



# WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

February 2026

*Mission: The West Chester Green Team is a civic organization in West Chester, PA, that works to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.*

## Inside:

Looking Ahead to Earth Day and Porchfest, Projects at Church Street Towers, Educating Children About Plastic Pollution, Local Transportation Survey



# WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events

## When – What – Where



**February 14:** Valentines Day

**February 27:** International Polar Bear Day is recognized early on Feb. 27 to honor Polar Bears' resilience and call attention to global warming, which threatens their Arctic way of life. Sponsored by Polar Bears International, <https://polarbearsinternational.org/>.

For details on other February and later events, see listings beginning page 3. Also see more events at <https://wcgreenteam.com> and countywide events at <https://chescoenvt.org>.

Related groups and committees (please check online before attending, especially on or near a holiday):

**4th Monday of every month:** East Bradford Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), 7 – 8:30pm, East Bradford Township Bldg, 676 Copeland School Rd.

**4th Monday of every month:** East Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 7 – 8:30pm, East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** West Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6 – 8 pm, West Goshen Township Bldg., 1025 Paoli Pike

**4th Tuesday of every month:** Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg., 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

**4th Thursday of every month:** West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 240, Borough Hall, 401 E. Gay St.

Be sure to visit our Web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/> (all are welcome to post environment- and sustainability-related items there). If you wish to support our work, please donate here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>

**NOTE: Deadline for the March 2026 issue is February 28! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at [LDwalsh318@gmail.com](mailto:LDwalsh318@gmail.com).**

## This and That: More Coming Attractions

### February 14:



**REPAIR CAFE**  
DOWNTOWN

**February 14th, 2026 10am - 2pm**

Upper Uwchlan Twp., Environmental Advisory Council  
Upland Farms, 301 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs

Pop-up Repair Clinic for  
Electronic / Mechanical Items,  
Computers, & Sharpening  
**Get It Fixed... for FREE\***

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be an Upper Uwchlan resident.

We will be repairing Electrical/Mechanical items, Computer/Electronic items and items that need Sharpening such as a garden tool, a knife or scissor at our pop-up repair clinic. You can also learn more about our Repair Cafe events held every other month in Downingtown.

**Limit 1 item per person!**  
**\*Bring your own parts, or lamp parts are available for purchase at our cost.**

**MORE INFORMATION**

 [repaircafedowningtown.com](http://repaircafedowningtown.com)

 [repaircafe165@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafe165@gmail.com)

 [@RepairCafeDowningtown](https://www.facebook.com/RepairCafeDowningtown)



Flyer design by Upward Arrow

### Coming in March:

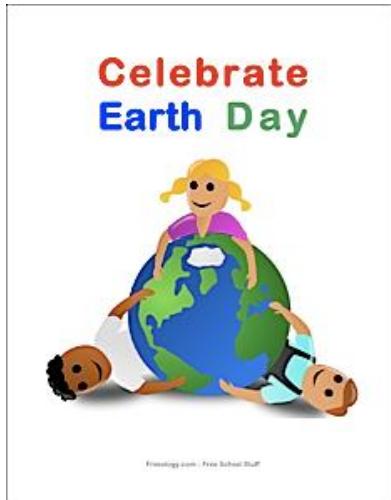
University of Pennsylvania Professor Erick Guerra, author of the book entitled *Overbuilt: The High Costs and Low Rewards of US Highway Construction* (<https://islandpress.org/books/overbuilt#desc>) will present an evening lecture at WCU. 6:30pm, BPMC Bldg., Rm 116.

### April 23:

Will Caverly, author of *Tinic和平 & Eastwick: Environmental Justice and Racial Injustice in Southwest Philadelphia* (<https://www.brooklinebooks.com/9781955041140/tinic和平-and-eastwick/>) will present an evening lecture at WCU, time and location to be announced. The book is a history of urban planning and environment in the city's formerly rural southwest. The Eastwick neighborhood was subject to a brutal urban renewal/slum clearance project. This project also threatened what

would later become the Heinz Refuge, the last portion of (relatively) unspoiled tidal marshlands in SW Philly. The book follows two grassroots movements that formed in response - one to save the homes of humans, the other to save the homes of birds.

