

# **Sustainable CT Community Certification Report**

This is the Sustainable CT Certification Report of Branford, a Sustainable CT bronze certified applicant.

Branford was certified on September 29, 2023 with 265 points. Listed below is information regarding Branford's Sustainable CT efforts and materials associated with the applicant's certified actions.

#### **Contact Information**

The designated Sustainable CT contact for Branford is:

Name:	TYLER BOWNE
Title/Position:	SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER / OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPLIANCE
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## **Actions Implemented**

Each approved action and supporting documentation for which Branford was approved for in 2023 appears below. Please enjoy this opportunity to view and learn from the information and materials provided.

Notes: Submission content was created by Branford, and Sustainable CT makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the submission, beyond that an individual reviewer approved at least some elements of the action for certification. Further, standards for actions below may have changed, and the documentation listed may no longer satisfy requirements for that action. Finally, approved actions here may include some documents and descriptions in support of action elements that were not approved, in addition to elements that were approved. In preparing your own application, please rely only on the action write-ups for the current certification year to guide your submission. Please contact <a href="mailto:info@sustainablect.org">info@sustainablect.org</a> with specific questions.

## 1. Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts

## 1.1 Optimize for Equity – REQUIRED for All Certification Levels

10 Points

Approved Information: 1.1 Optimize for Equity (10 points)

**Supporting Documentation:** 

WORD: 1.1 EQUITY TOOLKIT HEATSMART CAMPAIGN\_FINAL.DOCX

**Partners:** 1.1 Optimize for Equity - HeatSmart Campaign Community Energy Campaign 2021 - Office of Sustainability, Board of Selectmen, Clean Energy Committee, Parks and Recreation, local organizations, PACE, Air Inc., Living Wisely and Well, CMC Energy and NECS

#### 2. Thriving Local Economies

#### 2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites

15 Points

**Approved Information:** 2.1.1: Create a municipal or regional brownfield inventory (10 points), 2.1.2: Create a map of brownfield sites within your community (5 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: BRANFORD BROWNFIELD INVENTORY, MAP AND REPORT

**EXCEL: BRANFORD BROWN FIELD INVENTORY** 

**PDF: LANDFILL CLOSURE VERIFICATION** 

**IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK - PASSIVE RECREATION** 

IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK PAVILLION.JPG

**IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK SOLAR - EE LIGHTING.JPG** 

IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK BENCH.JPG

IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK BIKE RAKE AND TREE PLANTING.JPG

IMAGE: ECOLOGY PARK SIGNAGE.JPG

PDF: 15AUG11 DEEP CLOSURE ACCEPTANCE LETTER.PDF

PDF: 2.1 REDEVELOP BROWNFIELD SITES INFORMATION AUTHORIZATION.PDF

Partners: 2.1 Support Redevelopment of Brownfield Sites: Branford Inland Wetlands department, Branford

Open Space and Park Commission

## 2.4 Provide Resources and Supports to Local Businesses

5 Points

**Approved Information:** 2.4.2 Create or support Small Business Development Centers or other comparable entities (5 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

**IMAGE: 2.4 MAIN STREET MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FLYER.JPG** 

**Documentation Details:** The Economic and Business Development Manager recently worked alongside local merchants to support and facilitate a local merchants street fair to promote local businesses within our town. Main Street Municipal Support Flyer posted on Branford Facebook page and town website: https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?

fbid=602818558678441&set=a.166725978954370&type=3&ref=embed\_page https://www.branford-ct.gov/ - (in Facebook scrolling window near bottom of page) Our town has a specific department devoted to supporting local businesses. Economic and Business Development Manager - Perry Maresca - https://www.branford-ct.gov/executive-profiles/economic-and-business-development-manager-perry-maresca

**Partners:** 2.4.2 New Action Credit - Provide Resources and Support to Local Businesses - Branford Department of Economic and Business Development, Local Merchants

#### 3. Well-Stewarded Land and Natural Resources

#### 3.1 Provide Watershed Education

10 Points

Approved Information: 3.1.1a. Sponsor or host a watershed education program (10 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: ALL THE WAY TO THE OCEAN LEARNING ABOUT THE WATERSHED (FOR GRADES 2-4) - APRIL 2021 LIBRARY.PDF

