



Wilton Go Green

2022 Annual Report

Engaging, Educating, and Inspiring Green Living



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TAMMY THORNTON



2022'S THEME WAS A 'RETURN TO NORMAL.' School felt normal. Work felt normal. Community events felt normal. We were excited to continue some of our traditional events this year as well as create new programs with our community partners.

WE BROUGHT BACK OUR **Zero Waste Faire & Sustainable Living Expo** to an outdoor venue in early summer with over **35 exhibitors** and a welcoming crowd. We partnered with the Wilton Land Conservation Trust on a new **Books and a Blanket** series to engage our youngest residents in our outdoor preserves.

We held our **2nd Annual Halloween Costume Exchange** with an amazing turnout and praise for the annual event. We helped lead the Town of Wilton's **Sustainable CT recertification** process which awarded the **town silver-level certification**. We brought back our **Green Drinks** series to invite residents to engage, educate and inspire one another around green living in Wilton and so much more.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2023 we are taking a different approach to our programming. Scaling back from one large signature event we are looking to engage more residents in various programs throughout the year. Still keeping many of our annual programs mentioned, we are excited to expand our presence at community events capturing food waste and recycling, put on our first **Repair Cafe**, host a **pumpkin smash**, work with more of our businesses to **divert food waste**, as well as support the Town of Wilton implementing a **food scrap collection program**. Wilton Go Green would not be here if it was not for the dedication of our volunteers and their passion to make a difference in our community. I'm forever grateful to each one of you.

With sincere gratitude,

Tammy

Tammy Thornton
President

BOARD

Tammy Thornton, President
Tina Duncan, Co Vice-President
Dana Gips, Co Vice-President
Surbhi Madhvani, Secretary
Debra Eggleston, Treasurer
Patrice Gillespie, Board Member
David Havens, Board Member
Denise Reznik, Board Member

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Kim Burke
Daphne Dixon
Brian Shea
Kevin Smith
Jeanne Young





RECOGNIZING • EXEMPLARY WORKS

SECOND ANNUAL WHS SCHOLARSHIP



OUR SECOND ANNUAL **Wilton High School** Scholarship essay asked students to discuss what they felt are the most urgent, meaningful issues facing our planet and the health of our ecosystems and discuss what they'd like to do either through their education, work, volunteer or personal choices to address them.

GRADUATING SENIOR **KATIE UMPHRED** was awarded \$500 for her winning scholarship essay focused on sustainable business practices and the need for more corporate responsibility. As Katie heads to college, majoring in business economics with a minor in environmental studies, we are excited to see her passion for the environment continue in her education and beyond.



WGG ANNUAL MEETING & AWARDS RECOGNITION

ON JANUARY 12TH, WGG held our annual awards ceremony virtually to honor the individuals who have made exceptional contributions to sustainability in the Town of Wilton the past two years.

The following awards were presented for 2021:

- Green Organization Award - **MINKS TO SINKS**
- Green Generosity Award - **BUY NOTHING PROJECT** - Wilton, Mary Jo Avellino & Maria Stylianou, founders
- Green Ecosystems Award - **DONNA MERRILL** and **LOUISE WASHER**.

The following awards were presented for 2022:

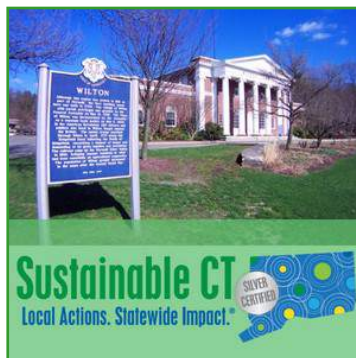
- Green Community Beautification Award - **WILTON GARDEN CLUB**
- Green Student Award - **ELYSE PENCU** (5th grade)
- Green Town Official Award - **DEBORAH MCFADDEN**

SUSTAINABLE CT CERTIFICATION

WGG TOOK THE LEAD on behalf of the **Town of Wilton** to reapply for Sustainable CT certification. Wilton was among 24 Connecticut municipalities to be recognized this year for achieving Sustainable CT certification. Wilton earned silver-level certification with **29 ACTIONS IN 13 CATEGORIES** for a total of **405 points**.

IN WILTON, A SAMPLING of approved submissions includes programs for buy-local initiatives, improvements in stewarded land and natural resources, expanding recycling materials accepted at the transfer station, continuing food waste reduction programs at school as well as air quality education, services for those experiencing economic hardships and investments in energy infrastructure.

OPEN TO EVERY TOWN in Connecticut, a **Sustainable CT certification is awarded to communities who meet the qualifications that support state goals of climate change mitigation, waste reduction and open space acquisition**. In return, towns who receive certification have access to best practices across the state, technical support and matching grant funding for sustainable initiatives by organizations or individuals.





