of having Wilton become the greenest community in Connecticut,” Dixon said in a recent interview. “There’s a lot of passionate people in Wilton who are dedicated to doing what’s right for everybody.”

Daphne Dixon takes reins of Wilton Go Green

By [Tony Spinelli](#) on September 28, 2016 in [Lead News](#)

When Daphne Dixon, the new executive director of Wilton Go Green Inc. looks back, she can identify the moment in her life the environment became so important to her.

“It goes back to childhood and growing up in a time where the town I lived in in California was experiencing a severe drought, and as a child it was pretty scary to watch the lawn turn brown, and for water not to be served in restaurants, and for water rationing. It made me realize at a very young age, natural resources are something to be respected and protected,” said Dixon, who is busy planning Wilton Go Green’s next major effort.

The Fairfield resident’s first initiative will be the first How Green is Our Town symposium, designed to bring environmental constituents, Wilton officials, businesses and residents together to identify and develop a five-year action plan for advancing the organization’s and town’s shared vision for a sustainable, environmentally responsible community.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. on Nov. 29 at Wilton Library. Gary Cuneen, the founder and executive director of Seven Generations Ahead, will address the symposium.

The nonprofit Wilton Go Green was founded by a group of citizens to engage the community in conservation and sustainability practices. It complements the work of the Wilton Energy Commission, in collaboration with town officials and staff, schools and also with kindred nonprofits across the state.

“We want to engage all sectors of the community and highlight all the great programs and initiatives that existing organizations currently have and make all the good work that’s going on in Wilton transparent, so we can leverage everything we’re doing, and work toward Wilton Go Green’s vision of having Wilton become the greenest community in Connecticut,” Dixon said. “There’s a lot of passionate people in Wilton who are dedicated to doing what’s right for everybody.”

Dixon is known in Connecticut as the founder and executive director of Live Green CT, a nonprofit organization she founded in 2010. She also organizes the Green Drinks events from Stamford up the Long Island Sound coast to Stratford.

She holds a degree in English from the University of California at Los Angeles. Her career in the environment began after she took a gardening class in Stamford.



Daphne Dixon

“What really started all this was in 2007, I went through the master gardener program at Bartlett [Arboretum], a national program run through state colleges. While going through that program, I was inspired during the core session on soil. We had a remarkable instructor who talked about soil, and about how everything we do including the pesticides people might use or the fertilizer people might use, everything we use in our yard potentially ends up in our drinking water. So I was really struck by the importance of what we can do as private citizens and what we can do to protect our water,” Dixon said.

“All the things I had been doing, and people do, that they don’t realize have a serious impact on our water, and consequently our wildlife and at some point us. If someone is using pesticides, whatever you spray out there is going out to our environment in one way or another and it will come back to us. Nothing really goes away.”

Dixon is a firm believer in local action, which can often expand itself to achieving much broader national and international goals.

“It all starts in your own backyard, that’s what I believe,” Dixon said. “As people get involved in local politics, and politicians rise through the ranks, the people we have are a reflection of how we are involved in our own communities. That’s where it all begins. Our country is made up of 15,000 towns and collectively these towns make up our country. It’s important for people to get involved and do what they can. It makes us who we are as a country.”

Wilton Go Green president Peg Koellmer said Dixon is the first-ever executive director of the organization.

“Wilton Go Green has grown steadily since its founding in 2009,” said Koellmer. “Bringing Daphne on board reflects the organization’s continued commitment to help Wilton become the most environmentally sustainable town in Connecticut.”

Over the past six years, Wilton Go Green has spearheaded numerous initiatives, such as the Wilton Energy Challenge, the WGG/Wilton Library Green Speaker Series, the Bring Your Own Bag campaign, the annual Wilton Go Green Festival, the Green Business Designation program, and, most recently, the town-wide No Idling campaign.

“I became involved with WGG because I believe in its mission and am continually inspired by the passion of our members. Our driving force is bringing together community members, municipal leaders, businesses and organizations with environmental and sustainability knowledge, initiatives and ideas to help solve our toughest challenges. I’m immensely grateful for the WGG leadership and I look forward to working with our amazing board and volunteers,” Dixon said.

Solarize Wilton One of Many Successful Wilton Go Green Programs

By [Heather Borden Herve, GMW Editor](#) on April 29, 2016



Since January, Wilton has been participating in a program called **Solarize Wilton**, an effort that offers financial incentives to residents who sign up and convert to solar power. In that time, 19 new Wilton solar customers enrolled in the program.

That's a good start, says **Jana Berktau**, who is a board member of **Wilton Go Green**, the group that was instrumental in getting Wilton involved in Solarize Wilton. The program is ending its enrollment period on **May 18**, at which point the special pricing disappears. By that time, Berktau expects more people to sign up to convert to solar through the plan to take advantage of pre-negotiated cost savings.