PDF: STORM WATER CATCH BASIN EDUCATION EVENT FLYER 2023.PDF

**Documentation Details:** 3.1 New Action Credit - Provide Watershed Education - July 2023: Website containing more information: https://sites.google.com/view/branford-storm-drain-art/home Article about event: https://www.zip06.com/news/20230731/eye-catching-art-meaningful-messages/

**Partners:** 3.1 Provide Watershed Education April 2021 - Blackstone Library, Office of Sustainability, Regional Water Authority 3.1 Provide Watershed Education - July 2023 - Branford Engineering, Branford Parks and Recreation, Branford Public Works, Branford Sustainability and Compliance, CT DEEP, Lots of Fish LLC

## 3.12 Enhance Pollinator Pathways

20 Points

**Approved Information:** 3.12.1: Provide education to residents and local businesses to improve pollinator habitat (5 points); 3.12.2: Create native pollinator gardens, upgrade existing gardens to be pollinator friendly (15 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: 3.12.1.BLTWEBSITE\_POLLINATORPATHWAYINITIATIVE2022.PDF

IMAGE: 3.12.1.SCREEN SHOT\_BCEC\_FB\_KICKOFF.PNG

IMAGE: 3.12.1.SCREENSHOT\_BCEC\_FB.PNG

PDF: 3.12.1.WEBSITETEXT\_ALMOST FINAL\_JULY2022.PDF

PDF: 3.12.1.BROCHURE\_BRANFORDPP.PDF

IMAGE: 3.12.1.PHOTO\_BRANFORDFESTIVAL\_PLANTGIVEAWAY2022.JPEG

PDF: 3.12.1.MEADOW\_SEED\_LIST.PDF

 $\textbf{PDF: } \underline{\textbf{3.12.2.PHOTOS.PDF}}$ 

PDF: 3.12.2.FDCAMPAIGN\_POLLINATOR\_PATHWAY.PDF
IMAGE: 3.12.2.SCREEN SHOT FD PATRONICITY.PNG
IMAGE: 3.12.2.PHOTO\_PP\_GARDEN\_FHSIGN.JPG

IMAGE: 3.12.2.SCREEN SHOT\_FD\_FB.PNG

IMAGE: 3.12.2.SCREEN SHOT\_PPVETSGARDEN\_PRESS.PNG

PDF: 3.12.1.WILDFLOWERS FOR POLLINATORS.PDF

**Documentation Details:** Our Pollinator Pathway efforts and outreach began with the Branford Pathway Pathway Project Kick-Off: 3.12.1.BLT\_PollinatorPathwayInitiative2022.pdf is a screenshot from the Branford Land Trust's website and 3.12.1.ScreenShot\_BCEC\_FB\_KickOff.png is a screenshot from the Branford Conservation and Environment Commission (BCEC)'s Facebook Page, which both announced the event.

Information provided at the Kick-Off, such as links to the slideshow and to the Pollinator Pathways organization's website, has been made available on the BCEC's Facebook Page: 3.12.1.ScreenShot BCEC FB.png. Another means of outreach will be though the BCEC's website (3.12.1.WebsiteText Almost Final\_July2022.pdf, pages 6-9), which is in the stage of final edits before going live on the Town's website. See pages 6-9 for a educational materials about Pollinator Pathways, as well as a description of BCEC's creation of two Pollinator Pathway Meadows, one at Anderson Lookout and one at the Branford Early Learning Center. BCEC also engages with thousands of visitors at the annual Branford Festival. At the 2022 Branford Festival, BCEC discussed and educated the public about pollinators, native plants, and the Pollinator Pathway. We distributed literature (3.12.1.Brochure BranfordPP.pdf and 3.12.1.Wildflowers for Pollinators.pdf) and gave away 128 native pollinator plants (common milkweed, butterfly weed, and swamp milkweed; 3.12.1.Photo\_BranfordFestival\_PlantGiveaway2022.pdf) plus packets of Meadow Seed Mix (3.12.1.Meadow Seed List.pdf). The PP Garden at the Fire Headquarters provides an additional means of engaging with human visitors to the garden by including labels of the plants, which also provides education and promotion of pollinator plants (3.12.2.Photo PP Garden FH Coreopsis.jpg, for example (see 3.12.2.Photos.pdf)). Plans are in the works for BCEC to add plant identification labels at other PP Gardens. 3.12.2.Photos.pdf: photos of the 7 PP Gardens installed by the Town. 3.12.2. FDCampaign\_Pollinator\_Pathway.pdf and 3.12.2.Screen Shot FD Patronicity.png: promotional material for the Fire Department's PP Fundraising Campaign 3.12.2.Photo\_PP\_Garden\_FHSign.jpg and 3.12.2.Screen Shot\_FD\_FB.png: promotional material for the Fire Department's PP Garden 3.12.2.Screen Shot\_PPVetsGarden\_Press.png: promotional material announcing the installation and dedication of

