

Washington Environmental Council

MISSION

To be an advocate and provide leadership in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the Town of Washington and the surrounding region.

ORGANIZATION & MEMBERSHIP

The Washington Environmental Council was founded in 1971 and is a domestic not-for-profit corporation. The Council's activities are carried out by its Board of Directors, its Advisory Board and a cadre of volunteers drawn from its membership. It is a Section 501 (c)(3) corporation and funds its activities through the contributions made by its members. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Each person, corporation or other entity making a monetary donation shall be considered a member for a 12 month period following the donation. Membership in the Council is open to anyone. Donations may be sent to the Washington Environmental Council, P.O. Box 283, Washington Depot, CT 06794

WEC PROGRAMS

Earth Day
Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
Recycling Challenge "40% by 2014"
The Harwood Environmental Lecture Series
Climate Change Awareness Day
Student Environmental Programs
College Scholarships for Environmental Studies
Edible Garden, Nutritional Lunch & Recycling Programs for Local Schools
Shepaug Water Quality Testing Program

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carlos Canal-President - Acting Treasurer • Sarah Gager-Vice President • Terri Tibbatts-Secretary
Cheryl Anderson • Gretchen Farmer • Richard Heffernon • Sarah Jenkins • Eliza Paolucci • Dan Sherr


**Washington
Environmental
Council**
P.O. Box 283
Washington Depot, CT 06794
www.wec-ct.org

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Washington Environmental Council

SPRING 2011

Earth Day 2011

Saturday, April 16 • 9am - 2pm

Town Hall Green, Washington Depot, CT

(rain or shine)

ROADSIDE CLEAN UP - 9 AM to 12 Noon

Everyone is asked to help clean up our local roads.

Form a group of clean up volunteers with your neighbors. Clean up your roads and compete for the prize money. Prize winners will be announced during the Earth Day Celebration.

Trash bags will be available in the foyer of Town Hall starting Tuesday, April 12th, along with helpful information about the "do's and don'ts" of recycling.

Bring the filled trash bags to the Town Hall for disposal in an onsite dumpster. Any metal or large objects should be placed alongside the dumpster.

Clean Clothes Donations and Sneakers (in any condition) are also being collected for re-use and recycling.

\$50 CASH PRIZES FOR SPECIAL CLEAN UP CATEGORIES

- Most trash
- Most unusual item
- Largest item
- Oldest item
- Most reusable item
- Most absurd item

**To qualify for prizes trash must be checked
in between 10 a.m. and 12 Noon**

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - 12 Noon to 2 PM

FOOD by Anne Gallagher co-founder of Plow to Plate who will serve Mini sliders of grass-fed beef and local vegetables. Lemonade and Iced Tea will also be available.

MUSIC by Kristin Richards and Friends. They'll be singing earth themed folk music accompanied by guitar.

SPARKLES THE CLOWN will produce magic tricks and create balloon animals. Tom O'Brien Productions



LIVE OWLS AND HAWKS PRESENTATION AT 1 P.M.
by the Sharon Audubon Center.

THE NEW AMERICAN CHESTNUT Distribution of Seedlings by Aimee Cowan, a Shepaug Valley Senior, as part of her Senior Project. Seedlings donated by the American Chestnut Foundation.



BOOTHS & DISPLAYS

- Judea Garden will hand out packets of vegetable seeds to children and promote community gardens.
- The Washington Garden Club will provide literature on native species of plants and animals.
- The Lake Waramaug Task Force will have several displays and literature on the lake and its watershed.
- The Washington Supply Co. will host a display of their green products.
- The Hickory Stick Book Store will have a supply of environmental books for sale.
- The Animal Welfare Society of New Milford will be coming with "animal representatives".
- WEC will display their Watt's Up Meters available at the Gunn Memorial Library and will also provide information on invasive species and other topics of environmental interest and concern.
- WEC will receive clean clothes and sneakers (in any condition) at the re-use and recycle tables.



