



Wilton Go Green 2021 Annual Report

Engaging, Educating, and Inspiring Green Living



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TAMMY THORNTON



LEAVING 2020 BEHIND I WAS HOPEFUL we could see a return to “normalcy” in 2021. **Wilton Go Green**, without a physical space for folks to see and visit, thrives on in-person events and programming. And a second year without our signature event — the **Zero Waste Faire & Sustainable Living Expo** — was not where we wanted to be. Our board and volunteers pivoted to meet the challenge posed by pandemic constraints, using the “found” time to strengthen and add to our virtual offerings.

WE PUT TOGETHER **DO ONE THING** , a virtual campaign recognized and emulated by many other towns wanting to repeat the process. Our virtual **Make Your March Green: A Sustainable Living Series** was a huge success, engaging over 300 residents across CT. And with the arrival of spring and the return of outdoor events, we raced to be at every opportunity to get back out in front of our residents to engage, educate and inspire green living.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022 I am excited to work towards the return of our **Zero Waste Faire & Sustainable Living Expo** as an outdoor event and to help lead the **Sustainable CT recertification** for the Town of Wilton, roll out new partnership programs and events, continue building on the work of our committees, and help reach more residents with our mission to inform and work towards greener living.

OUR ORGANIZATION would not be here if it wasn’t for the dedication of our volunteers and their passion to make a difference in our community. I’m deeply grateful to each of you. Please be sure to check out our special “Thank You” section on page 7.

With sincere gratitude,

Tammy

Tammy Thornton
President

BOARD

- Tammy Thornton, President
- Tina Duncan, Co Vice-President
- Dana Gips, Co Vice-President
- Surbhi Madhvani, Secretary
- Doris Noonan, Treasurer
- Patrice Gillespie, Board Member
- David Havens, Board Member
- Brian Shea, Board Member

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- Kim Burke
- Daphne Dixon
- Will Haskell
- Heather Priest
- Kevin Smith
- Jeanne Young



REACHING OUT YOUTH • ACROSS THE TABLE

FIRST ANNUAL WHS SCHOLARSHIP

WILTON GO GREEN SPONSORED our first Annual **Wilton High School** Scholarship in 2021 presented to a senior who has demonstrated their passion for the environment and taken action to foster sustainable behaviors in their daily lives.



\$500 was awarded to **CHLOE FUNTLEYDER**. Chloe will major in biology with a focus in marine biology at Sacred Heart University with her ultimate goal of pursuing a career in environmental conservation and focusing on the development of small sustainable community farms.

WILTON GO GREEN INTERN

CATHY CAMPBELL is a junior at **Wilton High School**, where she's been involved in a range of groups including the Executive Board, Amnesty International, and Debate Team. She plans to major in Environmental Studies in college, and interned with Wilton Go Green to learn more about local efforts in sustainability.



SETTING THE TABLE

SPRING—FALL 2021 WAS A VERY ACTIVE TIME for Wilton Go Green. Tabling at events each month, we shared tips for swapping out single-use items for reusables, taught folks how to recycle right, educated Wilton residents on the new glass separation program and shared tips on reducing food waste.



THIS YEAR'S EFFORTS allowed us to continue to grow our following among Wilton's residents: June - Oct. **Wilton Farmers Market** once a month • Chamber of Commerce **Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair** Woodcock Nature Center **Frothy Forage** - Spring and Fall events • **Ambler Farm Day** sponsored **Curbside Compost** to collect food scraps • Trout Unlimited **River Fest** Cannon Grange **Agricultural Fair and Expo**



PARTNERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

CONNECT AND CREATE: A PAINTING WORKSHOP



WILTON GO GREEN PARTNERED with **Wilton Land Conservation Trust** and artist **Karen Siegel** for our first **Connect and Create: A Painting Workshop**. Participants joined us at WLCT's Slaughter Field for a glorious fall evening learning watercolor techniques and painting the meadow landscape.



CARTON COUNCIL

WILTON GO GREEN PARTICIPATED in the **Carton Council's Community Education Award** program to work towards improving recycling education in communities across the U.S., in particular food and beverage carton recycling.