**Partners:** The Branford Land Trust helped publicize the PP Kick-Off Event, which was prepared and hosted by the Branford Conservations and Environment Commission (BCEC). The Branford Festival is co-hosted by the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and the Branford Arts and Cultural Alliance. BCEC was responsible for our booth at the Festival. SustainableCT provided matching funds to the Town (Fire Department) to match the funds raised by community members. The Fire Department installed and has maintained the PP Garden. Together with the Town of Branford, the families Ed and Carol Zack, Sr. and Gary Zielinski contributed to the creation of the Veteran's Memorial PP Garden at Foote Memorial Park and its commemorative plaque. The garden was designed by Branford Public Works supervisor Gary Zielinski and built by Public Works with assistance from Branford Parks and Recreation.

Veteran's Memorial PP Garden

Additional Information: Another means of engagement and education has been Work Days with BCEC, during which volunteers helped create the Pollinator Pathway Meadows at Anderson Lookout and the Branford Early Learning Center. Volunteers were recruited from the Kick-Off event and contacted through an email list that the BCEC maintains. During the Work Days, volunteers learned through hands-on experience how to prepare the site by removal of vegetation to bare soil, followed by solarization with plastic. The germination of seeds and the establishment of plants at the PP Meadow at the BELC was much more successful than at Anderson Lookout. (However, compared to the nearly complete covering by mugwort at the Anderson Lookout site prior to our work, Anderson Lookout is now much more beneficial to pollinators.) The mugwort that remained after solarization will be removed by hand during the remainder of this growing season, and additional plugs will be planted this fall.

#### 3.13 Promote Dark Skies

15 Points

Approved Information: 3.13.3: Require dark sky compliance in zoning regulations (15 points)

## **Supporting Documentation:**

WORD: 3.13- PROMOTE DARK SKIES-BRANFORD PLANNING AND ZONING REGULATION

**Documentation Details:** https://www.branford-ct.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/branfordzr\_effective\_122519.pdf- pls. 119-120

Partners: planning office, P&Z commission, conservation commission

## 4. Vibrant and Creative Cultural Ecosystems

## **4.1 Map Tourism and Cultural Assets**

5 Points

**Approved Information:** 4.1.2 Update Your Profile on CTVisit (5 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: 4.1 CTVISIT TOWN OF BRANFORD.PDF

**Documentation Details:** 4.1.2 Update Your Profile on CTVisit 2023 (5 points) 2023 - Link to Branford CTVisit Profile https://www.ctvisit.com/listings/town-branford

**Partners:** 4.1.2 Update Your Profile on CTVisit 2023 (5 points) 2023: Branford Office of Sustainability and Compliance

## 5. Dynamic and Resilient Planning

#### **5.5 Inventory and Assess Historic Resources**

50 Points

**Approved Information:** 5.5.1 Identify multiple priority historic assets within your community (15 points); 5.5.2 Assess viability and long-term health of historic assets (30 points); 5.5.3 Sponsor or host an educational workshop or program to educate owners on how to manage their historic building (5 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: SAMPLE OF HISTORY OF CONTRACTS FOR TRINITY.PDF

PDF: 5.5.1-3 HISTORICAL SITE INVENTORY OVERVIEW AND DOCUMENTATION

PDF: TRINITY CAPITAL PROJECT 2019-2020 APPLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS.PDF