40 Years of History

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) was founded in 1971 when the environmental movement was just beginning in this country. The issues of the time determined where we focused our time, energy and resources. Over the years, we have enjoyed the leadership and support of many fine individuals and have formed an effective coalition with the various public and private groups in Washington and the surrounding region. In 1972 WEC advocated recycling and other sound ecological practices as part of every day life in town.

Through the following decades, we continued to broaden our environmental activities, while also successfully protecting Washington's environment by defeating, in cooperation with others, the Iroquois Pipeline that proposed running a natural gas pipeline through the heart of Washington and the Sempra Power Plant, that while based in New Milford, would have materially affected air quality in parts of our town and the Lake Waramaug region. WEC also supported the Shepaug River Association in its lengthy and successful effort to save the Shepaug River. **Washington's beauty today is in part the result of things that did not happen in the past due in good measure to timely actions taken by the Council.**

In the new century, the challenges have changed and so has WEC. Today, we are educating a new generation in important environmental issues through our expanding school programs, our environmental scholarships, our newsletters, our lecture series and the sponsoring of Earth Day and Climate Change Awareness Day events. While we continue to expand many of our earlier activities, WEC is also responding to new threats to our environment. The challenges we face to carry out our mission have become more complicated and expensive. WEC's ongoing success will be based on our ability to identify new opportunities and new threats to the environment and to effectively increase local understanding and support for us to deal effectively with them. WEC's mission is clear and together with our supporters, we can be effective stewards of the environment and help to maintain Washington as the unique and beautiful place that it is for the enjoyment of present and future generations.



The American Chestnut Foundation has semi-replicated the American Chestnut restoring it to New England Forests. The foundation has donated seedlings to Aimee Cowan, a Shepaug Valley HS senior, for distribution at the Earth Day event Saturday, April 16, 2011. With the support of WEC, Ms. Cowan, is working with the Town, Steep Rock and the school district to plant seedlings on public and land trust property in the Town of Washington. www.acf.org

