



# Wilton Go Green 2023 Annual Report

Engaging, Educating, and Inspiring Green Living



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## TAMMY THORNTON



**2023 WAS A YEAR** of small but mighty. This year we stepped away from our biggest event and set a goal to host events and partner with others so as to be present in the community at least once a month. Looking back at the year, I am proud to say we achieved that goal.

WE CONTINUED OUR WORK staffing a table with our community partners like the **Wilton Farmers' Markets, Chamber of Commerce, Woodcock Nature Center** and **Ambler Farm**. We took a big leap into the world of hosting not one, but *two* **REPAIR CAFES** at **Cannon Grange** and just WOW what a response, with amazingly talented volunteers who helped us keep treasured items from going into the waste stream.

WE CREATED A NEW TRADITION, hosting what we call our **ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION at the Library** to shed a brighter light on people who are working to create a more sustainable Wilton.

AFTER YEARS OF DISCUSSION and starts and stops, 2023 was the inaugural year of **THE FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PROGRAM at our town Transfer Station**. Connecticut is in a waste crisis and diverting food scraps away from the waste stream of incineration and to a composting facility is one of the easiest, most impactful solutions. The state has made this a priority for helping reduce the amount of waste being trucked out of state. We, along with the **Town of Wilton**, are proud to be a part of the solution.

I LOOK FORWARD TO the work of planning 2024 with our Board, adding in a few new programs and keeping the tried and true.

My closing will always be the same: **Wilton Go Green** would not be here if it were not for the dedication of our Board, Committee Members, volunteers and their passion to make a difference in our community. I'm forever grateful to each one of you.

With sincere gratitude,

Tammy Thornton  
President

### BOARD

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

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**Kim Burke**  
**Daphne Dixon**  
**Brian Shea**  
**Kevin Smith**  
**Jeanne Young**

*Congratulations*



to those we honored for working to make a more sustainable Wilton



WILTON GO GREEN COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



# REACHING OUT • ACROSS THE TABLE

## TABLING AT AREA EVENTS

SPRING—FALL 2023 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 glass separation program and the new food scrap recycling program and shared tips on further reducing food waste. Among the places we set our table:

- May - October, **Wilton Farmers Market** once a month - offered to collect food scraps from residents participating in the town program
- Chamber of Commerce's **Winter Carnival, Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair, Halloween Parade**
  - Woodcock Nature Center's **Frothy Forage**
- **Ambler Farm Day** sponsored Curbside Compost to collect food scraps
- Cannon Grange **Agricultural Fair and Expo**
  - **Ridgefield Earth Day**







# MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

## WGG PROGRAMS



**OUR 3RD ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE** at the **Cannon Grange** had **OVER 200 COSTUMES** for adults and children donated and many happy shoppers!

No guest left empty-handed and kids were so excited to put on their new costumes even before they left.

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.







# MAKING THINGS HAPPEN THE WORK OF OUR WGG COMMITTEES

## GREEN SPEAKER COMMITTEE

OUR **GREEN SPEAKER SERIES** was packed in 2023! We heard amazing speakers on a range of topics:

- **K-12 Climate Action in Connecticut** focusing on how the education sector can lead on climate solutions in Connecticut.
- **Trash Talk** discuss the state of Connecticut's municipal solid waste and recycling
- **Breathe Easier** - Navigating the Hazards of Indoor and Outdoor Air Pollution discussing potential health risks from exposure to indoor and outdoor air contaminants and what we can do to protect ourselves and advocate for effective public health policies.
- **Sustainability in Fashion: Curating an Ethically Conscious Closet** giving us insights into the current state of fashion, its effects on the environment and how we can shop smarter and more sustainably.

We are so thankful to **Wilton Library** for continuing to partner with us on the Green Speaker Series.



## WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE

AS THE STATE of Connecticut grapples with the waste crisis and how to manage **an extra 800,000 tons of trash**, they have identified key factors to help minimize and manage that waste. **32% of our state's municipal solid waste in Connecticut is food waste.** Diverting food scraps to composting has become a #1 priority for the state.

Working with the Town of Wilton, the long awaited **FOOD SCRAP DROP OFF RECYCLING PROGRAM** launched in January at the Town of Wilton Transfer Station. Wilton residents can now drop off their food scraps to Wilton's Transfer Station to keep food out of the waste stream and instead turn our food scraps into soil rich nutrients to feed the earth. Participating residents had the opportunity to receive free compost from their food scraps.

**As of our print date, Wilton has diverted 23,040 lbs. - that is, 11.25 tons - of food scraps from our waste stream.**



## ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

OUR **Zero Waste Schools Committees** continue to hold bi-annual **ZERO WASTE WEEKS** in each of the Wilton Public Schools to raise awareness on the importance of source separating in the cafeteria but also waste reduction initiatives that can be done in the home.





# MAKING THINGS HAPPEN

## WGG PROGRAMS • SUPPORTING LOCAL EVENTS

### REFILL NOT LANDFILL

BILLIONS OF SINGLE-USE CUPS ARE USED each year in the U.S. for to-go beverages and those paper cups are NOT recyclable and end up in incinerators.