**IMAGE: TRINITYS CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST2.JPG** 

PDF: 5.5.1 INVENTORY OF HISTORICAL BRANFORD.PDF
PDF: 5.5 AUTHORIZATION LETTER OF INFORMATION.PDF

**Partners:** 5.5- Inventory and Assess Historic Resource - Blackstone library, historical society in Branford, The State historical society and neighborhood associations

## 5.6 Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installations

20 Points

**Approved Information:** 5.6.2 Achieve at least Bronze status in the national SolSmart program (20 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: BRANFORD \_ SOLSMART\_BRONZE.PDF

**Partners:** 5.6.2 - New Credit - Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installations- achieve Bronze SolSmart 5/2022 Branford First Selectman, Branford Clean Energy Committee, Planning and zoning, Branford Building official, Branford Office of Sustainability and Compliance

## 6. Clean and Diverse Transportation Systems and Choices

## **6.4 Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment**

5 Points

**Approved Information:** 6.4.2 Participate in a training related to electrification of municipal vehicles (5 points)

## **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: BRANFORD EV BUS TRAINING PROGRAM
PDF: OVERVIEW OF EV TOOLKIT TRAINING

**Documentation Details:** 6.4.2 EV Toolkit Training Attendees - Sharon Huttner; Energy Committee, Eunice Mahler; Energy Committee, Tony Cinicola; building official Ed Borrelli; Lead Mechanic, John Prins; Chair of Board of Education. This information from the trainings was brought back to commission meetings and presented to the public and board members. Various board meetings between 2020-2022. Presently, the board of education is still evaluating the Electric buses for the schools and beginning with their first EV van for food services program.

**Partners:** office of sustainability, energy committee, living wisely and well organization, BCTV, Living Wisely and Well

**Additional Information:** The Electric School Bus Toolkit was a 6-week program designed to teach community members how to bring electric school buses to their towns. Branford completed all modules, completing the program and earning a certificate of completion. To earn a Certificate of Completion, participants were required to attend weekly modules, review all program materials, complete tasks, and build an Electric School Bus Team in their community. More information about the program is attached in the overview sheet This information from the trainings was brought back to commission meetings and presented to the public and board members. Various board meetings between 2020-2022. Presently, the board of education is still evaluating the Electric buses for the schools and beginning with their first EV van for food services program.

## 7. Renewable and Efficient Energy Infrastructure and Operations

#### 7.7 Implement a Community Energy Campaign

10 Points

**Approved Information:** 7.7.1 Implement a Community Energy Campaign (10 points)

## **Supporting Documentation:**

WORD: 04 ONE PG FLYER DR 9.30.20.DOCX

PDF: BRANFORD LAUNCHES RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PROGRAM

WORD: <u>04 ONE PG FLYER DR 9.30.20.DOCX</u>

WORD: <u>ENERGY CAMPAIGNS OVERVIEW</u>

Partners: Clean Energy Committee, Living Wisely and Well, Office of Sustainability, Office of the First

Selectman, local organizations and churches

## 8. Inclusive Engagement, Communication and Education

## 8.1 Hold a Sustainability Event

10 Points

Approved Information: 8.1.1 Support and hold a sustainability event (10 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: GREEN USE APPLICATION EARTH DAY 4.17.2021.PDF

IMAGE: BRANFORD EARTH DAY FAIR 2021 CLEAN ENERGY TABLE.JPG
EXCEL: SUSTAINABLECT BRANFORD SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS.XLSX

PDF: RECYCLING WORKSHOP AT BRANFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT \_ JUNE 28 FLYER.PDF

PDF: EARTH DAY FAIR FLYER\_2023.PDF

**Partners:** 8.1.1 Sustainability Event - Recycling Workshop at Fire Department: Branford Fire Department, CTDEEP 8.1.1 Sustainability Event - Earth Day 2023: Branford Parks and Recreation, Branford Police Department, Branford Fire Department, Living Wisely and Well on Planet Earth 8.1.1 Sustainability Event - Earth Day Fair 2021: Clean Energy Committee, Parks and Recreation, Blue Earth Compost, Branford Garden Club, Uconn master gardeners and master composters, various town department and fire department

