

# December 2023 newsletter

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## Upcoming Events & Announcements



Greetings to you, your family, and friends. We have a few events we would like you to know about and to announce the first winner of our **Refill Not Landfill** prize drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card.

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## Used Pumpkin Donation to Local Farmers

**DONATE YOUR USED PUMPKINS TO A FARMER FOR ANIMAL FEED**

**FOUR SOUTHBURY LOCATIONS:**

- Lone Oak Farm, 227 Bates Rock Rd
- Aradia Farm, 1008 Bullet Hill Rd
- Flat Hill Farm, 650 East Flat Hill Road
- Breezy Knolls Farm, 507 Jeremy Swamp Road

**November 1 through 5, and November 25 to 29**

No paint, glitter, decorations, candles, wax or metal.

If you can't eat it neither can the animal.

There will be bins or wagons ready to receive your pumpkin or gourds.

No other organic matter can be accepted at these locations.



Donate your used pumpkins to a local Southbury farm anytime from dawn to dusk from November 25 to 29. They make great animal feed!

*Please note that paint, glitter, decorations, candles, and wax cannot be used for animal feed and are not eligible for drop off. The pumpkins cannot contain any metal as this could be lethal to animals. If you cannot eat it neither can the animal. No other food scraps or organic matter is accepted at the farms. The participating farms are Lone Oak Farm, 227 Bates Rock Rd; Aradia Farm, 1008 Bullet Hill Rd; Flat Hill Farm, 650 East Flat Hill Road; and Breezy Knolls Farm, 507 Jeremy Swamp Road. Look for bins or a wagon as you pull into the farm.*

For more information visit our website: [Donate Your Pumpkins](#) | [SustainableSouthbury](#)

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## EyeRecycle Bottle & Can Redemption Event



The next monthly EyeRecycle redemption event is on **December 3rd, 2023, from 12 pm - 3 pm at 800 Main Street South, Southbury, CT**. Events are held on the first Sunday of the month. Anyone can bring cans and bottles, including those living outside of Southbury. Over **103,000** bottles and cans have been collected so far over 8 events!

EyeRecycle is a redemption center, meaning they take anything with a **5-cent refund label**, not just what the store sells, and they make sure the redeemable items are recycled correctly.

A full EyeRecycle bag of 750ml bottles earns \$10 cash back, and there's no waiting in line to put the containers through a machine. EyeRecycle pays the full 5 cents per item. Not sure if it is redeemable? Look near the barcode or recycle symbol to find the label that says "**CT 5 Cent REFUND**".

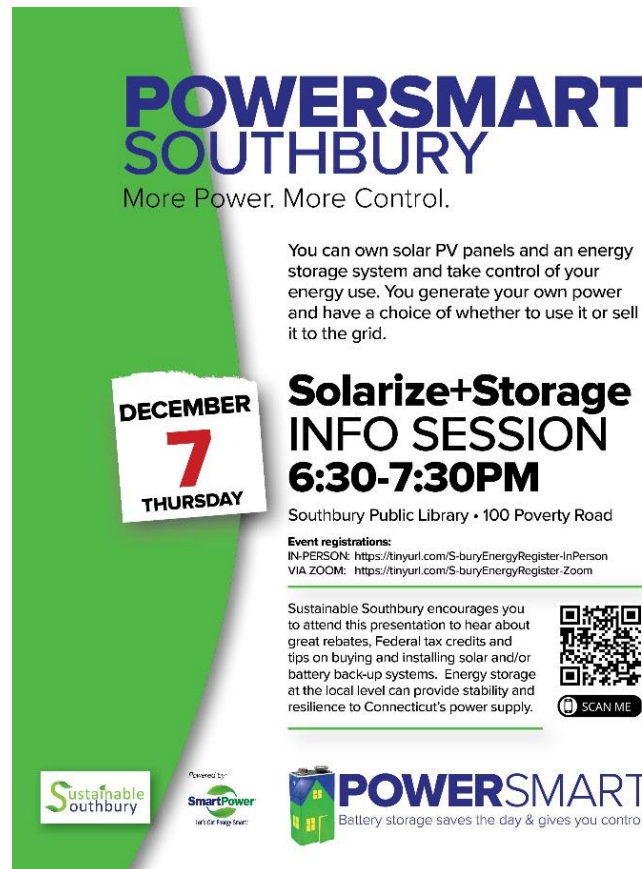
We have an express lane for people who have already bagged their redeemable bottles and cans in an EyeRecycle bag. You simply drop off your bag and get paid. EyeRecycle bags can be purchased at the event for .50 cents/bag, at the [EyeRecycle website](#), or at events Sustainable Southbury participates in.

