

7. Strategic and Inclusive Public Services

7.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

Objective

Bring together your community in fun, informative, and constructive ways, through energetic events that can enroll residents and business owners in sustainability practices.

What to Do

Develop a new event AND/OR incorporate sustainability practices into an established event. Points will be awarded as follows:

Hold more than 10 unique events with a sustainability focus = 15 POINTS

1. “The Last Test of Summer” Craft Beer Fest took place in Greenwich on September 30, 2017. <http://www.livegreenct.org/about-craft-beer-festival/> This event was given in one of the public parks and Conservation Commission Staff presented their compost program among several other exhibitors educating attendees on various aspects of sustainable life. The goal of this program was to have fun with beer, but also raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste, use reusable bags when possible, recycle, and compost. <https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/savor-a-last-taste-of-summer-one-4-oz-sample-at-a-time-93133/>

This event will be repeated annually.



Lesson learned: Educational exhibits had hard time to compete with beer testing stations.

2. Earth Day Month celebrated on April 20, 2018, at Old Greenwich School was all about making reusable bags. The program was organized by the Conservation Commission Staff, PTA Green School Committee, Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board (GRAB) and BYO Greenwich. Both conservation commission staff and three Conservation Commission remembers were actively involved in this event. During the bag making activities students were led into discussion about the need of reducing plastic trash, impact of plastic trash on the natural environment, especially Long Island Sound, and what each of them can do to help. T-shirts which were 100% recycled and came from parents and Parks and Recreation Summer Camp program were turned into shopping bags. The activities engaged over 300 elementary students from Old Greenwich School. The Conservation Commission every year organizes a special event in one or more public schools to celebrate the Earth Day Month. This year was dedicated to promote newly approved plastic bag ordinance.

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/schools/its-earth-day-at-old-greenwich-school-kids-anticipate-plastic-bag-ban-fashion-reusable-bags-from-t-shirts-105113/>



Lesson learned: Students are very receptive to new ideas and care about natural environment.

3. “Healthy Yards Workshop” was a full day program prepared for property owners. The agenda included methods of incorporating yard wastes into soil via composting, mulching mowing of leaves and cycling of grass clippings. The speakers also covered organic solutions to landscape problems and water conservation methods. The event was organized by the Conservation Commission with other partners. The event was hold on October 18, 2017 at Garden Education Center in Greenwich and attracted about 70 people. This educational program was a part of on-going efforts of organic waste reduction and creation of healthy landscapes free of harmful chemicals.

<https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/sustainable-greenwich-hosts-healthy-yards-workshop-month>

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Town-officials-to-offer-Healthy-Yards-12250028.php>

Lesson learned: the program was busy with presentations so there was not enough time for the participants to visit exhibits located at the lower level.

4. “Healthy Yards Healthy You” educational program directed towards landscape professionals, which also attracted several property owners and landscape designers. The workshop was offered at Garden Education Center on January 31, 2018, by the Conservation Commission Staff and other partnering environmental organizations. This half-day program tackled composting, mulching mowing leaves to the lawn, cycling of grass clippings, the importance of organic matter in soil, and how to create more plant diversity and wildlife friendly garden habitat. More than 50 individuals attended. The landscape companies which had their representations at the workshop were listed on the Conservation Commission website as trained in organic yard management techniques.

http://www.greenwichct.org/government/departments/conservation_commission/natures-treasures/



Lesson learned: landscape professionals are very busy and difficult to capture for educational events.

5. Conservation Commission offered an introduction to vermicomposting for the entire families interested in organic waste reduction and generation of their own soil amendment. The

activities engaged all age levels and abilities. The event attended by more than 30 individuals was held at the Innis Arden Cottage located at Greenwich Point on September 3, 2017. This program was a part of well-established Fred Elser First Sunday Science Series.

<https://brucemuseum.org/calendar/event/fred-elser-first-sunday-science-series-at-the-seaside-center1>

Lesson learned: After the event several participants decided vermicomposting was not for them and they returned the bins and worms back to the Conservation Commission staff. Returned vermicomposting bins were used in educational programs at schools.

6. The Conservation Commission Staff jointly with the Greenwich Library and other partners organized panel discussion about plastic in the ocean. “Plastic and Microplastics in our Long Island Sound” was held at the Greenwich Library on April 4, 2018. At the event the First Selectman gave proclamation for the Earth Day Month.

<http://flinngallery.com/events/panel-discussion-plastic-microplastics-l-sound/>
<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/2018/04/03/panel-to-discuss-impact-of-plastics-on-long-island-sound/>

Lesson learned: Some of the participants were not satisfied with the level of information provided. Most of them were well educated about the problem and seeking more in depth information.

7. A series of movies on sustainability was put together through the efforts of several environmental organizations including the Conservation Commission. The series included:

- “**Bag It**” a movie about plastic bags and their negative effect on natural environment, especially the ocean life. By watching it, the viewers gained better understanding of why the use of reusable bags is so important. The screening was held on January 29, 2018 at the Greenwich Library Auditorium. The audience consisted of a large number of students from Greenwich High School. The movie was followed by panel discussion facilitated by the BYO members. The event was well attended. The auditorium was closed to the full capacity of 270.

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Ditch-the-plastic-Greenwich-group-urges-shoppers-12530694.php>

Lesson learned: The new generation is very concerned about the status of our environment. They are ready to act on positive changes.

- *The Future of Food* shown at the Cole Auditorium, Greenwich Library on April 5th was an event which brought up a topic of regenerative farming which can feed the planet, reverse climate change, restore the environment, and be a thriving business. The screening of Patagonia’s documentary film, “**Unbroken Ground**”, was followed by discussion with dynamic young farmers from Back40 and Stone Barns. Hosted by Greenwich Community Gardens in partnership with Patagonia, Stone Barns and Greenwich Library. <https://gltrust.org/event/the-future-of-food/>

Lesson learned: The tickets were gone way before the showing, but there was plenty of space at the event. Free admission gave not enough incentives to individuals who made the reservation to attend.

- **“Wasted! The Story of Food Waste”** was a movie and panel discussion presented by the Conservation Commission with other partners on April 19, 2018. This event was designed to increase awareness of food waste and develop strategies to tackle this issue at home, at work and in the community. Numerous supporting community organizations hosted exhibition tables providing additional learning opportunities. Discussion was moderated by Jeff Cordulack, Executive Director of CT NOFA, and presenters include: Adam Kaye (Vice President, Culinary Affairs, Blue Hill), Thomas McQuillan (Director of Food Service Sales and Sustainability, Baldor Foods), Nicole Straight (Fairfield County Site Director, Food Rescue US), Nancy Coughlin (Executive Director, Neighbor to Neighbor), and Nick Skeadas (Co-founder, Curbside Compost). Event was held at the Performing Arts Center at Greenwich High School. The event was well attended. Over 60 people were in the audience. A significant portion of them consisted of high school students.

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Film-at-Greenwich-High-to-begin-composting-12627958.php>

Lesson learned: Greenwich is saturated with events. It is difficult to capture a large audience when several events are scheduled at the same time and compete with each other.

8. Invasive Plant Management with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA), Town of Greenwich at 393 North Street on April 11, 2018. This educational and hand-on event was to demonstrate several techniques of invasive species removal. The participants also learned about the problems caused by non-native invasive plants. There were more than 20 attendees.

Lesson learned: Invasive species control is a difficult proposition so the number of attendees was low. The ones who showed up fairly quickly became discouraged by hard work and slow progress.

9. The Conservation Commission and Eversource hosted *Light Bulb Swap* on December 16, 2017 at the Town Hall Meeting Room. The program offered replacing old and low-efficiency bulbs with energy-efficient ENERGY STAR® LED bulbs, free of charge. In addition to the free bulbs, the property owners were offered low-cost energy audits of their homes. Conservation Commission staff had their table on composting with an offer of a free composter and coaching program for each property owner. Over 200 individuals took advantage of this program.

<https://patch.com/connecticut/greenwich/greenwich-eversource-host-light-bulb-swap-month>

Lesson learned: Free stuff attracts large crowd.

10. On April 21, 2018, Greenwich celebrated *World Fish Migration Day* through *Fishway Open House*.

http://www.greenwichct.org/News/Conservation_Commission/world_fish_migration_day_and_open_house_at_the_mianus_river_fishway/

The Conservation Commission Staff took advantage of this special occasion to educate visitors on the sustainable seafood purchases using the handouts provided by the *Seafood Watch*. <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/conservation-and-science/our-priorities>

More than 60 individuals visited the fish ladder to learn about fish migration and celebrate this special day. Outdoor programs with hands-on activities are unique, but very popular among children. This annual program inspires some of the visitors to join the ongoing fish monitoring program.



Lesson learned: Young children love touching, observing, and getting wet.

11. Paper Shredding Event took place on April 21, 2018, at the Island Beach parking lot. The event was organized by Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board and Greenwich Green & Clean. Paper shredding not only solves the problem of safe disposal of confidential document, but also reduces wastes. Collected paper is contamination free; therefore, easy to reuse and recycle. This opportunity allows the offices and other commercial paper users to be more green and put their wasted paper into new uses. It was estimated that more than 100 businesses took advantage of this low cost shredding opportunity.

Lesson learned: there is a need to charge extra for material which is not well separated and contains contamination such as plastic binders, paper clippings, etc. Separating paper from plastic covers and binders takes time and slows down the process.

12. Experience the Sound: From Streams Through Soil to Sea with the Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission took place on June 24, 2018 at Greenwich Point Park in Old Greenwich, CT. This event emphasized the connections between local ecology in our own backyard and the Sound The goal was to encourage the public to be good caretakers of the land and the Sound. Several local environmental organizations used table displays for related topics. In addition, educational activities for children were provided. Conservation Commission partnered with Shellfish Commission on this event. More than 100 visitors passed through the exhibits. Some of them were drafted from the beach crowd enjoying the sunny day. <http://experiencethesound.org/> <https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/12th-annual-experience-the-sound-event-celebrates-marine-life-and-much-more-108907/>

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/12th-annual-experience-the-sound-event-celebrates-marine-life-and-much-more-108907/>

Lesson learned: Proximity to the beach always attracts a large crowd even with little advertising.

13. The Pollinator Potluck was held on May 17, 2017 at Audubon Greenwich to discuss water conservation and the use of native plants to reduce the need for irrigation. The event was sponsored by the Conservation Commission, Greenwich Audubon and other partners. About 60 people attended. The goal was to educate the property owners about the draught and the need for water conservation. <https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Greenwich-s-green-organizations-to-collaborate-11153694.php>

<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/event/pollinator-potluck-water-conservation-in-a-time-of-drought-audubon-greenwich/>

Lesson learned: there is a significant number of property owners supported by well who are very concern about groundwater.

14. Partners for Plants organization awarded Greenwich Garden Club partnering with Greenwich Land Trust, Audubon, and Conservation Commission on invasive species removal program. “Done-in-a-Day” is scheduled for October 20, 2018. That day, in five different locations in Greenwich five different invasive species will be tackled by groups of volunteers. Conservation Commission is responsible for leading a group which will work on eradication of mugwort (*Artemisia*) at Greenwich Point Park. A *Pollinator Potluck* was held on June 2, 2018 at Greenwich Land Trust. The purpose of this meeting was to educate the public on negative effect of invasive species on native plants diversity and wildlife habitat.

<http://www.livinggreenwich.com/content/event/pollinator-potluck-restoring-native-plants-to-our-local-landscape-greenwich-land-trust/>

Lesson learned: Some of the invasive species are very challenging to eradicate.

15. The 2017 UConn BioBlitz was held on September 15th and 16th at the Greenwich Point Park. Teams of scientists and other volunteers, representing the UConn Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, the UConn Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and the Town of Greenwich Shellfish Commission and Conservation Commission put together and participated in this once-per-life-time event at Greenwich Point Park. The Park was sampled for 24 hours, to uncover every species utilizing this peninsula. The total of 1216 species were found which is surprisingly high for this highly disturbed environment. More than hundreds of individuals were either conducting the search or participating as observers/learners. A few local schools offered their students an extra credit for attending. <https://ctbioblitz.uconn.edu/>

<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/BioBlitz-to-count-animals-species-at-Greenwich-11950513.php> <https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Photos-BioBlitz-creature-count-Greenwich-Point-12203357.php>

<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/2017/09/22/bioblitz-descends-on-greenwich-point/>

Lesson learned: Most attendees were surprised with the unexpectedly high number of species living/growing at Greenwich Point Park.

16. The Greenwich Conservation Commission jointly with Green School Committee met with Wilton counterpart. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange the experience and provide support on recycling and organic waste management including composting. In result, Greenwich representation participated in “Zero Waste Fair” held on March 25, 2018 at Wilton High School Field House. The Conservation Commission had a table on composting in Greenwich and one of the members of the Green School Committee gave a presentation about recycling efforts in Greenwich. Since then both towns have been cooperating on composting program at schools and other school initiatives such as waste reduction.
17. *Pollinator Pathway* program is another initiative which was born in Wilton’s Garden Club. The Conservation Commission liked the idea of connecting natural habitats via creation of pollinator friendly pathways so a meeting was arranged on April 17, 2018 with Wilton group lead by Jackie Algon. Greenwich group was officially established on June 7, 2018. This group is currently working on educational programs for the property owners training them how to attract pollinators to their gardens. A first mile of the pathway will be planted along North Street starting from the North Street School and ending at the Greenwich Catholic School. This project would be a community effort which will engage the neighbors, one of the local nursery, cemetery, a church, and one private and one public school. In addition, a new pathway would be created over the newly disturbed and cleared strip of land between I-95 and railroad track and many more projects will be taken on in the near future.

Apply sustainability initiatives to more than 5 existing events = 10 POINTS

1. Flinn Gallery located at the Greenwich Library hosts art exhibits. During the Earth Day Month, the gallery provided an exhibit which used pieces of art to portray the problem of plastic trash in the natural environment. *Hazardous Beauty* displayed a collision of consumer culture on the natural world. The exhibit was opened to the public from March 15th – April 25th.
<http://flinngallery.com/hazardous-beauty/>
<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/2018/03/12/flinn-gallery-opens-hazardous-beauty/>
<https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/hazardous-beauty-at-the-flinn-gallery-examines-collision-of-consumerism-and-natural-world-103671/>
The exhibit was reinforced with panned discussion about plastic in the ocean. “Plastic and Microplastics in our Long Island Sound” was put together by the Conservation Commission Staff and other partners and it was held at the Greenwich Library on April 4, 2018. At the event, the First Selectman gave proclamation for the Earth Day Month.
<http://flinngallery.com/events/panel-discussion-plastic-microplastics-l-sound/>
<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/2018/04/03/panel-to-discuss-impact-of-plastics-on-long-island-sound/>

Both events were followed by the screening of “Plastic Ocean” movie featured at the Greenwich Library Auditorium.

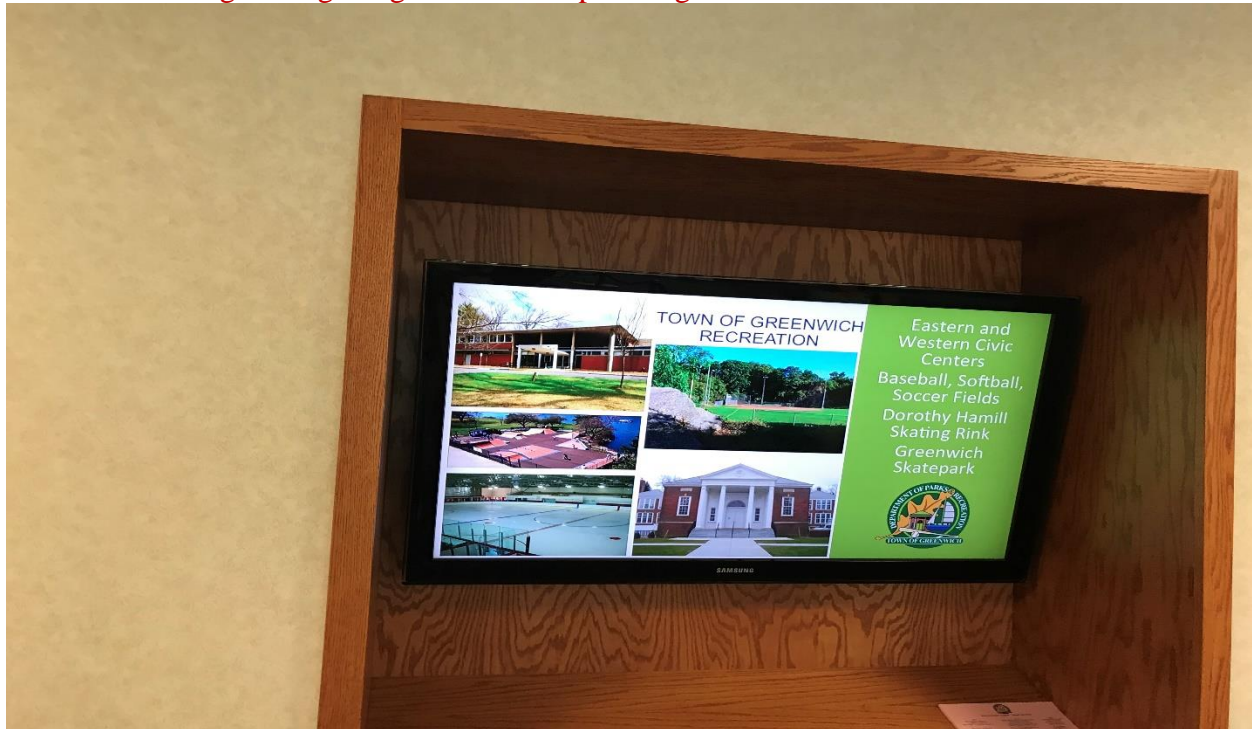
<https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Flinn-Gallery-screens-A-Plastic-Ocean-as-12771347.php>

2. *Sand Blast Sand-Sculpture Festival* is offered annually at Greenwich Point. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, Town of Greenwich, and the Greenwich Art Council offers fun and uses artistic ideas of the participants. This year (on July 21, 2018) there was a new rule which allowed the artists to use only what is found at the beach. This approach produced no trash and cause no pollution to Long Island Sound.

<http://www.livinggreenwich.com/content/event/sandblast-2018-sand-sculpture-festival-at-greenwich-point/>

<http://www.greenwichartscouncil.org/Sand-Blast.html>

3. Starting this year, Parks and Recreation advertises their events electronically and have an electronic option for the participant to signing in. This improvement reduces the need for paper. Several paper pockets which were used to hold advertisement and forms to sign up were removed from a wall located at the entrance door. Here is the current website used for advertisement. <http://www.teamsideline.com/greenwichct> In addition, TV screen installed at the man hall gives a good glance of the upcoming events.



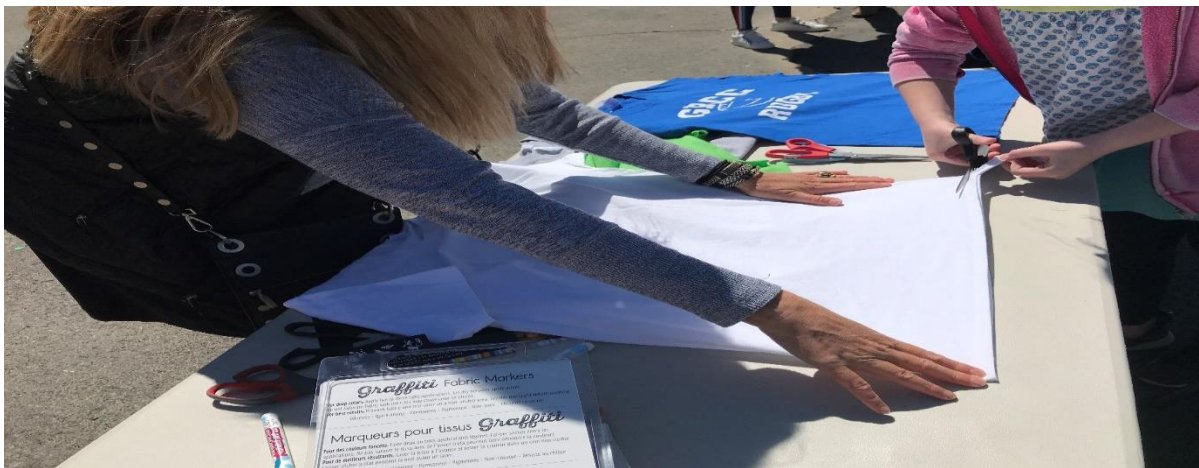
4. Beach cleanup conducted by BYO and Bruce Museum with support of the Department of Parks and Recreation took place at Greenwich Point Park on February 24, 2018. The event was led by BYO, an organization which was in process of getting the plastic bags ban approved in Greenwich, therefore, this cleanup was done with the use of reusable bags, plastic buckets, and large paper bags which are biodegradable. In addition, most of the gloves used for the event were reusable or replaced by trash picking tools. This approach was a bit greener than the annual town-wide cleanup day which has been utilizing plastic bags and plastic gloves.

<https://greenwichfreepress.com/around-town/backhoes-needed-to-remove-tons-of-trash-at-weekend-beach-cleanup-at-greenwich-point-102607/>

<https://brucemuseum.org/calendar/event/greenwich-beach-clean-up-day>

<https://www.greenwichsentinel.com/2018/03/02/cleanup-of-greenwich-point-leads-to-shocking-heap-of-trash/>

5. “Healthy Yards Workshop” on August 18, 2018 organized by the Conservation Commission was planned with trash reduction in mind. Three bins were provided: one for compost, one for recyclable material, and one for trash. Each container had detailed list of items allowed for disposal. Lunch was provided in paper boxes. The food inside the box was packed either in recyclable small containers or a paper which was composted. For coffee break, fruits and cookies were offered on large reusable plates with use of no rappers and drinks were provided in reusable cups.
6. “Healthy Yards Healthy You” on January 31, 2018 organized by the Conservation Commission was also designed with zero wastes in mind. All cups used for drinks were reusable. Cookies and whole fruits (apples and bananas) were offered on large reusable plates. Coffee grounds, teabags, banana peels, and apple cores were the only wastes produced at this event. All of them including the napkins were taken to a compost bin maintained by the Garden Education Center at the back of their greenhouse.
7. “The Last Test of Summer” on September 30, 2017 was designed to reduce wastes. Each participant received single reusable glass for beer testing. No plastic cups were used so the amount of waste collected after the event was very small.
8. Reusable bag making event in Old Greenwich School on April 20, 2018, was done with the use of recycled material. T-shirts used for the bags came from parents and Parks and Recreation Summer Camp program. Scissors were borrowed from the school. Markers and molds used for bag decorations were the only materials which were purchased.



9. The Greenwich Conservation Commission jointly with Green School Committee met with Wilton counterpart. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange the experience and provide support on recycling and organic waste management including composting. In result, Greenwich representation participated in “Zero Waste Fair” held on March 25, 2018 at Wilton High School Field House in Wilton. The Conservation Commission had a table on

compost program in Greenwich and one of the Green School Committee representatives gave a presentation about recycling efforts in Greenwich. Since then, both towns have been cooperating on composting program at schools and other school initiatives such as waste reduction.

Below is an email exchange between Aleksandra Moch, Conservation Commission, Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board, PTA Green School Committee, and Master Composter and Tammy Thornton, PTA Wilton and Zero Waste Challenge.

Hi Aleks,

Wonderful to hear from you! So psyched to hear the pilot program was a success. I hope you or representatives from Greenwich can join us for the Coalition meeting in October to share these successes!!

Appreciate your support with composting. I'm not sure where and when but good to know I have you.

Talk soon,

Tammy

On Fri, Jul 20, 2018 at 12:46 PM, Moch, Aleksandra <Aleksandra.Moch@greenwichct.org> wrote:

Dear Tammy,

I am glad you have reached out to me. There is a lot to catch up with. Our programs slowed down for a moment since the Conservation Commission focuses on the monster report for Sustainable CT.

We were very successful with the pilot program at Cos Cob School. Currently we are working on no straw campaign and Pollinator Pathway program.

I will be more than happy to help, certainly teaching composting.

I am so glad to be back in business, I have neglected my healthy yards program for long enough. Fall is coming and regrouping is needed.

All the best!

Aleks

From: Tammy Thornton [mailto:tammythornton1112@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Moch, Aleksandra <Aleksandra.Moch@greenwichct.org>
Subject: Hello!!

Hi Aleks,

I saw you were on the Organics Recycling call as well. I'm hoping I can get Wilton moving in this direction and have been having lots of chats with folks in Darien as they are working to set up a organics drop off.

Anyway, I've been meaning to catch up with you and the Green Committee.

How did the pilot go at Cos Cob Elementary with the red boats?

If we were looking to host composting classes for parents in Wilton (we've used someone from Glen Gate for the first time this spring but not sure if that will continue) are you teaching backyard composting or should I reach out to the UCONN Extension folks?

I believe I mentioned in an email awhile back, but we've just set the date for the fall meeting of the newly formed Zero Waste Schools Coalition - Wednesday 10/17 from 7-9pm. I would love folks from Greenwich to be at the table. I just invited John Philips from West Hartford to speak and join as well. Still working on the details but starting to get the word out.

Hope to hear from you

Tammy

10. Pollinator Pathway program is another initiative which was born in Wilton. The Conservation Commission was inspired by Wilton Garden Club's idea of connecting natural habitats via creation of pollinator friendly pathways. A meeting was held on April 17, 2018, with Wilton group lead by Jackie Algon. Greenwich group was established on June 7, 2018. This group is currently working on educational programs for the property owners to demonstrate how to create gardens supporting native species which are attractive to pollinators. A first mile of the pathway will be planted along North Street starting from the North Street School and ending at the Greenwich Catholic School. This project would be a community effort which will engage the neighbors, a cemetery, one of the local nursery, a church, and both schools. In addition, a new pathway would be created over the newly disturbed and cleared strip for the utility work between I-95 and railroad tracks. Many more projects are planned in the near future.

Below is an email exchange between Aleksandra Moch, Conservation Commission, Pollinator Pathway Greenwich and Jackie Algon, Pollinator Pathway Wilton

Hi Aleksandra,

I was happy that you did introduce yourself and am eager to meet whichever of your colleagues you can send to meet with us. I'm thinking 17th is the best date and we'll get together at 1 pm. We'll meet at my home: 303 Linden Tree Rd., Wilton. Please let Lisette or whomever it is who is coming know to contact me for directions.

Hoping we'll catch-up with each other again soon,

-jackie

On Tue, Apr 3, 2018 at 11:28 AM, Moch, Aleksandra
<Aleksandra.Moch@greenwichct.org> wrote:
Dear Jackie,

It was nice to introduce myself to you at Zero Waste Faire in Wilton. Thank you for organizing the troops and keeping your project going. I would love to connect with your group so we can support and help each other. The most important, to grow the program and make it spread to other towns. I work during the day (now for Pat Sesto out new Director of Environmental Affairs) so I am going to send a representative of our group instead. Most likely it would be Lisette. I will let you know as soon as I have her conformation. She may contact you directly.

All the best!
Aleksandra Moch
Conservation Commission

From: Jackie Algon [mailto:rennipsj@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2018 11:57 AM
Subject: Exploration of Pollinator Pathway in your Home Towns!

Greetings All,

Over the past week or so, we've gotten a great swell of interest from folks in a variety of communities who are interested in learning how to get a Pollinator Pathway going in their own towns. We're thrilled to see this happening and are eager to help in any way we can.

We're suggesting we gather for a sandwich and some talk at my home in the next week or two to start the conversation. Here are a few dates and times to consider:

Tuesday, 10 April: 10am, noon, or 1pm

Friday, 13 April: 10am

Tuesday, 17 April: 10am, noon, 1pm, or 3pm

If you have a colleague to be included, that's fine; just pass this along to her/him so we can get a date that works for most of us, and ask that they let me know. Someone mentioned knowing a person in New Canaan who might want to be included; if so, please do invite her/him.

Hoping to hear from you soon so we can lock-in a date and time as soon as possible.

-jackie
Algon
for the Wilton Pollinator Pathway Steering Committee

11. Movie exchange between New Canaan group and Greenwich (GRAB, PTA Green Schools Committee, BYO, Shellfish Commission and Conservation Commission) led to the initiation of a new *Skip the Straw* program.



The Skip the Straw Greenwich campaign aims through community outreach & education to increase awareness about the impact of single-use plastics & to reduce litter & waste in our neighborhood. During the month of October, the Conservation Commission, Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board and BYO Greenwich, in conjunction with the Ocean Conservancy, invite the community of Old Greenwich to make a difference by Skipping the Straw!

For residents: When eating out, ask your server to “skip the plastic straw.” Limit your use of disposable plastics, pick up litter & properly dispose of it, participate in beach cleanups & spread the word.

For restaurants, bars & clubs: Help stop marine trash at the source! Make a voluntary commitment to stop offering plastic straws & to supply customers with straws upon request only.

Alternatively, switch to a paper or reusable substitute, or go completely strawless.

For local merchants: Offer alternatives to plastic straws for sale to the community.

For students: Join the Greenwich Girl Scouts and other students in the ambassador program to

learn more about this issue & participate in our kick-off day where you will present a certificate of action to participating restaurants & merchants.

For EVERYONE: Check out these Skip the Straw Greenwich events:

Saturday, September 29 STRAWS documentary & panel discussion at Perrot Library

Sunday, September 30 Kick-off & proclamation with Student Ambassadors

Saturday, October 6 STRAWS documentary with Friends of Greenwich Point at Innis Cottage & town beach clean up

Month of October Skip the Straw at participating Old Greenwich restaurants

WHY SKIP THE STRAW?

- 500 million straws are used every day in the US, enough to wrap around the earth 2.5 times.
- Straws are not recyclable in the Town of Greenwich & must be disposed in the trash.
- Plastic straws are among the Top Five items collected on the beach each year.
- Plastic breaks down into smaller & smaller pieces & takes 100s of years to fully decompose.
- By the year 2050, it is estimated that there will be more plastics than fish in the oceans.
- Plastic trash negatively affects our economy, harms wildlife and impacts public health.

For more information, contact skipthestravgreenwich@gmail.com



GREENWICH
RECYCLING
ADVISORY
BOARD



1. Hold a new event.
2. Provide municipal support for the event, either financially or with in-kind services, or both.
Submit: Identification of the municipal support provided.
3. Track the publicity and number of event attendees. Prepare by setting up evaluation criteria ahead of time. For example: If you are having an event on transportation, encourage people to carpool and record the energy and emissions saved per carpool rider. You might add specific details about participation or networking advantages.
Submit: Event statistics including the number of participants and any other quantifiable data. List possible follow-up actions/activities for your town. List lessons learned, possible improvements or next steps, and possible contacts for future event planning.

AND/OR

1. Incorporate sustainability into an existing event and educate event attendees about the sustainability initiatives incorporated into the event. For example, include compost bins with signage and live education about reducing food waste at an annual food festival.
Submit: A description of how sustainability initiatives were incorporated into the event and how attendees were educated.