"There are over 160 contracts out there, that people are mulling over. And **Ross Solar** has visited 219 homes in Wilton. We're the 6th or 7th town in Connecticut to take part, and what they've found is that initially there's a lot of interest, when people sign up. Then there's a lull in the middle, and towards the close of the program when the price won't be as favorable, everyone wants to sign up in the last two weeks."

Berktau says Wilton Go Green's board of directors are encouraged by the 19 people who have taken the step and signed contracts to have solar energy systems installed in their homes. "We're hopeful that we can double that number."

She's someone who can attest to the benefits of going solar herself: she has a system installed in her vacation home on Martha's Vineyard.

"It is so exciting to have a solar system in which you can see your electric bill go way down, or disappear totally; in which you have a website, and you can go and watch your solar production on an hourly production, and feel just wonderful that you're actually using clean energy, that goes from your roof to inside. You are your own power plant. If you do that here in Wilton, you're a mini-power plant, which I think is so cool," Berktau says.

Richard Creeth is one Wilton resident who signed up to convert his home to solar power during the current Solarize Wilton program.

"It's something I was always interested in but it's a question of price and return on investment. The Solarize program was great because we got really competitive prices, and there's been a downward trend on all the equipment. To me, now was the time," he says.

The savings seem to be a good motivation. Creeth shared the overall financial picture of the benefit, after reduced pricing and tax credits. "My net \$22,000 investment will save me a minimum of \$2,000 per year and this saving can only increase as electricity prices increase. As a retiree living off a fixed income, getting almost 9-percent return on my investment in a Solar system made the decision very easy."

Creeth's main reason for making the switch to solar is to reduce reduce his carbon footprint and try to make the planet a better place.

"Ten years ago I used to say I'm worried about the planet that we're leaving for my grandchildren. Now I say I'm worried about the planet we're leaving for my children. Climate change is real and its man-made. We've got to do something about it," he says.

Berktau agrees that while reducing expenses is a major benefit of solar power, there are other beneficial aspects. "Not only do you reduce your expenses, but you're doing the right thing for yourself, for your environment and the future. There's just a lot of positives from it. Because it makes sense economically, there's no reason *not* to do it."

The window for Wilton residents to take part in the Solarize Wilton program is closing on May 18, when the pricing incentives end. "You don't have to have the installation started, but you do have to have the commitment by then," says Berktau.

Solar Program Part of Wilton's Overall 'Green Image'

Of course, the Solarize Wilton program is one more item that helps Wilton hang its marketing hat on being a green town, something that many town officials and members of the Economic Development Commission have talked about. In fact, Wilton Go Green's vision statement is, *Wilton will be the most environmentally sustainable town in Connecticut.*

"We would love the town of Wilton to take that on, as a vision for the town, which would really make us unique in our area and be a very positive image for us as well," Berktau says, acknowledging that she's heard some

conversation about that. She has also appreciated the continued support Wilton Go Green has gotten from the Board of Selectmen.

Overall Berktau says she's encouraged by the progress Wilton Go Green has made in Wilton, and by the way many more people have begun to adopt sustainable practices and better stewardship of the environment—but, "We still have a ways to go."

"I'm encouraged by the people who are getting engaged and how it's slowly spreading through the schools—there's a lot going on there. We're having high school interns this spring to work on the Green Business Program with businesses in town. I'm encouraged by the organization we've built over the last six years and by the programming we've been able to start. There's still a lot to do, we have our work cut out for us, but I love working at the local level and meeting people that get engaged," Berktau says.

Opportunities to See Solar Energy Systems in Action

There are two upcoming opportunities for people to learn more about converting to solar power. There will be an on-site solar installation viewing for people to visit, at the home of **Richard Creeth** (250 Catalpa Rd.) on **Saturday, May 7**, from **10 a.m.-2 p.m.**. In addition, **Ross Solar** is holding office hours on Wednesday, May 4 (5-7 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 11 (5-7 p.m.) at the Wilton Go Green office, located at the **Realty Seven** office (250 Danbury Rd.). No appointment is necessary for those events.

Ross Solar is the title sponsor of the **Wilton Go Green Festival** this **Sunday, May 1**, on the **Town Green**. They will have information and materials at their Festival booth.

Wilton Go Green receives energy grant

By [Wilton Bulletin](#) on June 15, 2016 in [Clubs & Organizations](#)



With an Energize CT check for \$2,200 to Wilton Go Green are, from left in front, Alison Reznik, Wilton Go Green, Vivian Perez, HE-Energy Solutions, Stephanie Weiner, New England Smart Energy Group, Dana Gips, Wilton Go Green, Natalia Sudyka, Eversource, and Tracy Allston, Eversource. In back are, Jana Bertkau, left, and Daphne Dixon, both of Wilton Go Green.