If you don't have an EyeRecycle bag, our volunteers will transfer your bottles into an EyeRecycle bag with a fill line for counting. Please make separate bags for the 1-liter and 2-liter bottles to speed up the transfer and ensure you receive the correct amount for your bottles. Place redeemable glass bottles (no wine or liquor bottles) in a small cardboard box or a 6, 12, 18, or 24-pack cardboard carrier - we cannot accept loose glass bottles.

For further information, email [info@sustainablesouthbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablesouthbury.org) or visit our websites [Eye Recycle Event](#) | [SustainableSouthbury](#), and [www.eyerecycle.org](http://www.eyerecycle.org).

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## Solarize+Storage Info Session



**POWERSMART  
SOUTHBURY**  
More Power. More Control.


DECEMBER  
**7**  
THURSDAY

**Solarize+Storage  
INFO SESSION  
6:30-7:30PM**




Southbury Public Library • 100 Poverty Road

**Event registrations:**  
IN-PERSON: <https://tinyurl.com/S-buryEnergyRegister-InPerson>  
VIA ZOOM: <https://tinyurl.com/S-buryEnergyRegister-Zoom>

Sustainable Southbury encourages you to attend this presentation to hear about great rebates, Federal tax credits and tips on buying and installing solar and/or battery back-up systems. Energy storage at the local level can provide stability and resilience to Connecticut's power supply.



SCAN ME



**POWERSMART**  
Battery storage saves the day & gives you control

### Southbury's "PowerSmart" Campaign Launching December 7th at the Town Library Learn How Solar+Storage Helps Homeowners Take Control of Their Energy Use

Sustainable Southbury, is partnering with SmartPower, the nation's leading non-profit marketing organization dedicated to promoting clean energy and energy efficiency to conduct a PowerSmart campaign which will launched on December 7th, at 6:30-7:30 pm. The event will be held live at the town library, 100 Poverty Road, in the Kingsley Room, and virtually via Zoom.

To attend the library event, please register at

For [IN PERSON - Solarize and Storage Info Session](#)

For [ZOOM- Solarize and Storage Info Session](#)

PowerSmart Southbury is a special 20-week community outreach campaign that is funded by a grant from the US Department of Energy. The team includes the Yale School of the Environment, New York University Stern School of Business, SmartPower, and Sustainable Southbury. The program will present residents with opportunities and incentives to own solar and battery energy storage systems, which convert sunlight into electrical energy and store that energy in a battery for use later. The Solar+Storage combination helps residents be more self-sufficient and control their energy use. They can sell their excess stored energy to the grid and help make the grid more resilient during critical "peak demand" periods.

Southbury is among the first communities to launch a PowerSmart campaign in Connecticut. The PowerSmart Campaign is one component of a community energy campaign that includes energy conservation measures such as weatherization, heat pumps, and solarization.

Three different incentives make battery storage systems an attractive investment opportunity. First, participants who enroll in the Energy Storage Solutions program can get a generous upfront rebate incentive. (Residents who live in areas that are prone to power outages may qualify for additional "Grid Edge"

incentives.) Second, they get a 30% federal income tax credit, per the Inflation Reduction Act, for the cost of the solar panels and battery system that they have installed. Finally, they can get payments from Eversource for agreeing to have their batteries partially drawn down during the summer months and for a handful of days during the winter. Eversource has safeguards in place to suspend draw-downs in the event of a potential grid power outage. Homeowners can choose not to participate in this payment program. By doing so, they would forego the state incentives but would be free to use their stored power however they see fit.

Learn more by going to [PowerSmart Southbury](#), or at [Community Energy | SustainableSouthbury](#)

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## Refill Not Landfill – November's \$25 Visa Gift Card Winner



November's winner of the \$25 Visa gift card is Reilly Faraci. She purchased her drink in a reusable cup at Brightside Nutrition. Kristen Bellico who owns Brightside Nutrition was all in on participating in this program. She even purchased her own reusable cups with her business logo to encourage her customers to participate.

