

2009 Green Guide





Connecticut Youth Leadership Project Green Guide 2009

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P roject Ideas

Energy Related Projects

- Make changes that reduce annual energy or water use rates by more than 15%.
- Design and develop building projects that fulfill Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification requirements.
- Implement clean energy generation projects using fuel cells, solar, geothermal or wind power.
- Capture and reuse methane from landfills.
- Purchase "green-e" certified renewable power that equals or exceeds 20% of energy load of a business, government, school or institutional facility; agreement to purchase power must include a minimum contract commitment term of 2 years.
- Implement a project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with Connecticut's Climate Change initiatives in one of the following sectors: transportation; agriculture, forestry or waste; electricity generation; education and outreach.
- Complete a greenhouse gas inventory for your municipality, business or school.
- Complete an Energy Star benchmarking of a building and/or qualify for the Energy Star program.

Pollution Prevention and Recycling Related Projects

- Partner with Whole Foods on "Gimme 5" program. Whole Foods Market Westport invites you to join us with our newest Green Mission project in a collection of Number 5 Plastics from your neighborhood, schools, or other resources in the community. Products like cream cheese, butter and yogurt are packaged in Number 5 plastics and can be delivered to our store to be recycled as part of our "Preserve Gimme 5" recycling program.
- Install a 100% recycled process or cooling water system.
- Implement improved environmental management techniques and procedures that go significantly beyond the minimum requirements for certification as a Clean Marina.

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- Reduce or eliminate the use of elemental mercury or products containing elemental mercury.
 - Document and implement a facility-wide pollution prevention plan.
 - Implement manufacturing processes that eliminate or significantly reduce the quantity or toxicity of a facility's waste stream.
 - Implement a facility-wide integrated pest management program.
 - Voluntarily install a denitrification or UV disinfection program for water treatment.
 - Successfully implement an innovative and unique pollution prevention plan or recycling program that generates an environmental benefit.
 - Execute an innovative purchasing program that promotes the procurement of recycled and environmentally preferable products.
 - Implement recycling specifications for construction and demolition waste in state or municipally funded building projects.
 - Consistently use more than 40% recycled fiber in newspaper and other newsprint publications.
 - Separate organic materials at schools or cafeterias for composting or animal feed.
 - Create or purchase and retire air emission reduction credits beyond minimum compliance requirements.

Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Awareness Related Projects

- Improve public access to shore, waterfront, private lands, or streams through voluntary projects.
- Open large tracts of private property for public recreation.
- Adopt a vacant lot, park, community garden, stretch of highway, or beach for a year.
- Organize a river watch program.
- Sponsor a river, beach or neighborhood clean-up day.
- Promote conservation and preservation of critical plant or animal habitats.
- Implement habitat enhancements for fish or wildlife on public or private property.
- Voluntarily contribute significant time or resources to environmental instructional programs, DEP fish and wildlife projects, water quality monitoring programs, or lake, river, or watershed associations.

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- Donate significant time or resources to assist with environmental projects (e.g., projects or programs promoted by youth groups, community based organizations, businesses, or governmental entities) .

Other local ideas:

- Work with local stores on promoting the use of re-usable bags.
- Build and help set up a community or Butterfly garden within your community. Recycle the pots with your local nursery. Keep seeds from this year's growth to plant next year.
- Work with local stores on handing out lists of "green products" you can buy for your home, how this will save money and become a tax write off.
- Create brochures for people on how to make their homes green.
- Create rainwater conservation kits for those in need.
- Prepare a community project for CT Recycles Day in November.
- Work with a local store on donating and delivering LED light bulbs for the elderly and disabled.
- Work with a Parks and Recreation or State Parks Dept on making trails handicapped accessible and green.
- Build "green" wheelchair accessible ramps for those in need.
- Assist with finding new homes/removing nests for the Parakeets in Southern CT.
- Set up a "going green" club at your school and work towards helping administrators turn your school green.
- Volunteer to teach youths in after school programs or local elementary schools about "going green", recycling, and how to make paper from recycled paper.
- Set up a local clean up day or recycling and donate proceedings towards a "going green" cause.
- Volunteer to help a local soup kitchen to go green. See article on how an agency succeeded at this:
http://newhavenindependent.org/archives/2009/03/greening_the_op.php
- Put together a list of "green" websites throughout CT with projects and contacts for future YLP teams (make sure you contact the agencies for permission to print their contact information).
- Put together a "going green" demonstration for youths at your local church, school, or community event.
- Have your school participate in the Farm to School Program, where your school buys local produce from local farms.