Following the lead of some of our non-profit friends, we created **THE REFILL NOT LANDFILL** program. From April to August, residents were encouraged to bring a clean, reusable cup or mug for refill at a participating local business or receive a discount when buying a reusable cup or mug from participating local retailers.



Thank you to...

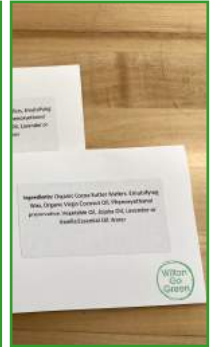
- RISE DOUGHNUTS
- TUSK AND CUP
- DIAMOND DELI
- CT COFFEE & GRILL
- BUBBLE & BREW
- UNCLE LEO'S
- SIGNATURE STYLE
- OPEN HOUSE

for partnering with WGG.



### DIY LOTION MAKING

**WILTON GO GREEN** Board Member **DAVID HAVENS** tapped into his former teaching career to bring a fun after-school activity to the **WILTON PARKS AND RECREATION AFTER CARE** program.



### WILTON PRIDE "ADOPT A SHOP"

**WILTON PRIDE AND the Wilton Chamber of Commerce** sponsored a town-wide initiative to bring the community together with our businesses in celebrating

**PRIDE MONTH** in our storefronts and streets. **Wilton Go Green** was proud to "Adopt a Shop" and decorate the window with found materials.



### CELEBRATING EV CHARGING AT YMCA

WE CELEBRATED the **Riverbrook Regional YMCA** installing a new EV charger for residents as well as our friends at **Live Green Connecticut** who completed their 2nd Annual **EV COAST TO COAST** road trip!!







# PARTNERING WITH OTHERS PROGRAMS • EVENTS

## CIRCLE OF CARE

WE JOINED FORCES WITH **Circle of Care** this year to host a **COMMUNITY SHRED DAY FUNDRAISER** for both organizations! With the help of our sponsors, **Fairfield County Bank** and **John Schiaroli of William Pitt Sotheby's**, we were able to collect and shred **4,000 lbs** of paper to be repurposed = **10 trees saved**. We had a wonderful turnout and look forward to making this a yearly tradition.



*Circle of Care is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting childhood cancer patients and their families for their entire experience, from day of diagnosis to wherever the journey leads.*

## TRACKSIDE TEEN CENTER—REUSE WILTON

**WGG** and **Trackside Teen Center** teamed up for **REUSE WILTON**, a day of purposeful play in a reusable kind of way! Reuse expert and Box Truck Tiny Home builder **Alex Eaves** showcased his Box Truck Tiny Home and screened his new film **"The Box Truck Film."** We had reuse activities for all ages and displays on how small moves of reusing and repurposing make a BIG difference.



## REPAIR CAFÉ — SPRING AND FALL

THE GREENEST THING YOU CAN DO is try to fix something you already have before throwing it away! In partnership with the **Cannon Grange** we hosted our first **SPRING AND FALL REPAIR CAFES**. We were lucky enough to find amazingly talented volunteer fixers who helped repair small appliances, lamps, clothing and textiles, jewelry and bicycles. We also had great consultants offer residents technical support on their computer questions, talk about woodworking projects and even offer advice on houseplants and gardening.

Our Repair Café was a gathering place for members of our community to not only try and repair a treasured item and give it a chance at a second life, but also learn alongside our volunteer fixers. And if we couldn't fix it, we directed residents to someone who could or at least knew we tried.



## AMBLER FARM

1.3 BILLION POUNDS OF PUMPKINS are sent to incinerators and landfills annually in the U.S. Working with **Ambler Farm** we offered the first **PUMPKIN COMPOST DROP-OFF**. Residents could visit the farm over a five-day period to drop off their jack-o-lanterns, pumpkins or gourds to be composted right at Ambler Farm.







# PARTNERING WITH OTHERS 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.



## OGDEN HOUSE GLASS RECYCLING PROGRAM

THE TOWN OF WILTON PARTICIPATES in a glass separation program at the **Town Transfer Station** which separates food and beverage glass from the mixed recycling. The program was implemented to help reduce the amount of contamination happening in our mixed-stream recycling as well as ensure the glass was 100% recycled within Connecticut.

Noticing a barrier to residents of **Ogden House** who expressed interest in participating but who may have physical barriers, WGG organized volunteers to sponsor a weekly glass pick up. In the last year, volunteers have collected over 1,000 food and beverage glass containers from Ogden House and brought them to the Transfer Station.



## BOOKS AND A BLANKET

...IS A FUN AND EXCITING partnership with **Wilton Land Conservation Trust** and the **Wilton Library Association** in order to allow families and children to immerse themselves in nature. Families joined us at a WLT preserve, where 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.



## WILTON LIBRARY

TOGETHER WITH the **Wilton Library Association** we hosted **THE YALE WHIFFENPOOF ALUMNI**, composed of alumni from the 1960's and '70's. Over 100 attendees enjoyed an evening of A Capella music benefiting both organizations.