As a result of nearly 90 Wilton homeowners participating in the Home Energy Solutions campaign last year, Wilton Go Green recently received a grant of \$2,200. For every resident that signed up for the in-home service provided by Eversource and Energize Connecticut, Wilton Go Green received \$25 from New England Smart Energy Group and HE Energy Solutions, the companies who participated in the campaign.

During an HES visit, Eversource-certified technicians conduct a detailed evaluation of a home's energy efficiency. Problems like inefficient lighting or leaks that let heated or cooled air escape are fixed right away. The visit costs \$99, but the services received are valued at more than \$1,000, according to a press release. The fee is waived for income-eligible residents.

"Our community Home Energy Solutions campaigns are a great way for people to save energy and money long-term while also helping out their community," Eversource Energy Efficiency Spokesman Enoch

Lenge said. “We saw a fantastic response from Wilton and look forward to working with the town and Wilton Go Green on future energy saving initiatives.”

In 2013, Wilton signed Energize Connecticut's pledge, committing to reduce municipal building energy consumption by 20%, attain 20% of municipal electricity needs from renewable sources, and take other actions to support the deployment of clean energy by 2018.

Since Wilton signed the pledge, residents and businesses that take advantage of Energize Connecticut energy efficiency solutions, like HES, can help the town earn a grant, ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000. These “Bright Idea Grants” can be used on a community-selected energy-saving project, like the installation of an electric car charging station at town hall or new LED lighting for a school.

For information or to sign-up for Home Energy Solutions, visit [www.wiltonct.org](#) or call 877-WISE-USE (877-947-3873).

Letter: Energy leadership lives in Wilton

By [Debra Thompson-Van, Peg Koellmer, Jana Bertkau, Gil Bray and Peter Wrampe](#) on January 8, 2016 in [Lead News](#)

The approximately 200 countries that have recently pledged to Save the Planet and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (aka carbon footprint) have nothing over the town of Wilton.

Did you know that Wilton is a recognized leader in Connecticut as a Green Energy Community? And, as an early adopter, has been walking the walk for years.

That's why the Connecticut General Assembly issued a Citation of Service, and Gov. Dannel Malloy made an official proclamation, acknowledging Bruce Hampson for his leadership and volunteer contribution as chairman of Wilton's Energy Commission.

Since 2010, Bruce Hampson, supported strongly by (now retired) First Selectman Bill Brennan, were early adopters; leading change in Wilton school and municipal buildings.

After all, energy is sourced and consumed locally. Therefore energy solutions can only be determined one school, one building, one business, and one home, at a time. It must be addressed at the local community level, and that is where Wilton stands out.

Wilton school and municipal buildings have achieved energy reduction goals through 2015, with a stated commitment to achieve a 20% energy reduction and 20% renewable energy sourcing by 2018. Wilton is on track to achieve these goals.

A few highlights enabling these reductions include a major solar installation on Wilton High School, LED lighting and insulation in several buildings, early adoption of electric car charging stations, and most recently the availability of natural gas (lower carbon footprint than oil) and installation of new efficient boilers.

However, the leadership didn't just stop with the implementation of energy strategies for the town municipalities and schools.

As of December 2015, the Wilton Energy Commission and Wilton Go Green (your local nonprofit), have driven community outreach programs that resulted in a 21% participation of Wilton residences and 12% of Wilton local businesses that implemented Home Energy solutions.

There is more to do, particularly on adding more renewable energy to our energy mix. It is with that goal in mind, that these leaders make their last "energy" mark on our town.

In the last few days of their leadership roles, Bruce Hampson and Bill Brennan sponsored a town energy solar program called Solarize TM Wilton, signing a memorandum of understanding with CT Energize and SmartPower.

Thanks to our town leadership, Wilton will have reduced energy requirements and energy costs for years to come. For our children, we can all hold our heads up high and know we are doing our share to save the planet.

Wilton Democratic Town Committee

April 14, 2010

Wilton Go Green Festival | Town Center

The Wilton Energy Commission is organizing the first ever Wilton community-wide event to celebrate green living.

Designed to provide a fun and informative way to learn about energy conservation and sustainable living, the Go Green festival will focus on small things Wilton citizens can do every day to make a big difference in greater energy efficiency in building, land management, water, waste, and transportation.