Potential Partners

- **AmeriCorps** - More than **10,000** people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through **51** national service projects across Connecticut. Serving with national and local nonprofits, schools, faith-based organizations and other groups, these citizens tutor and mentor children, coordinate after-school programs, build homes, conduct neighborhood patrols, restore the environment, respond to disasters, build nonprofit capacity and recruit and manage volunteers. This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service will commit more than **\$7,900,000** to support Connecticut communities.
 - www.americorps.gov
 - 202-606-5000
 - TTY 202-565-2799
- **Clean Water Action – CT** – Clean Water Action is an organization of 1.2 million members working to empower people to take action to protect America's waters, build healthy communities and to make democracy work for all of us. For 36 years Clean Water Action has succeeded in winning some of the nation's most important environmental protections through grassroots organizing, expert policy research and political advocacy focused on holding elected officials accountable to the public.
 - www.cleanwateraction.org/ct
 - Tel: 860-232-6232
 - Fax: 860-232-6334
- **Connecticut Climate Change** – On February 15, 2005, the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change submitted the *Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan 2005* to the General Assembly, fulfilling the requirements of PA 04-252. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2010 and an additional 10% below that by the year 2020. This website also has a list of many community partners involved in different ways to protect the environment.
 - www.ctclimatechange.com
 - Email: c4info@ctclimatechange.com
- **Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection** - conserving, protecting and improving the natural resources and environment

of the state. There are many [volunteer opportunities](#) listed under “Public Participation”.

- www.ct.gov/dep
- 860-424-3000
- Email barbara.viadella@ct.gov

- **Connecticut Environmental Organizations** – a list of environmental organizations in Connecticut
 - www.eco-usa.net/orgs/ct.shtml

- **Connecticut Forest and Park Association** - Since the first members banded together in 1895 to save Connecticut's forests from runaway fires and excessive timber harvesting, CFPA's singular blend of vision, persistence, and partnership has protected the landscapes whose very names mean Connecticut.
 - www.ctwoodlands.org
 - Phone: 860-346-2372
 - Fax: 860-347-7463
 - Email: info@ctwoodlands.org

- **Connecticut Fund for the Environment** - The mission of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment is to protect and improve the land, air and water of Connecticut and Long Island Sound. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring people together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.
 - www.ctenvironment.org
 - Phone: (203) 787-0646
 - Fax: (203) 787-0246
 - Email: kbroatch@cfenv.org

- **EcoPhones** - Simply ask parents, neighbors, co-workers and local businesses to donate and recycle their used consumer electronics such as; Cell Phones, Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Laptop Computers, Apple iPods, Digital Cameras, Digital Video Cameras .
 - <http://www.greenschoolfundraiser.org>
 - Toll Free: 1-888-EcoPhones / 1-888-326-7466
 - Email: info@ecophones.com

- **Environment Connecticut** - Environment Connecticut is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. Our professional staff combines independent research, practical ideas and tough-minded advocacy to overcome the opposition of powerful special interests and win real results for Connecticut's environment. Environment Connecticut draws on 30 years of success in tackling our state's top environmental problems.

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- www.environmentconnecticut.org
 - Phone (860) 231-8842
 - Fax (860) 233-7574
 - E-mail: Info@EnvironmentConnecticut.org

 - **Face of Connecticut** – The Face of Connecticut Campaign is a collaborative effort between land conservation, farmland preservation, historic preservation, smartgrowth, and brownfields remediation advocates.
 - www.faceofconnecticut.org
 - Email: faceofconnecticut@gmail.com

 - **Farm to School Program** – The Farm-to-School Program is a statewide program through the CT Department of Agriculture designed to use Connecticut Grown fresh fruits and vegetables in your schools' cafeteria meals and snacks. This project is twofold: to support local farms and to offer fresher, more nutritious produce in the school meals.
 - www.ct.gov/doag (click on "programs and services")
 - (860) 713-2588
 - Email: jane.slupecki@ct.gov