PARTNERING • PROGRAMS • EVENTS



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, WGG receives a financial contribution for every qualifying consultation and solar installation.



BOOKS AND A BLANKET

BOOKS & A BLANKET WAS a fun and exciting partnership with **WILTON LAND CONSERVATION TRUST** and **WILTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION** in order to allow families and children to immerse themselves in nature. Families joined us at a WLCT preserve in which they heard stories from our town librarians, created an upcycled craft led by Wilton Go Green and went on a short walk around the preserve with WLCT.



GREENWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WGG JOINED A coalition of groups dedicated to sustainability and environmental causes at the **ELECTRIFY YOUR LIFE EXPO** showcasing clean energy vehicles and equipment for Fairfield County residents.





PARTNERING • EVENTS HOSTING • 2 MINUTES WITH TAMMY • GREEN DRINKS

HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE



AFTER A SUCCESSFUL PILOT costume exchange in 2021, we were back with a community-wide event that did not disappoint. Highlighting the ease of **REDUCE** and **RE-**

USE through a fun event, our **2nd Annual Halloween Costume Exchange** at the **CANNON GRANGE** had **OVER 200 COSTUMES** for adults and children donated and over 100 happy shoppers! No guest left empty handed and kids were so excited to put on their new costumes



even before they left. We even had a surprise visit from **NEWS CHANNEL 12!**

THE **OUTPOURING** of support for an event that focuses on **REDUCE** and **REUSE** was overwhelming. We are

already looking forward to next year's event.



TWO MINUTES WITH TAMMY video series

WGG PRESIDENT **TAMMY THORNTON** shares with viewers simple ways her family of four reduces waste around their home.

Wilton Go Green presents
Two Minutes with Tammy

Episode 5:
It's All About the Glass

GREEN DRINKS

WGG HOSTED three "Green Drinks" events at local establishments to offer residents networking opportunities to engage, educate and inspire one another around green living in Wilton.

GREEN DRINKS

YOU'RE INVITED TO A NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND INSPIRE ONE ANOTHER AROUND GREEN LIVING IN WILTON.

DRINKS

OCTOBER 13 - 7:30PM - 6:30PM
BIANCO ROSSO
151 OLD RIDGEFIELD ROAD

First 20 guests receive a drink courtesy of Wilton Go Green.

GREEN DRINKS WILTON
www.wilton-go-green.com

the drinks are not green, we are.



REACHING OUT • ACROSS THE TABLE

SETTING THE TABLE AT LOCAL AND REGIONAL EVENTS

SPRING—FALL 2022 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, promoted the “No Idling” ethos, and shared tips on reducing food waste. Among the places we set our table:

- June - October, **Wilton Farmers Market** once a month • Chamber of Commerce **Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair**
- Sustainable Southbury’s **Energy Fair and Green Expo** • Trout Unlimited’s **River Fest**
- Woodcock Nature Center’s **Frothy Forage** • **Ambler Farm Day**
- Sponsored **Curbside Compost** to collect food scraps • Cannon Grange **Agricultural Fair and Expo**





CELEBRATING • OUR SIGNATURE EVENT

ZERO WASTE FAIRE & SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH, 2022 - AFTER A TWO YEAR HIATUS, our **ZERO WASTE FAIRE & SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO** returned as a wonderful outdoor event held on the grounds of Wilton's Miller-Driscoll school on a sunny, beautiful spring day. We hosted visitors from all over Fairfield County including Danbury, Wilton, Stamford, Greenwich, Weston, Westport, Fairfield, Trumbull, Bridgeport, Norwalk and as far as New Milford, Essex and Naugatuck. Our goal was simple: to have every member of the family take home simple, practical ideas for sustainable, green living.

ATTENDEES HAD THE CHANCE to hear new ideas, meet inspiring, every-day environmentalists and engage with over 35 exhibitors encompassing non-profits, sustainable businesses, and local organizations. We know the event inspired that spark of green in many to make small lifestyle changes that deliver an out-sized impact for our community and our planet.