A Full Day of Events

The festival will illustrate ways to save dollars today, and our planet for tomorrow with an engaging assemblage of over *60 exhibits and activities*, including:

- **Aerial photographer** and author Alex MacLean sharing his photos and insight about how the American landscape has been affected by climate change, a celebration of Arbor Day, and panel discussions on sustainable architecture, energy, and transportation?
- a **Tesla** electric car, a **biodiesel car** converted by high school students and fueled by cafeteria fryer oil, and a **hybrid auto**?
- a **Stroller Derby**, Green Gal **Music Show**, the **Garbage Museum**, family **Yoga**, and The Story of Stuff?
- a ride with the Sound Cyclists **Bicycle Club**, a **5K race** at Woodcock Nature Center, and a **wade in the Norwalk River** to observe trout habitats?
- the chance to set your own Green Goals by calculating your **carbon footprint**, taking the Wilton Energy Commission Green Pledge with the first 100 earning a **FREE energy audit** from New England Smart Energy (while turning your home GREEN online), and signing up for CTCleanEnergyOptions to obtain a portion of your electricity from clean and renewable sources
- everything you need to start **composting** food waste, **recycling** disposable containers, and **reusing grocery bags**?
- tips on **organic gardening** and **lawn care**, buying locally-grown, **locally-produced food**, and reel mowers.
- Skinny Pines **pizza with fresh, locally-grown toppings** like arugula, baby spinach, asparagus and Eagle Wood Farm pepperoni?
- **Mother's Day gifts** – cosmetic bags sewn from elegant old kimonos, wallets crafted from brightly-colored gum wrappers, and stationery made from elephant dung (yes, it does say elephant dung), and other gift items for your family, friends and home crafted from reused and recycled materials, as well as a variety of green products?
- **conservation and cost-saving advice** from experts in sustainable energy, building, gardening and food growing, land management, transportation, watershed, and recycling?
- speakers, panel discussions, and **hands-on activities** for the whole family.



Media Coverage

4/14/10 - <http://wiltondems.org/uncategorized/wilton-go-green-festival-town-center/>
2011 - <http://wiltongogreen.org/byobag-contest-winners/>
3/1/11 - <https://patch.com/connecticut/wilton/green-medal-winners>
11/8/11 - <http://wiltondems.org/uncategorized/board-of-selectman-report-september-2011/>
12/1/11 - <http://www.townvibe.com/Wilton/November-December-2011/50-Most-Influential-People-of-Wilton-2011/>
4/26/11 - <http://www.cheshiregrange.org/printarticle.asp?ID=2356>
2011 -
<http://www.enaturalawakenings.com/FAIR/October-2011/Sustainable-Fairfield-County-Reducing-Reusing-Recycling/>
5/17/11 - <http://peaksmaker.com/blog/2011/05/17/joining-wiltons-go-green-movement/>
4/10/11 - <http://environmentalheadlines.com/ct/2011/04/10/energy-efficiency-neighbor-program-takes-off/>
4/27/10 - <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/eco-art/prweb3923774.htm>
11/19/10 - <http://fairfieldgreenfoodguide.com/2010/11/19/nourish-pack-the-hous/>
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<http://www.thehour.com/community/article/Wilton-Go-Green-recieves-green-coast-award-8229732.php#photo-10375545>
5/1/13 - <http://www.trilliumarchitects.com/blog/2013/5/1/wilton-go-green-festival.html>
5/3/13 -
<http://wilton.dailyvoice.com/neighbors/celebrate-eco-friendly-living-at-wilton-go-green-festival/576894/>
5/12/13 - <http://www.wiltonbulletin.com/5735/festival-offers-lessons-on-how-to-be-green/>
7/12/13 - <http://www.wiltonbulletin.com/7337/green-award/>
1/1/14 - <http://www.nrvt-trail.com/our-newsletters.aspx?page=6>
1/14/14 - <http://wiltongogreen.org/green-awards-presented-at-annual-dinner/>
3/25/14 - <http://www.wiltonbulletin.com/14451/wilton-go-green-plans-most-exciting-festival-yet/>
4/29/14 - <https://goodmorningwilton.com/wilton-goes-green-at-sundays-wilton-go-green-festival/>
1/16/15 - <https://goodmorningwilton.com/wilton-go-green-gives-four-awards-at-annual-dinner/>
2/25/15 - <https://goodmorningwilton.com/award-winning-environmental-film-screening-in-wilton/>
3/6/15 - <http://www.wiltonenergy.org/news>
3/12/15 -
<http://www.townvibe.com/Town-Vibe-Special-Issue/March-April-2015/Winner-Category-3-Daphne-Dixon/>
4/13/15 -
<http://www.thehour.com/wilton/article/Wilton-Go-Green-gets-boost-from-state-programs-8089292.php#photo-10248753>
4/21/15 -
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