

Wilton Conservation Commission Newsletter



RECYCLING ETIQUETTE IN WILTON

In Connecticut each person produces $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ton of trash each year but only recycles roughly 20% of this trash, which would be typical of our current Wilton residents. The State has passed mandatory recycling laws and adopted a solid waste management hierarchy which utilizes first source reduction (that means, "Use Less!"), then recycling, composting, waste-to-energy and finally landfilling as the preferred methods to handle its trash.

To meet this goal, a number of items were designated as recyclable and are reflected in Wilton's current recycling program. Many residents have questions about recycling, so a list of the most common Questions & Answers (Q&A's) has been assembled and posted on the Town website (www.wiltonct.org) under the Department of Public Works tab. A sampling of these questions and answers is located below.

In an effort to keep ourselves up to date on recycling, future Conservation Commission Newsletters will contain additional Q&A's about recycling. If your question is not addressed in these newsletters or on the website, please contact us at mail@wiltonct.org or call us at: (203) 563-0152 (Department of Public Works) for household recycling and at (203) 563-0180 (Department of Environmental Affairs) for electronics and hazardous waste recycling.

Today's top Recycling questions are....

1) Question – What are Wilton residents required to recycle?

Answer:

- Dry uncontaminated newspaper (including inserts) tied four ways with twine (maximum bundle height is 8 inches).

- Flattened corrugated cardboard (Do NOT include cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, etc.)

- Co-mingled Items (Caps/tops must be removed):

--Rinsed GLASS food and beverage containers

--Rinsed METAL food & beverage containers (including clean metal pie plates)

--Rinsed PLASTIC containers (#1 & #2 plastics as noted on bottom of the container)

2) Question – Will my private hauler pick up all of the above listed recyclables?

Answer: Yes; however some private haulers may or may not pick up cardboard. Please contact your individual hauler for details.

3) Question – In addition to the items listed above, can I bring other recycling items not listed above to the Wilton Transfer Station?

Answer: Yes; in addition to the items listed above, the Wilton Town Transfer Station located on Mather Street will also accept:

- Mixed paper (office paper, junk mail, magazines, etc.)

- Clean clothing and shoes

- Scrap metal

- Clean motor oil

- Car batteries

4) Question – Where is the Transfer Station? How can I learn more about the Transfer Station?

Answer: The Transfer Station is located on Mather Street in North Wilton. From Route 7 North, turn right on Honey Hill Road, and left onto Mather Street immediately after crossing the railroad tracks. The Transfer Station entrance is on the right side of Mather Street. Additional information concerning

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A MESSAGE FROM THE WILTON ENERGY COMMISSION

The Wilton Energy Commission was formed last September to promote energy conservation and the use of clean and sustainable energy in our town. We're non-partisan and non-political – just a group of ordinary citizens who wanted to get involved.

In the six months since it was created, the commission has been working with the town to develop energy conservation initiatives and pursue renewable energy alternatives. The work we've done in cooperation with the town has resulted in significant energy savings and a commitment to secure a portion of our town's energy from renewable resources such as wind and hydroelectric power generation.

We are now working to extend our work to the community at large. All of us can chip in to conserve energy in our homes and our daily lives. It's easy! Here are a few simple things you can do right away:

- Replace current light bulbs with energy efficient CFLs or LEDs
- Don't idle your car if you're stopped for more than 10 seconds
- Turn down thermostats and turn off appliances when not in use
- Upgrade heating and air conditioning equipment
- Hang your clothes instead of using your drier

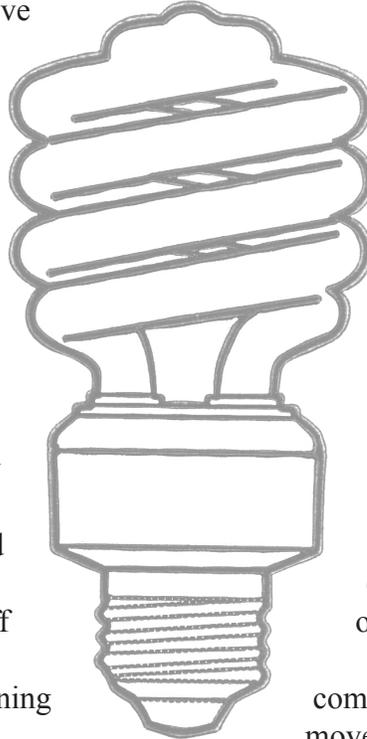
CL&P is now making it even easier to get involved. Over 140 Wilton homeowners have committed to purchasing their electricity from renewable energy providers through CL&P's Clean Options program. For approximately \$12 per month, the average Wilton homeowner can support

energy from wind, hydro or other sustainable energy sources. Another CL&P program is called the Clean Energy Audit. Through this program, CL&P will send a team into your home to check and repair the insulation, and replace all of the bulbs in your home with energy-savers - all for \$200! You can sign up or learn more about these programs at the Wilton Energy Commission web site: WiltonEnergy.org.

Wilton churches, businesses and service organizations can also get involved! The CT Clean Options program provides attractive financial incentives for supporting renewable energy.

As we look to the future, the Wilton Energy Commission encourages organizations across our community to incorporate energy conservation and sustainability into longer-range plans. Whether it be new construction or the renovation of existing buildings, a wide range of tax incentives is available, and energy efficient technologies can provide outstanding savings over time.