## April 25: Save the Date!



Keep watching this space for our Earth Day plans. We're hoping our celebration this year will be bigger and better than ever! This year's theme is Our Power: Our Planet.

...and here's what's happening at WCU:

A cartoon illustration of the Earth with a smiling face, arms, and legs. It is pointing its right arm upwards. The background is light green.

WCU SUSTAINABILITY

# UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2026

<b>2/4</b>	Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar Begins	12PM SYKES 255 A/B
<b>2/13</b>	Brandywine Project Staff Sustainability Workshop	8AM-12PM PHILIPS AUTOGRAPH LIBRARY
<b>3/24</b>	Sustainability and Militarism Lecture: Enforcing Ecocide by Alexander Dunlap	11AM ZOOM & SYKES 252
<b>3/26</b>	A Lecture by Erick Guerra, author of Overbuilt: The High Costs and Low Rewards of US Highway Construction	6:30PM BPMC 116
<b>4/14</b>	Sustainability and Militarism Lecture: Eco-Authoritarianism and Indigenous Resistance by Janene Yazzie	11AM ZOOM & SYKES 252
<b>4/20</b>	Zero Waste Summit	11AM-1PM SYKES BALLROOMS
<b>4/23</b>	A Lecture by Will Caverly, author of Tinicum & Eastwick: Environmental Justice and Racial Injustice in Southwest Philadelphia	6:30PM BPMC 116

MORE INFO TO COME: [WCUPA.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY](http://WCUPA.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY)

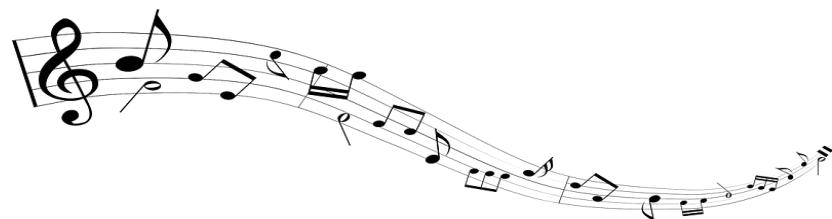
## Can you believe we're already preparing for Porchfest?

It may be brutally cold and snowy outside, but our Porchfest committee has been working away like crazy and have declared that May 16, 2026, will be the day from 1-7 PM! A contest for poster design has been held and a winner declared. This year it's **Bree Dillon** and here's her beautiful design:



Performer sign-up will be open from March 1 -April 1. Keep checking at <https://westchesterporchfest.com/> for more details.

I feel warmer just thinking about it!



## Season's Greenings Auction Attracts Community Support

To the many, many businesses who donated to the Green Team, from bakery to construction company and potter to acupuncturist. To the many members who gave of their talents in baking and soup making, art and nature hiking, teaching about plants and healthy exercise. Many, many of our neighbors have shown their support of the Green Team with their generous donations. We appreciated them all. Thank you very, very much!



We also want to thank the auction bidders. One supporter placed 8 bids just on one day! Many thanks. Our number of bids per item seems significantly higher than last year. We will figure that out soon. It has been a team effort! Again, many, many thanks!

A special shout out to Katie Ulmer, our WCU intern this semester. She handled all the technical aspects of getting the auction items listed on the GiveButter site. It was a huge amount of work, and she did a great job.