FAIRE ATTENDEES brought their large and small household items for free recycling:

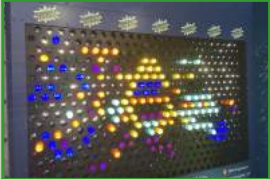
- 52 mattresses/box springs
- 1.5 tons of paper shredding
- 2 Junkluggers Trucks of household items
- 9 pallets of e-waste (batteries, tvs, computers, and more!)
- 1 20-yard trailer of textiles
- 1 box of corks to be used for purposeful play in our preschool
- 1 box of markers to be recycled
- 50 eyeglasses

FAIRE FOOD AND TRASH

- 15 LBS of non-recyclable or compostable trash
- WGG will plant 15 NATIVE TREES/SHRUBS/PLANTS around the community in coordination with the Town of Wilton Environmental Affairs Department
- 10 LBS of food scraps collected to be turned into soil-enriching compost

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**THE JUNKLUGGERS • BYEBYE MATTRESS
OAK RIDGE WASTE & RECYCLING • BAY STATE TEXTILES
TAKE2 • CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK
NATURAL AWAKENINGS • CARALUZZIS**





DOING, GATHERING, GROWING THE WORK OF OUR COMMITTEES

SBEA PROGRAM

WGG WAS ACCEPTED into the **Small Business Energy Advantage Community Partnership Initiative (SBEA CPI)** with Eversource. Through this program, Wilton Go Green received funding to promote the SBEA program to local small businesses, private schools and nonprofits, allowing these organizations to improve energy efficiency measures in their facilities with little out-of-pocket expense. Over 18 Wilton businesses have participated in the program in 2022, resulting in improved workspaces, reduced energy consumption and cost savings generation. A win for our businesses and a win for the environment!



OUR WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE



CONTINUED HOSTING our presentation: *"The Solvable Problem of Waste in CT"* in 2022. The presentation focuses on the waste crisis in Connecticut, recycling 101 and the importance of and tips for reducing food waste, both in-person and virtually. Our audiences this year

were many, including:

- Wilton League of Women Voters
- Learning in Retirement
- Residents of Wilton Commons
- Residents of Ogden House



OUR GREEN SPEAKER COMMITTEE



WGG IN PARTNERSHIP with Wilton Library Association presented *"Entangled and Ingested: Combating Plastic Pollution Through Art"* with **DR. KAT OWENS**. Dr. Kat

shared how she uses the arts to communicate about the pervasive problem of plastic pollution. A researcher and artist, Dr. Owens has spent the last year and a half creating a series of forty-six life-sized portraits of animals harmed by marine debris. She creates most of the pieces herself by hand sewing film plastic onto canvas, but the largest pieces (including three life-sized whales) are being co-created with the public.



OUR ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

RETURNED TO EACH OF OUR SCHOOLS this year with new signage and new energy to continue to get our schools back to their pre-COVID days. Our Committee is continuing to look at new ways to reduce waste in our schools including introducing reusable trays and utensils to our school cafeterias. A reusable tray pilot was done at Miller-Driscoll school to assess this hefty goal.





SAYING THANK YOU!!!

OUR COMMITTEES • INTERN • VOLUNTEERS • SUPPORTERS

OUR THANKS TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOR VOLUNTEERING their time and skill to move forward our work within our town, businesses, schools, and among our residents.

Bella Andjelkovic • Julie Andersen
 Marlen Clark • Natasha Dinshaw
 Shayla Kapoor • Pari Keuchenmeister
 Sybil Lombillo • Ava Marini
 Erin Moran • Nicole Northway
 Rina Reichgut • Denise Reznik
 Adrienne Schoetz • Nicole Stacy
 Maria Stylianou • Lauren Winkler
 Allison Zucco

OUR THANKS TO OUR 2022 INTERN



Wilton High School senior **ELIZABETH VERMEULENE** interned in the spring of 2022. Elizabeth helped us secure vendors for our signature event as well as tabled and supported WGG at local events and programs.

Elizabeth also created our sustainable fashion social media campaign highlighting the concerns with fast fashion and tips to shop in a more sustainable way.

OUR THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

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.



OUR THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Pippa B. Ader • Julie Andersen • Jana Bertkau • Olivia Bugaj • Kim Burke • Deborah S. Burnaman
 Jon Cavallo • Sara Curtis • Meghan Devine • Tina and Woodson Duncan • Lenore Eggleston-Herbst
 Michelle Fracasso • Patrice Gillespie • Dana Gips • Wayne and Anne Gura • Mary Jane Hesford
 Jade Hobson • Gilbert Hollander • Dean Keister • Christina Lampe-Onnerud • Sybil Lombillo
 Lumpkin Family Foundation • Kim Mellin • Casey Monteleone • Rosie Monteleone • Doris Noonan
 Rina Reichgut • Denise Reznik • Cady Roberts • Alison Semple • Alex Shiue • Eve Silverman
 Emily and Harper Smith • Mark Smith • Ellie Spangler • Dawn Sullivan • Cynthia Terrana-Astrologo
 Paul Vanderslice • Bob Wallace • Louise Washer
 Fairfield County Bank • Servco Oil & Propane • The Turnover Shop
 Anne Djupedal Gura, for her time and skill in designing our 2022 Annual Report

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.



**Engaging, Educating
and Inspiring
Green Living**



STAY CONNECTED
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WILTON GO GREEN IS A 501(C)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION