



Coventry Public Works crew members Louis Frank, Kevin Vincens, David Mortimer and Troy Stout plant a new tree on the North Green intersection between Route 44 and Grant Hill Road in Coventry recently. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

Trees celebrate green goals

Town makes progress in eco initiative

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COVENTRY — Coventry's North Green has received a new addition in the form of a sourwood tree to celebrate the town's progression in the statewide Sustainable Connecticut initiative.

On Arbor Day this year, Coventry Town Manager John Elsesser expressed enthusiasm to move forward and pursue silver certification through Sustainable CT.

"With the final applications due in August, we'll be able to achieve that level, which shows our community's pride and that we're just borrowers of the earth for the period of time that we're here," Elsesser said. "It's our responsibility to try to do things to live within the loan that we have — respect the earth and try to be good partners with it."

In October 2018, Coventry became one of the 17 towns to achieve a bronze certification while five towns have a silver certification, according to Sustainable CT's website.



Coventry Public Works Superintendent of Operations Mark Owens, Mortimer and crew leader Monica Bragdon finish up the tree's planting. Roxanne Pandolfi | Staff

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Coventry Town Manager John Elsesser

Tree celebrates Coventry's green goals

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In recognition of its “sustainability leadership,” a sourwood tree planting was held on Coventry’s North Green at the intersection of Route 44 and Grant Hill Road April 26.

“We accept this (tree) in appreciation to the Sustainable CT program,” Elsesser said. “It will be another colorful reminder of the changing of the seasons.”

Coventry Tree Warden Mark Kiefer and Deputy Tree Warden Mark Owens selected the sourwood tree.

The species is notable for its vibrant fall foliage and it is a donation from the Connecticut Tree Protective Association in partnership with Sustainable CT.

“It’s not common to Connecticut, but it will add a lot to our green,” Elsesser said.

Owens highlighted that planting a tree is not as obvious of a process as it seems.

He said he was dead-set on this tree surviving as he instructed his six-man public works team on the proper procedures to ensure the tree’s root flares and feet were properly situated within the soil and not completely buried.



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Coventry submitted initial information last Thursday for feedback and a review for its silver certification, according to Elsesser.

The initiative is composed of a total of 55 actions promoting and practicing environmental sustainability organized within 10 categories and each completed action gives out points.

So far, Coventry has 340 points. To obtain a silver cer-

tification, Coventry needs 400 points.

Coventry Director of Planning and Development Eric Trott said the town is planning to get those 60 extra points through revising its previous submissions to get full credit on the categories that received partial credit in the past.

“Also, we have to complete three ‘optimize for equity’ projects which are 20 points

each and required for silver certification,” Trott said.

“We are going to be connecting with an equity coach who will assist us,” Trott said.

To find out more information on the Sustainable CT initiative and what needs to be done to earn sustainable points, go to its website at sustainablect.org.

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