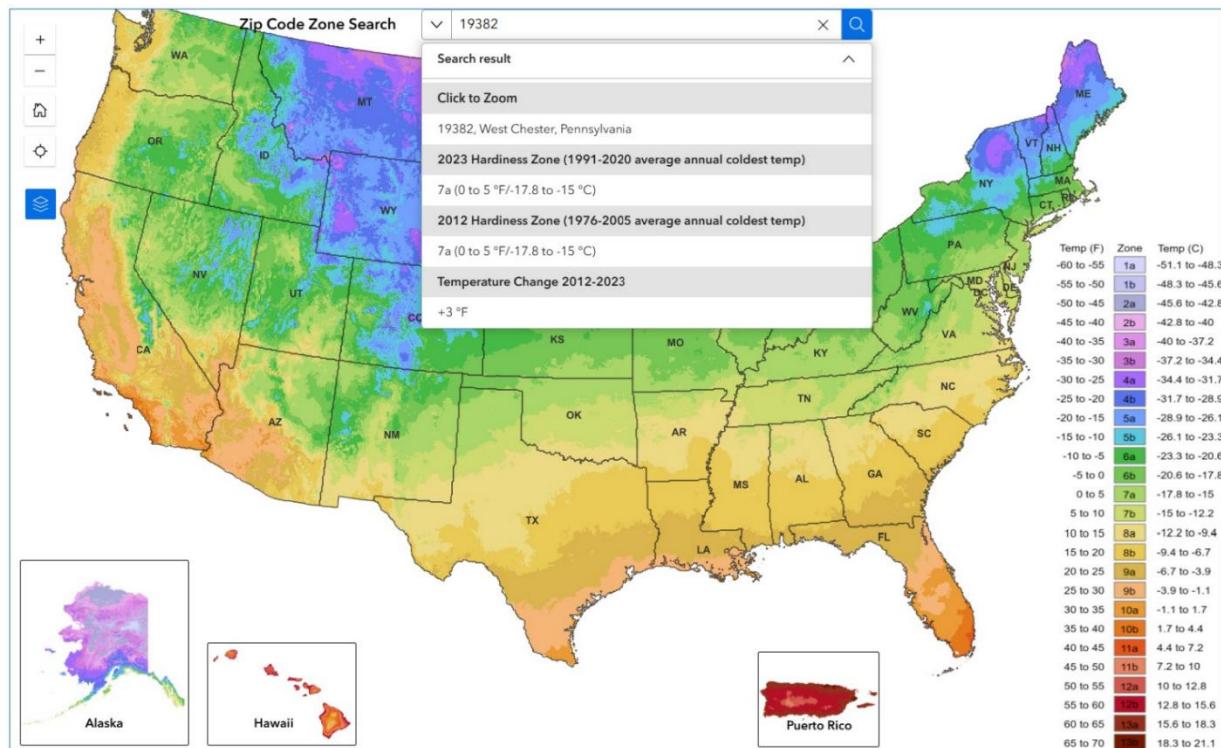
One more thing: We realized approximately \$10,000 from our auction. Hooray!

Sincere thanks from the West Chester Green Team.

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## Looking Ahead to Spring: Planting Zone Map

Find this map at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/> Enter your Zip Code to find your planting zone. Shown is a West Chester Zip and you can see we are in Zone 7a. Also shown is that we have experienced a very concerning 3-degree temperature rise since 2012. We could be slipping into Zone 7b soon.



## Little Library and Garden at Church St. Towers

Just before Christmas, Ana Maria Niiler and Jim Hudgings finished assembling the Little Library which is to be placed at the Church St Towers building in West Chester. Chris Pugliese, Green Team VP and head of our Living Landscapes Committee, picked it up, and will incorporate it into his garden plan for the building. Chris will work with a group of volunteers to install both the new garden and the Little Library in the spring.

Thank you to Carolyn Comitta for connecting us with CST and supporting this work. Thanks to Ana Maria and Jim, the workers who built the Little Library kit and to Chris, for finding a post to mount it on and installing it as well as planning a garden to surround it and planting it at Church St Towers.

When the weather warms, we will be inviting all of you to a dedication ceremony for this library, so please watch this space for future developments.



