

Our View

Towns take steps to help the planet

Sometimes doing what's good for the environment is also good for the town.

Three local towns — Windham, Coventry and Hebron — ought to know.

All three were recently honored with “Sustainable CT” status by the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic.

On Oct. 30 at the annual Connecticut Conference of Municipalities convention at Foxwoods Resort Casino, all three towns will be among 22 being honored.

The trio was among 17 in total receiving “bronze” status, with five other Connecticut communities earning the higher, “silver” status.

So, what does it all mean?

It means these three communities have undertaken actions aimed at improving their towns via means that are not only beneficial to residents, but to Mother Earth as well.

For example, one look at Coventry's town hall shows row after row of solar panels, meaning at least part of Coventry's building is powered by the sun's rays.

Windham has also showed a commitment to sustainability, with a new microgrid system installed at Windham Middle School (to provide power to key town facilities in the event of an emergency), LEED bulbs in streetlights and making a commitment to local water quality.

Hebron is also in on the sustainability game, with pro-environment zoning regulations tweaked and the town hosting a document-shredding event this year.

This is much more than just hugging trees.

Achieving this status represents a commendable effort to looking beyond a town's borders and toward the planet as a whole.

It means when folks open up a sustainable town's website or receive a notice from such a town, the “Sustainable CT” logo will be present.

It means people will know these towns care about much bigger causes than themselves, possibly attracting new businesses and the type of residents desired in such a community.

And, to boot, it gives other towns something to shoot for.

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