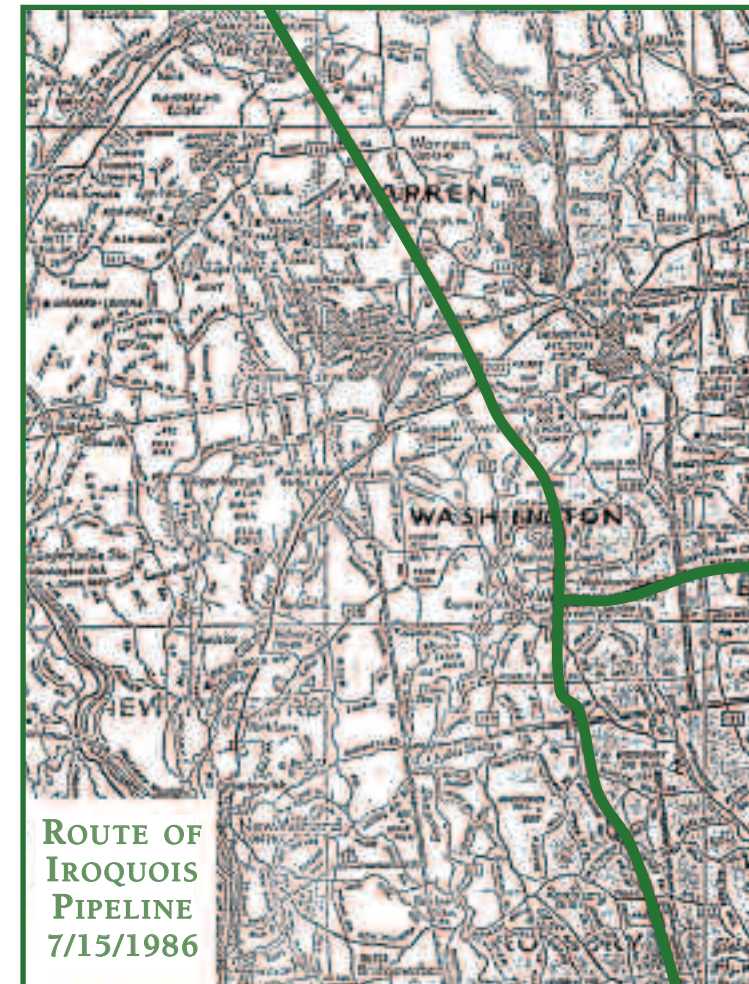
WEC PLAN 2011

think green act green

- Increase Recycling by at least 5% in 2011 to a level of 25% within WEC's Challenge to the Town to Increase Total Amount Recycled to 40% by 2014.
- Continue Program to Educate Town Residents on Energy and Water Conservation in the Home.
- Advocate for Clean Power Alternatives by Working Jointly with CT Clean Energy Options.
- Increase College Scholarships for Environmental Studies from Five to Ten per Year.
- Expand the Council's Involvement with Local Schools to Promote Edible Schoolyard Programs, Nutritional Lunch Programs and Recycling Initiatives
- Maintain our Harwood Memorial Lecture Series on Environmental Topics at Two per Year.
- Publish our Environmental Newsletter at least Twice Per Year.
- Continue to Update and Expand the Council's Website.
- Design Earth Day and Climate Day Programs to Include Other Washington Organizations, Local Schools and Greater Participation by Town Residents.
- Hold 40th Anniversary Reception for Members and Residents.
- Continue Water Testing of Shepaug under CT Environmental Protection Agency Programs
- Promote and Implement:
 - a) Household Hazardous Waste Day and Increase Participation by Town Residents.
 - b) Energy Conservation Education Program for Local Churches.
 - c) Local Farms/Local Foods Initiatives.

An Environmental Disaster That Did Not Happen

The spring of 1986 turned out to be a harbinger of potentially great risk to the quality of Washington's environment and the potential destruction of many of its most beautiful natural resources.



In May of that year, Iroquois Gas Transmission System (Iroquois Pipeline) submitted its application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for permission to build a 356 mile long natural gas pipeline through New York and Connecticut. The pipeline would run south through Lake Waramaug's eastern watershed, cross the Shepaug, run through Steep Rock into the center of our town and proceed south towards the Roxbury Land Trust and beyond. Washington was to be twice blessed in that Iroquois also proposed that a second pipeline (spur) be built, which would begin at the Green proceeding east through the Gunnery athletic fields, cross Nettleton Hollow, dissect the Dorr Nature Center, go through Thomaston and then on to Hartford.

Needless to say, a clarion call to arms was sounded by WEC. The Council, along with six prominent local residents, led the charge. WEC organized a grass roots effort, became an intervenor in the proceedings, raised close to \$300,000 and was instrumental in forming the Northern Valley Environmental Council (NVEC), a group of nine towns affected by the pipeline that joined together to confront Iroquois. WEC on behalf of NVEC hired a prominent Washington DC law firm that specialized in FERC regulatory matters.

FERC prepared an environmental impact statement that supported many of the concerns raised by NVEC. As a result, Iroquois was forced to change the route of its pipeline so that it would not do as much environmental damage as originally proposed.

WEC's tenacious, strong and far reaching opposition was rewarded when Iroquois decided in early 1989 not to route its pipeline through Washington. The long battle was over and Washington had won.

LOW COST/NO COST SUMMER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Set your air conditioner 5° higher – and save up to 20% in usage costs.
- Utilize ceiling fans to cool down; most fans use less energy than a light bulb.
- Have your cooling systems serviced to cut 15% from cooling costs.
- Don't cool the great outdoors – by adding insulation and sealing cracks, gaps and leaks, you can save up to 20% in cooling costs.
- Keep windows, shades and doors closed during the day to keep your home cool and reduce cooling costs.
- Professionally seal your heating and cooling ducts and save up to \$190 per year.
- Use programmable thermostats to make it easy to regulate temperatures even when you're not home and save up to \$160/year.
- 90% of incandescent bulbs produce heat, not light so switch to fluorescents to save on cooling and lighting costs
- Switch to a low-flow showerhead and save up to \$250 per year for a family of four in hot water heating costs.