## Green Team Makes Baskets for Church St. Towers

On December 10, about 20 of us assembled at the Sykes Student Union on the campus of WCU to assemble baskets for the residents of Church St. Towers. The various items were spread out at tables around the Ballroom at Sykes and the attendees went from table to table filling up their baskets. At the final table, they filled vases with holly and decked out the baskets with red ribbon. Each one was unique--and we celebrated the diversity!

Our Green Santa made his first appearance with this year's elf, Piper Corridoni. Piper handed out red, white and green candy canes. The refreshments included a variety of Christmas cookies such as pizzelles and lebkuchen and chocolate covered pretzels, with eggnog and apple cider to drink. Calli from the WCU Sustainability Office had holiday music playing, and Santa and Piper posed for photos with many of the attendees.

The atmosphere was very positive and holiday cheerful. We have asked the folks at CST to send us photos of people receiving the baskets, so we hope that we'll have more photos to show you soon.



## Basket Recipients Enjoy Their Treats



# Educating Kids on Plastic Pollution

By Yashvi Kiran

A community where everyone leads an environmentally conscious lifestyle - this is what I am trying to do by creating entertaining and informative videos for young kids. Disney and other animation studios are able to spread their entertainment and messages to millions of people. Movies like The Lion King, Inside Out, and WALL-E have reached an audience of around 80-180 million people. Animation has the power to inspire people to take action or just bring awareness to an issue. Hi, my name is Yashvi Kiran, I am a 14-year-old plastics campaigner. I create animation videos, comics, and posters to educate younger kids on the impacts of plastic pollution.

I started working on plastic pollution when I was 9 years old, and tried different methods of spreading awareness, eventually landing on animation videos. With one video, I was able to reach twenty-six thousand viewers and inspire them to make environmentally conscious decisions.



Many adults and even most of my classmates are ignorant of these issues. This is why I believe it is important to educate the younger generations in order to create a greener future and prevent these environmental problems from getting out of hand. I believe visual media can improve younger generations' awareness of environmental issues by teaching important concepts at an early age, when values and habits are still forming. Visual media can turn deep environmental topics into fun and engaging stories. When environmental problems are presented in a creative and entertaining way, children are more likely to pay attention and understand how they can play their part in reducing environmental issues. Animated stories can also motivate kids and push them towards greener habits. Visual media not only teaches children about the consequences of environmental issues but also can inspire them to care about protecting the planet. As a result, they are more likely to grow up understanding the consequences of pollution and ecological problems and make sensible decisions.

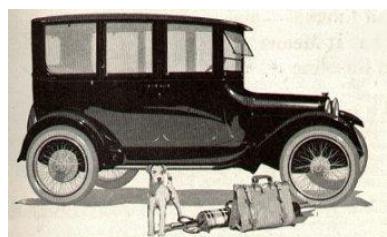


Posters and animations can reach more people around the world than in-person campaigning. Animated videos can be shared online through social media, streaming platforms, and educational websites, allowing millions of people from different countries and cultures to access the same content. Because graphic media relies on visuals and storytelling rather than text, it can communicate ideas across language barriers, making environmental issues understandable to viewers around the world and inspiring action in communities globally.

Many adults and teens in the US are unaware of the seriousness of environmental problems simply because they were never taught about them at a young age. After doing campaigns in England and India, I have noticed a lack of environmental awareness in elementary schools in the US compared to these countries. For example, in my previous school in the UK, a group would frequently come over to the school and perform fun skits on environmental issues. However, when doing a plastics event at my school, many of my classmates believed plastic pollution only affected the environment and not themselves. Without early exposure, it can be difficult to understand how environmental issues affect us. This is why it is important to teach children now, so future generations grow up aware of how they can contribute to reducing these issues.

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## Local Government Transportation Survey



The Borough of West Chester wants to learn from the community what transportation-related concerns to prioritize. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and encourage your friends and family to participate! The survey is available on the front page of the WC Borough website at [Bit.ly/WCTACsurvey](https://Bit.ly/WCTACsurvey) or <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KFG79ZG>. Let your voice be heard!