## 9. Strategic Materials Management

## 9.3 Recycle Additional Materials

10 Points

Approved Information: 9.3.1 Recycling additional materials (used trash and recycling bins-10 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: SWMC MINUTES JULY 12 2023.PDF

PDF: MIXED RIGID PLASTIC RECYCLING INVOICE.PDF

**Documentation Details:** SWMC Minutes July 12 2023 states in "Old Business" on second page that we are recycling old trash and recycling containers with a company in Rhode Island. MRP Invoice Printout shows the partnership between Full Circle Recycling and The Town of Branford Info on Town Website - https://www.branford-ct.gov/node/4136 - Information on Town website stating there is a drop-off for old trash and recycling bins to be recycled instead of sent tolandfills. Under the section called "DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION UPDATE". The town is working with the business called Full Circle Recycling for this project. Info from Public Paper - https://www.ctinsider.com/shoreline/article/branford-residents-adjust-recycling-trash-18256359.php#photo-24066316 - Number 1 on the list at the bottom of the article states the collection of old trash and recycling bins to be recycled.

**Partners:** 9.3 New Credit - Recycle Additional Materials - Trash and Recycling Bins - 2023 - Branford Sustainability and Compliance, Branford Transfer Station, Branford Solid Waste Management Commission, Full Circle Recycling (https://www.fullcirclerecyclingri.com/)

**Additional Information:** These bins are being collected due to the our town implementing a project that provided every eligible residence with a new trash and recycling cart. We wanted to make sure the old bins that residents were using prior did not end up in landfills and was recycled instead.

## 9.4 Reduce and Compost Organic Waste

35 Points

**Approved Information:** 9.4.1 Implement ongoing food waste prevention campaign (5 points) 9.4.2 Implement food waste diversion program (2 programs - 30 points)

### **Supporting Documentation:**

WORD: 9.4 OVERVIEW\_BRANFORD\_FOOD SCRAPS RECOVERY CAMPAIGNS AND PROGRAMS.DOCX

WORD: LETTER TO RESIDENT. PILOTPROGRAM. BEC DRAFT.DMB EDITS.DOCX

PDF: <u>EARTH MATTERS 2022-2023 NEWSLETTER</u> **EXCEL**: <u>TONNAGE FOOD SCRAPS DIVERTED IN FY22</u>

Partners: Town of Branford, Solid waste and recycling, blackstone library, UCONN master composters

## 10. Optimal Health and Wellness Opportunities

## **10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces**

15 Points

Approved Information: 10.4.1 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces (15 points)

## **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: BRANFORD COMMUNITY GARDEN INFO.PDF

IMAGE: COMMUNITY GARDEN 1.JPG
IMAGE: COMMUNITY GARDEN 2.JPG
IMAGE: COMMUNITY GARDEN 3.JPG

PDF: CERTIFICATION LETTER FOR BRANFORD COMMUNITY GARDEN INFORMATION.PDF

Partners: 10.4 Develop and Promote Community Growing Spaces - Branford Community Gardens - 2023:

Branford Board of Education, Branford Garden Club

Additional Information: Additional information found on organization website:

https://branfordctgardens.org/about/

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#### 11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan



**Approved Information:** 11.1.1 Create a housing committee (10 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PLAN POCD 2019
PDF: PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES PROFILE
PDF: BRANFORD - AH PLAN ADOPTED 051922.PDF

PDF: <u>03\_SURVEY\_RESULTS\_120821.PDF</u>

WORD: NAMES AND TITLES OF HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PDF: HOUSING COMMITTEE MINUTES 11.29.2021

PDF: 11.1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE 2021 AGENDA.PDF

PDF: 11.1.2 - 2023 11.1 WORKSHEET.PDF

PDF: 11.1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE 2022 AGENDA.PDF

**Documentation Details:** 11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan: The 2022-27 Branford Affordable Housing Plan (adopted May 19, 2022) https://www.branford-ct.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/branford\_-ah\_plan\_adopted\_051922.pdf https://housingprofiles.pschousing.org/profile/#Branford

