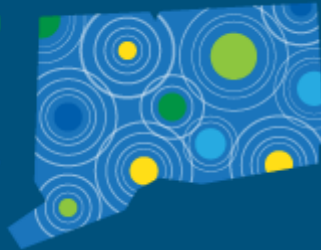


Sustainable CT Recertification for Town of Wilton

Sustainable CT
Local Actions. Statewide Impact.®



Sustainable CT Quick Facts

- 501(c)3 created by towns, for towns
- Work closely with state agencies to:
 - Ensure actions are in alignment with state goals.
 - Many actions can help achieve state goals:
 - climate change mitigation
 - waste reduction
 - open space acquisition
 - Participate in state planning processes: the Governor's Council on Climate Change, CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management working group.
- Currently over half of CT municipalities (124 of 169) registered for certification; and 64 registrants have earned BRONZE (45) or SILVER (19)



Silver	Bronze
Greenwich	Darien
Stamford	Norwalk
Fairfield	New Canaan
	Weston
	Ridgefield
	Trumbull

Wilton Now

- Received Bronze Certification in October 2019
- Earned 240 points in 18 categories
- Access to Sustainable CT Match Grant Funds
- HUGE thank you to Debra Thomson-Van for leading the charge
- Certification Expires December 2022



Bike/Ped Trail in Wilton and Norwalk

Led by the Norwalk River Valley Trail, this project raised the final \$15,000 needed to close out a \$1.4 million expansion of this bike and pedestrian trail between Norwalk and Wilton.



“Organizations such as Sustainable CT play a critical role in providing key construction grants for the NRVT. In fact, the \$15,000 donation from Sustainable CT helped the NRVT raise the final dollars needed to meet the \$275,000 match that triggered the \$1.3 million grant from CT DEEP to build the section of the NRVT connecting Wilton and Norwalk. The next section of the NRVT for Wilton will extend the existing trail north of Skunk Lane. The NRVT hopes Sustainable CT can contribute to this upcoming trail construction.” ~ Charlie Taney, President, NRVT



Thousands of Connecticut residents visit **Woodcock Nature Center's** 150-acre preserve for hiking, learning and spending time with loved ones each year. The grounds are open *year-round from dawn to dusk at no charge* and include nearly 4 miles of trails, a large pond and outdoor aviaries.

*“We have a diverse habitat to explore at Woodcock but **one crucial element was missing: self-guided learning!** The Sustainable CT Match Fund made this possible for our community.”*

— Lenore Herbst, Executive Director

Educational trail signs at Woodcock Nature Center

Let's create some new educational trail signage on our grounds!

The screenshot shows a crowdfunding page for educational trail signs. The main title is "Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans)" with the Spanish name "Hiedra venenosa" below it. The page features a green background with images of poison ivy leaves. Key information includes:

- Amount raised:** \$2,320, with a progress bar showing it is funded of a \$2,000 goal.
- Patrons:** 17 patrons.
- Status:** Project Closed, with a "Success!" badge.
- Success Date:** This campaign reached its goal on Sep 23, 2020 8:00 PM.
- Categories:** Wilton, CT; Community; Causes; Other; Education.

The main text on the sign reads: "Use these rhymes to watch out for and avoid poison ivy: 'Leaves of 3, let it be!' 'If it's hairy, be wary!'". Below this, there are two columns of text in English and Spanish. The English text explains that poison ivy can take many forms, is identified by its hairy vine and leaves in groups of 3, and produces white berries and leaves that turn red. It notes that the berries are food for birds, deer, raccoons, and black bears, and that the seeds within the berries are small and pass through the animal's digestive tract in one piece. The Spanish text provides a similar explanation, mentioning that the berries are eaten by animals like deer, raccoons, and black bears, and that the seeds pass through their digestive tracts in one piece. The sign also includes a warning for humans: "Humans are one of the only animals who react vigorously to poison ivy." and advises that if you suspect you or your pet have come in contact with poison ivy, you should wash the area with soap and water as soon as possible. The Spanish text also includes this warning and advice.

A matching grant from Sustainable CT helped rally the community and support the addition of brand new fun and informative signage along the trails.

➔ **\$4,244 total raised**

➔ **15 vinyl trail signs in English & Spanish!**

Habitat Restoration - Wilton

"I'm leading an effort in town to eradicate an acre of Mugwort at Allen's Meadow and replace it with a native pollinator meadow; due to the aggressive nature of this non-native invasive species, this is a tremendous challenge that will take time, patience, and resources. I am so grateful that Sustainable CT agreed to match fund my own fundraising efforts up to \$4,000. Now with \$8,000 in total, I am confident that I can achieve my goal of improving the health and sustainability of our native pollinators, our environment, as well as enhancing the recreational beauty of a favorite town park, Allen's Meadow".

~Joe Bear



[Good Morning Wilton article](#)

Why Recertify?

- Helps identify sustainability gaps and opportunities
- Provides rallying point and community-wide opportunity to share in collective vision
- Offers access to matching funds for projects
- Recognizes/showcases our accomplishments and commitment to sustainability
- Promotes civic pride
- Serves as tool to attract new business, smart development, skilled workforce, new families as well as reduce municipal costs
- Responsibility as a community to be a part of the global solution for addressing climate issues



2021 *Bronze* Certification Requirements

Complete **1 Equity Toolkit** in Action [Optimize for Equity](#).

Complete at least **1 action** in each of the categories (1-11).

Successfully complete actions totaling **200 or more points**.



2021 *Silver* Certification Requirements

Complete **3 Equity Toolkits** in Action [Optimize for Equity](#).

Complete at least **1 action** in each of the categories (1-11).

Successfully complete actions totaling **400 or more points**.

Action Categories

1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

2. Thriving Local Economies

3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

**6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems
and Choices**

**7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure
and Operations**

**8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and
Education**

9. Strategic Materials Management

10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

11. Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing

**12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness
Prevention**

13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

[Sustainable CT Action Details](#)

POCD Accomplishments Possible Points

POCD Accomplishment	SCT Alignment	Possible Points
Natural and Historical Environment		
Conserve and Enhance Habitats 2.4.1	3.10.2 Facilitate Invasive Species Education and Management	5 or 10
Promote Energy Efficiency and Resiliency 3.2.3	7.4.2 Increase Use of Renewable Energy in Municipal Buildings	Up to 50 points
Human and Economic Environment		
Increase Housing Options 1.1.2	11.2 Grow Sustainable and Affordable Housing Options	10 - 40 points
Increase Housing Options 1.2.4	11.1.1 Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan	10 points

Wilton POCD Alignment with Sustainable CT Actions

- 18 POCD Objectives fall within 21 Sustainable CT Action items
 - Refer to PDF handout for details
- Each POCD objective may or may not have an opportunity to submit for points based on its status
- Addressing Equity early

Example for Points:

POCD Objective 2.3.1 Natural and Historical Environment: Encourage the creation of greenways and backyard wildlife habitat through efforts such as the Pollinator Pathway Initiative.

Sustainable CT Goal 3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways (40 points, if Pollinator Resolution is passed)
Protect pollinators by creating pollinator gardens, enacting policies to protect pollinators and enhance their habitat, and educating the public on the importance of pollinator friendly habitats in your municipality.

Other Possible Points

- Rollover points from 2019 certification
 - 70 possible points from NEW or UPDATED activities within 10 submitted categories
 - Refer to PDF for details
- Shop Local, Win Local and Eat Local, Win Local, Wilton Walking Trails Challenge
- Food Scrap Program
- Glass Separation, waste management programs
- Chamber of Commerce and EDC - Business Roundtables
- Housing Committee
- Community Partnership for Energy Efficiency Engagement Initiative (aka small business energy efficiency outreach)

Timeline for Recertification

September 2021



- Approval from BOS
- Establish Certification Team of Wilton Go Green, resident volunteers, Town liaison
- Partner with Town departments and commissions while minimizing time demands
- Create inventory of accomplishments and establish timelines ongoing and new projects

April 2022



- Establish goals for achieving maximum points
- Submit draft application and support materials to Sustainable CT for input and counsel

August 2022

- Strengthen and complete application
- Submit final application for BRONZE/SILVER

Additional Resources Available

- Equity coaches
- Sustainable CT Fellows
- Webinars and Video Tutorials
- Sustainable CT Match Grant Funds for Interns/Project Manager

How Can Board of Selectmen Support Recertification

- Board of Selectmen approval to move forward with Sustainable CT Recertification
- Champion the program within our Town Boards and Commissions
- Provide INPUT and GUIDANCE for viable actions
- Help promote, advocate and communicate Wilton's participation in program across multiple networks
- Assist with key introductions
- Ask lots of questions
- Be a source for solutions

Thank You!

Full Quote from Charlie Taney

“The vision of the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) is to build and maintain a thirty-mile, multi-use trail from Norwalk, passing through Wilton, Ridgefield and Redding, and terminating in Danbury. The funding for NRVT construction comes from a variety of sources, including donations from individuals, foundations, and government grants. Organizations such as Sustainable CT play a critical role in providing key construction grants for the NRVT. In fact, the \$15,000 donation from Sustainable CT helped the NRVT raise the final dollars needed to meet the \$275,000 match that triggered the \$1.3 million grant from CT DEEP to build the section of the NRVT connecting Wilton and Norwalk. That construction is now underway, with completion expected in October. The NRVT deeply appreciates the support of Sustainable CT and hopes very much this funding will continue to be available for future trail construction in Wilton. The next section of the NRVT for Wilton will extend the existing trail north of Skunk Lane. The NRVT hopes Sustainable CT can contribute to this upcoming trail construction.”