



Wilton Go Green 2024 Annual Report

Engaging, Educating, and Inspiring Green Living



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TAMMY THORNTON



AS WE CLOSE OUT 2024, I look back and reflect on a year of small and mighty. Following a year of firsts, we embraced the success of our **Repair Cafes**, Annual **Community Celebration** and our tried and true **community partnerships** this year. We continued working on our mission to raise awareness on wasted food, food scrap collection, recycling right, reduce & reuse, energy efficiency and more this year.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO a new and exciting **Film Festival Fundraiser** in 2025 as we partner with six other Wilton nonprofits to raise awareness of our organizations, our missions and inspire our community to take action for the protection of our environment.

2025 WILL ALSO BE A YEAR OF TRANSITION for **Wilton Go Green**. I've been leading our small, yet amazing, nonprofit for six years and many of our Board members also have come to the end of their Board terms. We are excited to find new ways to engage with our community to inspire others to join our Board and take their own spin on educating, engaging and inspiring green living.

I LOOK FORWARD TO the work of planning 2025 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



Cover caption: WGG hosted educator, artist and researcher Dr. Kat Owens at the Wilton Farmers Market to participate in another community sewing project raising awareness on plastic pollution in our oceans. Attendees were able to work on a life-sized Cuvier's Beaked Whale sewn together from plastic packaging.

Wilton Go Green
2024
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER
Shawn Gregory

Wilton Go Green
Congratulations!!

REACHING OUT ACROSS THE TABLE

TABLING AT AREA EVENTS

SPRING—FALL 2024 WAS AS EVER 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 and the food-scrap-recycling programs, and shared tips on further reducing food waste. Among the places we set our table:

- June, September & October **Wilton Farmers Market**
 - Wilton Youth Council **Volunteer Fair**
 - Chamber of Commerce **Sidewalk Sale and Street Fair**
- Woodcock Nature Center **Frothy Forage** sponsored Curbside Compost to collect food scraps
- **Ambler Farm Day** sponsored Curbside Compost to collect food scraps
 - Cannon Grange **Agricultural Fair and Expo**
- Miller-Driscoll **PTA Carnival** sponsored Curbside Compost to collect food scraps





MAKING THINGS HAPPEN THE WORK OF OUR WGG COMMITTEES

GREEN SPEAKER COMMITTEE

OUR **GREEN SPEAKER SERIES** drew audiences for this year’s amazing speakers on timely topics:

- **Michael D. Ham** covered indoor air quality, water testing and filtration, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and household goods and fixtures that can reduce our carbon footprint while preventing exposure to toxic chemicals.
- **Dr. Christina Lampe-Onnerud**, CEO of Cadenza Innovation, discussed the transformative potential of residential battery energy storage systems.

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

WASTE REDUCTION COMMITTEE

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

The Town of Wilton’s **FOOD SCRAP DROP OFF RECYCLING PROGRAM** is now in its 2nd year, where residents can drop off their food scraps to Wilton’s Transfer Station to keep food out of the waste stream and instead turn it into nutrient-rich soil to feed the earth. Participating Wiltonites had the opportunity to receive free compost from their food scraps.

Since inception in January 2023, **Wilton has diverted over 60,000 lbs—that is, 30 tons—of food scraps from our waste stream.**



Wilton Go Green GREEN SPEAKER SERIES | 2024

Greening Your Home:
For Human and Environmental Health

MICHAEL D. HAM
Co-Founder & President RePure

Learn about the latest available technologies to monitor and improve the health of our homes and our planet.

6 MAY | 7:00pm
Wilton Library

REGISTRATION: online at www.wiltonlibrary.org
OR CALL 203-762-6334




Wilton Go Green GREEN SPEAKER SERIES | 2024

Take Charge of Your Electricity

Dr. Christina Lampe-Onnerud
CEO of Cadenza Innovation

SEPTEMBER 18 AT 6:30PM

REGISTRATION: online at www.wiltonlibrary.org
OR CALL 203-762-6334





MAKING THINGS HAPPEN THE WORK OF OUR WGG COMMITTEES

ZERO WASTE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

WGG LAUNCHES successful **Sustainable Fundraiser To Eliminate Single-Use Products** in **Cider Mill School's** cafeteria. Community Members and local organizations' contributions will divert thousands of trays and utensils annually from incineration. Thanks to the incredible support and dedication of our Wilton Community in just three weeks, over 100 community members donated **\$7,960!** **Sustainable CT** matched **\$7,500**, providing enough funds for **Cider Mill School** to make the necessary purchases to bring a reusable program to students in the 2024-2025 school year.

WE WORKED WITH **Plastic Free Restaurants** to take advantage of their subsidy program for schools that are switching from single-use plastics to reusables. Plastic Free Restaurants donated reusable forks and spoons to **Cider Mill School** as well as to **Miller-Driscoll Elementary School**, which already had a dishwasher, and to **Wilton High School**, which will also be installing a dishwasher thanks to a passionate Wilton High School student securing funding from the State of Connecticut.



CIDER MILL GOES REUSABLE

IN THE NEWS:



Wilton High School Student helps secure funds for a dishmachine and reusable utensils.





MAKING THINGS HAPPEN WGG PROGRAMS



OUR 4TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN COSTUME EXCHANGE at the **Cannon Grange** has continued to be a much-anticipated event!

ONCE AGAIN, NO GUEST LEFT EMPTY-HANDED. We are so proud of how the community has continued to embrace, support and participate in this exciting and colorful **REDUCE** and **REUSE** program.





PARTNERING WITH OTHERS

WGG PROGRAMS • SUPPORTING LOCAL EVENTS

CIRCLE OF CARE

WE JOINED FORCES AGAIN 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 a **huge amount** paper to be repurposed. We had a wonderful turnout for what has begun turning into 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. It vows to continue until no parent has to hear the words, "your child has cancer." To learn more about Circle of Care, visit the organization's website: thecircleofcare.org

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 once again hosted our **SPRING AND FALL REPAIR CAFES**. We were lucky enough to find amazingly talented volunteer fixers who helped repair small appliances, lamps, turntables and stereos, 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 plants 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.

PARTNERING AGAIN WITH **Ambler Farm** we offered our 2nd Annual **PUMPKIN COMPOST DROP-OFF**. We collected **over 400** pumpkins this year that were delivered to local farms to feed their animals and livestock.



WILTON PRIDE

FOR 2024'S TOWN-WIDE **PRIDE MONTH** initiative sponsored by **WP** and **Wilton Chamber of Commerce**, **WGG** was proud to "Adopt a Shop" and decorate **Parlor's** storefront with a commemorative banner of flags.





PARTNERING WITH OTHERS PROGRAMS • EVENTS

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.

WGG CONTINUES its **Ogden House** initiative that enables residents to participate in glass recycling via volunteers sponsoring a weekly glass pickup. In the last year, WGG volunteers have collected **over 4,000** food and beverage glass containers from Ogden House (triple last year's amount!) and brought them to the Transfer Station.



BOOKS AND A BLANKET

...IS A FUN AND EXCITING partnership with **Wilton Land 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 WLT.



TRINITY SOLAR

WGG 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.





RECOGNIZING EXEMPLARY WORK

WGG COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

OUR 2ND ANNUAL **Community Celebration Awards Recognition** was held in April at Wilton Library. WGG Board members were joined by honorees and community members for an evening celebration to acknowledge sustainable practices. This year’s new “Green Neighbor Award” sought nominations from our fellow Wilton residents for who they felt deserved to be recognized for their “green” efforts.

AWARDS

NEW Green Neighbor Award:
**Katharine Kopac • Anne Jovovic
Celia Queiros • Pat Russo**

Environmental Steward Awards:
**Susan Auslander
Sara Curtis • Julie Andersen
Marlen Clark • Chris Denning**

Environmental Ecosystems Award:
Michele and Harry Clark

Green Business Award:
Laurelrock • Village Market

Green Community Partner Award:
Woodcock Nature Center

Green Student Award: **Savona Bocchino**

NEW Elizabeth Craig Award for the Environment:
Joe Bear

This award is named in honor of Elizabeth Craig who was a staunch supporter and advocate for the environment. Liz was a great friend to WGG as well as a Board member of the Norwalk River Watershed Association, a co-founder of the Pollinator Pathway, chair of the Wilton Inland Wetlands Commission, a Master Gardener, Arborist and so much more.





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 • Cynthia Astrologo • Savona Bocchino
Pari Keuchenmeister • Grace Lanning • Kim Luppino • Erin Moran
Nicole Northway • Rina Reichgut • Maria Stylianou • Rayna Wein



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 • Wilton Garden Club
Anne Djupedal Gura for design & production of our 2024 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.

FOURTH ANNUAL WHS SCHOLARSHIP

OUR 4TH ANNUAL STUDENT ESSAY asked students' thoughts on the urgent, meaningful issues that are facing our planet and our ecosystems and what they'd like to do either through their education, work, volunteering or personal choices to address them.

GRADUATING SENIOR **SHAWN GREGORY** was awarded **\$1,000.**

SHAWN HAS BEEN an advocate for the environment through his work with Yale understanding the effects of PFAS on humans and the environment as well as advocating for safe waterways in our own Wilton community.

RECOGNIZING THE LACK OF environmental justice coverage in school curricula, he created his own organization to increase

the number of environmental justice lessons and teaching in Connecticut high schools. Shawn plans to attend college to study environmental injustice and public policy.



**Engaging,
Educating
and Inspiring
Green Living**



STAY CONNECTED
wiltongogreen.org

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