 - **The Green Vibration** – The Green Vibration is an adventurous attempt of one family's solution to finding ways to live more lightly on the planet while informing and inspiring others to do the same. Links to local resources for food, home and body care and more. Includes online community.
 - www.thegreenvibration.net
 - (860) 713-2588
 - Email: jane.slupecki@ct.gov

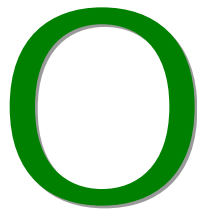
 - **Nature Conservancy – Connecticut Chapter** – The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.
 - www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/connecticut
 - Phone: (860) 344-0716
 - Fax: (860) 344-1334
 - E-mail: ct@tnc.org

 - **Northeast Lamp Recycling** – You see fluorescent lamps everywhere – in offices, stores, warehouses, street corners, even in homes. So how can these lamps pose such enormous environmental and health risks? The answer is blowing in the wind – literally. When the mercury in most lamps joins with the calcium phosphate powder, the potential for exposure is widespread. After the lamps are broken and crushed in dumpsters, mercury vapors escape into the atmosphere only to fall back to earth when it rains, contaminating the water supply, fish and anyone that consumes them.
 - www.nlrlamp.com

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- Toll Free: 877.8.2bgreen or 888.657.5267
 - Local: 860.292.1992
 - Fax: 860.292.1114

 - **Rivers Alliance of Connecticut** - Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to protecting and enhancing Connecticut's rivers, streams, and watersheds. We promote and support environmentally sound state policies, assist the state's many watershed and river groups, and educate the public about the importance of water conservation and aquatic habitats.
 - www.riversalliance.org
 - 860-361-9349
 - Email: rivers@riversalliance.org

 - **Whole Foods** - Whole Foods Market Westport invites you to join us with our newest Green Mission project in a collection of Number 5 Plastics from your neighborhood, schools, or other resources in the community. Products like cream cheese, butter and yogurt are packaged in Number 5 plastics and can be delivered to our store to be recycled as part of our "Preserve Gimme 5" recycling program.
 - www.wholefoods.com
 - 203-227-6858
 - Email: Greenplanet00@aol.com



Other related web sites

Center for Plant Conservation, Inc. - National network of 25 botanical gardens and arboreta dedicated to the conservation and study of rare and endangered U.S. plants.
www.mobot.org/CPC

Click4Carbon – Includes a carbon footprint calculator.
www.clickforcarbon.com

The Cousteau Society - An interactive site that educates the public about natural ecosystems.
www.cousteausociety.org

Endangered Species Home Page, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Information on the Endangered Species Act and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers it.
endangered.fws.gov

Environment and Energy Daily – online reporting of environmental issues in congress.
www.eenews.net

Environmental Defense Fund - Information on endangered species, rainforests and recycling.
www.edf.org

Fuel Economy – Federal website on energy efficiency. Look up mileage ratings, alternate fuel vehicles, ways to save on fuel.
www.fueleconomy.gov

National Audubon Society - A resource on how to use natural resources intelligently.
www.audubon.org

National Wildlife Federation - Works to protect nature and wildlife. Their mission is to confront global warming, restore wildlife and habitats and connect people with nature. Their annual reports have a great list of completed projects.
www.nwf.org

Nature Conservancy - International nonprofit organization committed to persevering biological diversity by protecting natural lands and the life they harbor.
www.tnc.org

One Thing – Links to Connecticut energy resources and conservation methods and partners.

www.onethingct.com

The Sierra Club - An organization that preserves and protects national parks and wilderness areas.

www.sierraclub.org

U.S. Department of Energy - The Department of Energy is committed to reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and developing energy efficient technologies for buildings, homes, transportation, power systems and industry.

www.energy.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment.

www.epa.gov

World Wildlife Fund - The largest private U.S. organization working worldwide to protect wildlife and wild lands — especially in the tropical forests of Latin America, Asia and Africa.

www.wwf.org