# RECOGNIZING • EXEMPLARY WORK

## WGG COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

CHANGING GEARS FROM the traditional Annual Meeting and Awards Recognition held in January at a private residence, Wilton Go Green chose to create a public **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION** held at Wilton Library during Earth Month. Wilton Go Green Board members were joined by honorees and community members for an evening celebration on April 18th to acknowledge sustainable practices.

ALSO RECOGNIZED WERE all the members of the community who helped Wilton achieve Sustainable CT Silver Level certification as well as businesses who participated in the Small Business Energy Advantage Program.

### AWARDS

Green Town Official:

**Ross Tartell • Jennifer Fascitelli**

Environmental Steward Award:

**Mary and Pat Zumbo • Meghan Devine**

Environmental Ecosystems Award:

**Anne and Wayne Gura**

Green Business Award: **Nick Skeadas**

Green Community Partner Award:

**Wilton Library**

Green Student Award:

**Samantha Dorne • Shawn Gregory**

Founder's Award: **Dana Gips**







# SAYING THANK YOU!!! TO OUR COMMITTEES • VOLUNTEERS • SUPPORTERS

## THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND SKILL to move forward our work within our town, businesses, schools, and residents.

Julie Andersen • Savona Bocchino • Natasha Dinshaw • Shayla Kapoor  
Pari Keuchenmeister • Grace Lanning • Kim Luppino • Erin Moran  
Nicole Northway • Rina Reichgut • Adrienne Schoetz • Maria Stylianou



## THANK YOU 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.



## THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Pippa B. Ader • Julie Andersen • Jana Bertkau • Olivia Bugaj • Kim Burke • Deborah S. Burnaman  
Jon Cavallo • Sara Curtis • Meghan Devine • Shirin Dorne • Tina and Woodson Duncan  
Lenore Eggleston-Herbst • Michelle Fracasso • Patrice Gillespie • Dana Gips • Wayne and Anne Gura  
Gina Johnson • Mary Jane Hesford • Jade Hobson • Gilbert Hollander • Dean Keister • Kuechenmeister Family  
Christina Lampe-Onnerud • David Langseth • Sybil Lombillo • Lumpkin Family Foundation • Meghann McKale  
Kim Mellin • Casey Monteleone • Rosie Monteleone • Doris Noonan • Rina Reichgut • Denise Reznik  
Cady Roberts • Destiny Rodriguez • Thomas Schneider • 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 • Trinity Solar

*Anne Djupedal Gura for design and production of our 2023 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.

## THIRD ANNUAL WHS SCHOLARSHIP



OUR 3RD ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY asked students' thoughts on the urgent meaningful issues facing our planet and our ecosystems and what they hope to do either through their education, work, volunteering or personal choices to address them. Graduating senior **NATASHA DINSHAW** was awarded \$1,000.

For Natasha's **Girl Scout** Award projects she led workshops on decorating sustainably; created how-to videos on cutting our carbon footprint by making small changes; and did an educational campaign and website on the impact of fireworks on people, wildlife and the environment. She was President of the **WHS Recycling Club/Green Team** for three years,

leading club meetings, social media campaigns and eco-events. Natasha is excited to continue her passion for the environment by joining eco-clubs in college.



**Engaging,  
Educating  
and Inspiring  
Green Living**

**BUSINESSES #MAKINGACHANGE**

Working with CET helped us envision what a food waste separation program would look like for our operation. They also helped us get connected to our hauler for food waste, Blue Earth Compost. It is important to Village Market to make a difference in our community and have a positive impact on the environment and working with CET helped us do that. CET really made the process simple for us and we recommend other businesses take advantage of their free assistance. We are proud to be diverting over 35,000 gallons of organic waste a year from the refuse stream.

**SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS**  
LOCAL BUSINESSES MAKING POSITIVE CHANGE

**Spotlight on LOCAL**

Orbyte relies heavily on the practice of sustainability in the donation of old/broke computers in the backbone of the organization. Once we receive a donation, we take the computer apart, repair any broken parts and then use those parts to build a new custom computer.

**ORBYTE**  
is a student-run Charity in Wilton CT that specializes in refurbishing used computers and recycling them back into the community. We accept all computers and computer accessories. All are eligible for a refurbished computer. If you need to do it reach out to us at Orbyte and we will supply as our inventory allows.

orbyte.tech  
orbyte@orbyte.tech

**FIRST DROP OFF STARTS JAN 28, 2023**

The Town of Wilton **FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING PILOT PROGRAM**

Ribbon Cutting at 9am  
Wilton Transfer Station Saturday hours 9am - Noon

LEARN MORE AT [www.wiltongogreen.org](http://www.wiltongogreen.org)



**STAY CONNECTED**

**wiltongogreen.org**

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**Wilton, CT 06897**

**info@wiltongogreen.org**

**WILTON GO GREEN IS A 501(c)3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**