

The Wilby High School Health Club appreciates the opportunity to be participants in this event. As firm believers in bettering our environment, we thank you, members of the Connecticut Light and Power Company, and share your sentiments in looking forward to a better, brighter and greener future.

Everyone knows that finding renewable ways to preserve energy can save the world. Here at Wilby, we have realized that in order to do so, we have to change the way we live to enhance the health of our environment. Starting with your average paper-recycling bins, composts, and other means of energy conservation, Wilby works toward a green future. Having much success with the aforementioned, we currently strive to spread energy preservation methods to our whole facility. With the help of the Connecticut Light and Power grant, we at Wilby can reach even more "green goals".

There are many cases in which Wilby has successfully progressed in the journey towards going green. With energy efficient 40-watt fluorescent bulbs we save about 25% off the school's electricity bill annually. These bulbs however are not equally distributed about the building and, as a result, stunts our green growth. At Wilby compost is used as a reliable source for energy conservation in which uneaten food is broken down into minerals used by the budding inhabitants of our greenhouse. Last year, a group of Wilby's ATOMS (Advanced Technology of Math and Science) students under the guidance of Physics instructor Patrick Swift, placed second in the Connecticut Science Fair with the construction of their solar panel that harvested thermal energy. Another noteworthy eco-friendly gesture made by our school was the transferring of the school newspaper to the school website in an attempt to save on energy that would be needed to print and then recycle such papers. Our environmental club furthers these endeavors by going on community cleanups and fostering awareness of the dangers of littering.

All of these measures represent the beginning of a movement. They simply foreshadow the incredible heights to which Wilby will soar given the opportunity and resources.

Wilby is hard at work trying to sprout more eco-friendly branches. In an attempt to not merely scratch the surface in our green endeavors, we are promoting the use of projectors among the teachers as effort to conserve energy, ink and paper. Also our teachers are now allowing students to submit class assignments, essays, and term papers via e-mail instead of hard copies.

Our health club is constantly finding new ways to save energy. We are currently in the process of securing ties with the CC Cash Company that recycles old cellular phones and used ink cartridges.

Despite having done this much, there is room and need for improvement. We at Wilby are lacking many of the essentials that would transform us into the environment-saving facility that we aspire to be. Countless numbers of our school faucets have a never-ending drip (especially in our science labs and bathrooms). We also need recycling bins for our cafeteria, energy efficient bulbs in the remaining parts of the school, classroom can-recycling bins, transportation to a safe place to recycle our old computers, an

environmentally friendly alternative lunch trays to replace the harmful Styrofoam trays that we presently use and the list goes on.

Though the cost of our project will exceed the Live Green Win Green prize money, it will act as a form of encouragement for our school to become dedicated proponents of going green. It could also motivate the city of Waterbury to provide matching funds in an attempt to expand our green horizon.

In the words of one of our mentors Cyndi Stern “there are two approaches to health, one is prevention and the other is treatment”. Wilby High School chooses to be proactive by facing the problem now before more damage is done and preventing current health threats in an attempt to offset the need to cure. Waterbury is growing beyond its manufacturing history. The City is remediating brown fields, and creating a greenway along our once-blighted Naugatuck River. Our school was ranked in the bottom fifth percentile in Connecticut, as it relates to air pollution. We are in desperate need of becoming green.

Having already taken steps towards going green, with your help we at Wilby could more deeply make an imprint in our community.

Sincerely,  
The Wilby Wildcats