**Partners:** 11.1 Implement an Affordable Housing Plan: Town of Branford Planning and Zoning Commission, Town of Branford Planning and Zoning Department

#### 12. Effective, Compassionate Homelessness Prevention

## 12.2 Increase Public Awareness and Support for Efforts to End Homelessness

5 Points

**Approved Information:** 12.2.2a-b: Develop and post information on your municipality's website for those experiencing homelessness (5 points)

#### **Supporting Documentation:**

PDF: 12.2.2 MEMO ON TIMEFRAME FOR CREDIT.PDF

PDF: 12.2.2 WEBSITE INFORMATION.PDF

**Documentation Details:** https://www.branford-ct.gov/departments/senior-center/social-services https://www.branford-ct.gov/departments/counseling-center

**Partners:** Town of Branford, Branford Counseling and community services, Branford CARES

## 13. Innovative Strategies and Practices

#### 13.1 Implement Your Own Sustainability Action

15 Points

**Approved Information:** 13.1.1 Collaborate within your community or take a regional approach to implementing a sustainability action not listed on the Sustainable CT action list. (15 points)

## **Supporting Documentation:**

WORD: 10.1 SUSTAINABILITY COMPLIANCE MANAGER JOB POSTING.DOCX

**PDF**: 13.1.TREE INFO SHEETS.PDF

PDF: 13.1.VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY\_TREE PLANTING.PDF

IMAGE: 13.1.SCREEN SHOT TREE GIVEAWAY EARTH DAY.PNG

IMAGE: 13.1. SCREEN SHOT TREE GIVEAWAY APRIL 30.PNG

IMAGE: 13.1.SCREEN SHOT TREE GIVEAWAY GARDENCLUB.PNG

IMAGE: 13.1.PHOTO BRANFORD FESTIVAL TREES.JPEG
IMAGE: 13.1.PHOTO TREES LOCATION FOOTE PARK.JPG

IMAGE: 13.1PHOTO SYCAMORE 1.JPG
IMAGE: 13.1PHOTO SYCAMORE 2.JPG
IMAGE: 13.1.PHOTO SASSAFRAS 1.JPG
IMAGE: 13.1.PHOTO SASSAFRAS 2.JPG

**Documentation Details:** 13.1.Tree info sheets.pdf: these were on display at the tree give-away events to provide information about the trees; residents were encouraged to photograph the information sheets. 13.1.Photo Branford Festival trees, jpeg is a photo annotated with a red oval to highlight trees in 1-gallon buckets that were given away at the Branford Festival. 13.1.Photo\_trees\_location\_Foote\_Park.jpg shows one location in Foote Park were trees were planted, with examples shown in 13.1.Photo\_sycamore\_1.jpg and 13.1.Photo\_sycamore\_2.jpg. Sassafras trees were planted near Chet's pond along the Greenway Trail, with examples shown in 13.1.Photo\_sassafras\_1.jpg and 13.1.Photo\_sassafras\_2.jpg.

**Partners:** Town of Branford 13.1. Tree give-away and planting: Trees were given away at events hosted by other organizations as follows: Earth Day Fair, co-hosted by the Town and the community group Living Wisely and Well on Planet Earth (4/23/22); The Spring Plant Sale co-hosted by Branford Garden Club and Branford Community Gardens, (5/14/22); and the Branford Festival, co-hosted by Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and Branford Arts and Cultural Alliance (6/18/22). The role of the Town of Branford Conservation and Environment Commission was to provide the trees and education about the trees (and planting instructions). The tree planting in the municipal park near Chet's Pond along the Greenway Trail was open to volunteers at large. The role of the Town of Branford Conservation and Environment Commission was to organize the event, provide tools, give instruction, and help plant the trees.

**Additional Information:** In 2020 the Town of Branford took the next step in focusing on town wide sustainability and combatting climate change by creating a position for Sustainability and Compliance Manager. Detailed job description and responsibilities attached. The Town hired a Sustainability & Compliance Manager as of July 1, 2020. The Town of Branford Conservation and Environment Commission has given away and planted over 600 native tree seedlings since Earth Day 2022.