Wilton Go Green engaged in targeted education around recycling, in particular carton recycling, through social media, newsletters, in-person events and press releases.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE

WILTON GO GREEN TEAMED UP with the **Moms Club of Wilton** and the **Working Moms Club of Wilton** to host our first **Halloween Costume Exchange**.



Residents had the opportunity to donate costumes as well as "shop" for a new costume for kids 0 - 100!

Woodcock Nature Center supported our

event by providing a tented space to set up our exchange. A successful pilot event with over 75 costumes donated and 25 shoppers. Remaining costumes were donated to the **Malta House**. We are excited to expand on this event for year two.



TRINITY SOLAR

WILTON GO GREEN HAS CONTINUED our partnership with **Trinity Solar** helping many in our community find a way to explore solar and control their monthly utility bill. Through our partnership, Wilton Go Green receives a financial contribution for every qualifying consultation and solar installation.



SIGNATURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DO ONE THING • MAKE YOUR MARCH GREEN

DO ONE THING CAMPAIGN

WE LAUNCHED our **Do One Thing - New Green You Resolution** campaign at the start of the year. The campaign was designed



to help our community connect with one another on a different level. It aimed to let us see what our friends and family were doing by



making simple changes to help us all become more sustainable. These efforts can be made in different areas of our lives and spread positivity by showing us that we can make a difference.

IN A TIME WHEN we are generally bombarded with negative



messaging about our environment, it was a reminder that simple, yet positive and effective solutions that each individual can make toward curbing our collective carbon footprint.

AS THE YEAR went on, our Do One Thing campaign continued to



engage residents as we morphed into a portable campaign that could come to various events and even branched out to allow other Fairfield County nonprofits to embrace the campaign. Resident commitments continue to be shared on our website, newsletters and social media.

MAKE YOUR MARCH GREEN: SUSTAINABLE LIVING SERIES

IN LIEU OF another year without our in-person **Zero Waste Faire & Sustainable Living Expo**, WGG committees put together an informative and educational **webinar series** along with **Facebook Live events** and an in-person event at **Woodcock Nature Center** for the month of March. Our virtual events reached far and wide throughout Connecticut, engaging over 300 people throughout the month.



OUR WEBINARS covered topics on being your own conservationist in your backyard, the problem of food waste, and disposables in our state's schools. We heard from great speakers such as **Donna Merrill, ReFed, Betsy and Jesse Fink** as well as community leaders from area schools.

OUR ONLINE EVENTS featured speakers from **LiveGreen CT, Sustainne, MowGreen** and **Emma's Essence of Green** to discuss municipal electric vehicle readiness, green cleaning and sustainable yards and gardens.

BUILDING OUT ONLINE

WEBSITE

HOME PAGE REDESIGN



PLASTIC FREE JULY CAMPAIGN



TALKING TRASH WITH TAMMY BLOG





GROWING, DOING, GATHERING THE WORK OF OUR FOUR COMMITTEES

OUR GREEN BUSINESS COMMITTEE...

RELAUNCHED a new and improved **Sustainability in Business** program certifying **seven Wilton businesses**.



AND APPLIED for the **Community Partnership for Energy Efficiency Engagement** that is being piloted by **EnergizeCT**.

OUR WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE...



WORKED on implementing a program to work with local businesses to establish food-scrap recycling and waste-reduction programs as well as a presentation to local residents and non-profits.

Our presentation: **The Solvable Problem of Waste in CT** focused on the waste crisis in Connecticut, recycling 101 and the importance of —and tips for— reducing food waste, was delivered both in-person and virtually to over ten organizations reaching over 200 people.



OUR ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE...

ESTABLISHED a **Green Team** at each school this year identifying parent and teacher leaders to help ensure our source separation program could be reignited in each school after a pause due to COVID-19. We also saw the return of our bi-annual **Zero Waste Week** engaging our students, staff and parents in activities and reminders of zero waste practices for home and school.



OUR GREEN SPEAKER COMMITTEE...

HOSTED three **Green Speaker Series** virtual/in-person events in partnership with the **Wilton Library** in 2021.

DONNA MERRILL, former Executive Director of the **Wilton Land Conservation Trust** and **Wilton Conservation Commission**. Donna discussed conservation projects residents could undertake on their own property to ensure healthy wildlife habitats and enable our rivers and brooks to provide clean drinking water.