The Wilton Energy Commission is committed to support our community as it moves towards a cleaner and more efficient future. The steps we take today will enhance the quality of life for future residents of a town that each of us is proud to call home. Feel free to contact us at WiltonEnergy@gmail.com with your comments, questions, recommendations or areas where we can be of assistance.



Be Part of the Center Tree Plan

This past Arbor Day, April 25th, the Wilton Center Tree Plan was formally unveiled and the first five trees were planted. The Tree Plan provides for an organized means to introduce new trees to the Center and brings heightened attention to the needs of our existing community trees.

One of the best features of the plan is the ability of the public to participate. Trees to be planted are donated by residents and companies who wish to commemorate, memorialize, honor, or otherwise celebrate a person or event. The cost to sponsor a shade tree is \$500 and \$300 for understory trees.

Thus far, ten trees have been donated and more are expected shortly. If you would like to be part of our community forest revitalization or have questions, please contact Patricia Sesto, 563-0180 or visit the town's website.

ALLEN'S MEADOW

The first impression of Allen's Meadow to those that have come to hear of its reputation as a 'birding' Mecca is probably somewhat underwhelming. However, lurking behind the initial façade of ball fields and the Department of Works site is a range of habitats that lure both birds and, increasingly, birders to the area in large numbers.

The majority of Allen's Meadows natural habitat constitutes the kind of shrub, grassland and edge habitat that is rapidly disappearing in Connecticut. The birds that breed there in summer reflect those species that rely on this specialized environment including eastern bluebirds, Baltimore orioles, blue-winged Warblers (Audubon watch list species) as well as the Brown Thrasher (CT DEP special concern list).

Year round can be exciting at Allen's, and with the first sign of spring in mid-March, one can witness the magnificent twilight 'sky dance' of the American Woodcock. Spring also sees birds making pit stops on their way north from wintering grounds as far south as Argentina to breeding sites as far north and west as Alaska.

During spring migration there is always the chance of finding something rare, such as the Summer Tanager that graced the Meadows in May 2006. One of my most memorable sightings was when I stumbled upon an American Bittern, a rather majestic and cryptically colored member of the heron family. Quite a surprise to find this rather secretive denizen of large interior marshes in a pond no bigger than a swimming pool just a few hundred yards from the ever-busy Route Seven.

Winter tends to be quieter in the Meadows but the possibility of finding lingering birds or migrants from the boreal north that overwinter make it the regular first stop on the local Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Another possibility at this time of year is discovering a rare Northern Shrike, an incredible northern songbird which is under the misapprehension that it is a hawk. It gets its nickname 'Butcher Bird' from its penchant for impaling its prey (insects, small mammals and birds) on barb wire fencing or on the thorns of trees and shrubs.

Fall, however, is when Allen's Meadows really comes into its own when the sheer volume of birds can be astounding. It is not uncommon to find Savannah Sparrows blanketing the fields and

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WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



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RECYCLING ETIQUETTE

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the Transfer Station location (including a map) and instructions are available at the Town Clerk's office or on the DPW section of the Town Website at www.wiltonct.org. For further information, call the DPW at 203-563-0152 for hours of operation.

5) Question – Where can I get a new blue recycling bin?

Answer: At the Wilton Department of Public Works office at Town Hall Annex Building. Call for hours and cost.

6) Question – What do I do with my old Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLs)?

Answer: Since CFLs contain a small amount of mercury, they must be disposed of properly. Wilton residents are strongly encouraged to save burned-out CFLs and dispose of them at a Hazardous Waste Collection. The 2008 Household Hazardous Waste Collection schedule can be found on the Town of Wilton website (www.wiltonct.org). In addition, Wilton Electronics Recycling Collection in June will accept burned-out CFLs. As well, IKEA in New Haven has a permanent collection bin for burned-out CFLs. For information on the proper handling and disposal of broken CFLs, please visit the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection website (www.ct.gov/dep). The same precautions should be taken for the long fluorescent lights we have used for many years.

There are many things that citizens can do to decrease their trash output and increase the amount of material that is recycled. If your recycling questions are not answered here or on the Town website (www.wiltonct.org) under the Department of Public Works tab, please contact us at the above email address or phone numbers.

**David Hapke, Chairman, and
Kristen Begor, Commissioner**

ALLEN'S MEADOW

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community gardens or Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers dripping from the branches of almost every tree and bush. In the fall, birders seeking truly rare species are hardly ever disappointed: Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-breasted Chat, Orange-crowned Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Golden Eagle are some of the species observed.

Sightings in 2007 really put Allen's Meadows on the map across the state and beyond. Firstly, in October we captured images of a White-crowned Sparrow subspecies that breeds in Alaska and normally winters in south western states. This was the first bird of this subspecies to be documented in the state. Just a couple of weeks later I spotted a Harris's Sparrow. This was the first state record of the species in over



20 years and only the 10th time that it had occurred at all in the state. Allen's had moved to the map of northeastern hotspots, with birders flocking in from across the northeast.

The site really is a birding gem in the crown of Wilton's open space areas and is about to become immortalized in Frank Gallo's forthcoming book on the best birding sites in Connecticut and Rhode Island (one of just 25 proposed Connecticut sites in the book). I personally hope that this gem continues to be enjoyed by Wiltonites for years to come. – **Luke Tiller**

Luke Tiller is a Wilton resident, sits on the board of the Connecticut Ornithological Association and is a tour leader for Sunrise Birding, a natural history travel company. Up to date species checklists for Allen's Meadows can be received by contacting the Wilton Conservation Commission.



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