Renowned climate scientist **JONATHAN FOLEY**, sustainability expert, educator, public speaker and Executive Director of **Project Drawdown**, shared his expertise on finding solutions to sustain the climate, ecosystems, and natural resources on which we all depend. Jonathan highlighted many of Project Drawdown's key areas of focus including food waste—a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.



JAY SINHA, the co-author (with Chantal Plamondon) of the bestselling and timely book **Life Without Plastic: The Practical Step-by-Step Guide to Avoiding Plastic to Keep Your Family and the Planet Healthy**, presented **Our Plastic World: How You Can Help the Environment and Your Health by Living with Less Plastic**. Jay spoke about the entire lifecycle of plastics and how we can make simple changes to reduce our dependence on single-use items.



THANK YOU!!!

OUR COMMITTEES • STUDENTS • VOLUNTEERS • SUPPORTERS



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

for volunteering their time to move forward our work within our town, businesses, schools and residents



Cate Adams • Bella Andjelkovic
Annie Caldwell • Olivia Crisafulli
Meghan Devine • Taite Innes
Pari Keuchenmeister
Jamie Leventhal • Sybil Lombillo
Ava Marini • Erin Moran
Nicole Northway • Jelueh Peck
Rina Reichgut • Denise Reznik
Adrienne Schoetz • Nicole Stacy
Katie Umphred • Lily Umphred
Elizabeth Vermeulen • Allison Zucco

VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO

Wilton resident **Julie Andersen**, who saw one of our *Do One Thing* posters in town and realized she had a skill to share and in her spare time, she offered to use it for Wilton Go Green. Julie's background in executive communications has been put to good use by crafting amazing taglines, revamping our website homepage, reviewing our messaging and audience, crafting press releases and helping bring our *Talking Trash with Tammy* blog to life.



THANK YOU TO OUR STUDENTS

for supporting Wilton Go Green with their art!



Caroline M. (age 11) for designing and donating reusable bags for Wilton Go Green to sell and support our work.



Alex S. (age 10) for selling his amazing artwork to donate the proceeds to Wilton Go Green.

Wilton resident **Maria Stylianou**, who has volunteered her social media and graphic design expertise - taking us to unthinkable heights with our social media views and interactions. Lending her amazing skills, Maria has organized digital campaigns each month, created spotlights on local businesses, attracted new followers, helping us reach over 1,000+ on both Facebook and Instagram, and more.



THANKS TO Anne Gura for giving her time and skill to design our 2021 Annual Report.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. We could not fulfill our mission without their vision, help and selfless philanthropic passion that is vital to sustaining Wilton Go Green and propelling it even further forward.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Olivia Bugaj • Kim Burke • Jon Cavallo • Sara Curtis • Meghan Devine • Tina and Woodson Duncan
Lenore Eggleston-Herst • Michelle Fracasso • Patrice Gillespie • Dana Gips • Wayne and Anne Gura
Jade Hobson • Gilbert Hollander • Sybil Lombillo • Kim Mellin • Casey Monteleone • Rosie Monteleone
Doris Noonan • Rina Reichgut • Cady Roberts • Alex Shiue • Eve Silverman • Ellie Spangler • Dawn Sullivan
Paul Vanderslice • Bob Wallace • Louise Washer • Fairfield County Bank • The Turnover Shop

Wilton Go Green **OUR MISSION**

Wilton Go Green is committed to **engaging, educating and inspiring Wilton residents to embrace a lifestyle of environmental sustainability.** Our initiatives encourage residents, schools and businesses to be responsible stewards of air, land, wildlife and other natural resources advancing a collective culture of conservation. We believe every individual can make a positive difference in green living and fundamentally change the health and welfare of the Town of Wilton, our residents, and the surrounding communities.



We want you to...

Use this!	Not that!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reusable coffee pods save the environment and your wallet Only "waste" are the coffee grounds which can easily be composted Pay for at least one of them once and never worry again (costs around \$8.99) Costs roughly \$0.25 a serving buying ground coffee (gathered from Keurig's online store) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single use coffee pods are 95% composite plastic that survives 100-500 years in a landfill Waste per cup: 3.5 grams You have to keep buying more pods It's difficult to separate them Costs roughly \$0.58 a serving (gathered from Keurig's online store)



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