**Refill Not Landfill's** goal is to reduce single-use waste by encouraging residents to use reusable cups when purchasing hot or cold drinks at Southbury retailers. **All** stores in Southbury accept refillable cups, many residents do not realize that fact. To help encourage this change in behavior, Sustainable Southbury is funding a **\$25 monthly-prize drawing** for customers who use refillable cups at these participating stores: Brightside Nutrition, Heritage Deli & Café, Hudson's Cafe & Bistro, Laurel Diner, Main Street Convenience, Main Street Deli, Mikee's Place, Nardelli's Grinder Shoppe, Patty's Pantry. Stores that have not signed up to participate have their own rewards program when you use your own reusable cup.

### Here's How It Works:

Bring a clean, reusable cup or mug for refill to a participating local business.

Scan the QR code next to the register and enter your name and email address. You will be entered into a monthly drawing - refill participants could win a \$25 Visa gift card.

Enjoy your beverage without hurting the environment!

REPEAT – You can enter the monthly drawing EVERY time you buy a drink at any of the participating businesses.

### Why Are We Doing This?

The state of Connecticut has been battling a huge solid waste problem. Hauling costs are estimated to increase significantly. Every effort needs to be made to reduce our volume of trash. Here are some facts:



In the United States alone, 50 billion disposable coffee cups are used annually. Coffee cups are lined with plastic to reduce leakage; they cannot be recycled; they must be disposed of as trash.  
The standard polyethylene-lined paper cup takes **20 years to decompose**.  
Used plastic cups can't be recycled into new plastic cups; they end up in the trash and last **450 years in the environment**.

For further information, email [info@sustainablesouthbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablesouthbury.org) or visit our website [SustainableSouthbury.org](http://SustainableSouthbury.org)

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## Give the Gift that Sustains! Grab a special Black Friday Sale!



Are you looking for a gift that does good and helps preserve the environment? Our food scrap recycling kit can help that special person get started with food scrap recycling at the town Transfer Station! Food scraps are too valuable to throw away and food waste in the trash makes it heavy, wet, and smelly and it attracts rodents.

The kit comes with a 2.5 gallon countertop pail, a 7 gallon transport pail with a secure latch that won't make a mess in your car, a roll of BPI certified compostable bags for each and a food scrap recycling guide that tells you exactly what is in and what is out.

Tired of bear problems with composting food scraps or going out in the cold to the compost bin? Food scraps are accepted at the Transfer Station during normal business hours. Just put your food scraps into the brown bins near the textile recycling. Anything that is food is accepted (no plastic) including meat and bones. The food scraps are sent to a commercial composter or used to make biopower.

During Black Friday weekend the food scrap kits are on sale for \$30, a \$5 savings. The price includes delivery at a time and place of your convenience. We take cash, credit, or checks.

Contact us at [info@sustainablesouthbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablesouthbury.org) or (203) 586-9078 if you are interested. Find out more about the program at [www.sustainablesouthbury.org/southburyfoodscraps](http://www.sustainablesouthbury.org/southburyfoodscraps).

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## Plastic Subcommittee Is Looking For Volunteers

**Become a Volunteer  
Make Change Happen**



If you want to help reduce the proliferation of plastics, you can make change happen by joining the Plastics Subcommittee. Please review these pages on our website to see what we have been up to. Pages to visit:

[Plastic Reduction | SustainableSouthbury](#)  
[Recycling | SustainableSouthbury](#)

Then bring your ideas to add new campaigns or augment existing programs.

To volunteer send an email to [info@sustainablesouthbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablesouthbury.org) with **Subject line: Plastic Volunteering**.

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**LEARN MORE OR  
GET INVOLVED WITH SUSTAINABLE SOUTHBURY'S PROGRAMS**

**Learn more at:**

[www.sustainablesouthbury.org](http://www.sustainablesouthbury.org)

**Contact Us:**

[info@sustainablesouthbury.org](mailto:info@sustainablesouthbury.org)

203 586 9078

**DONATE**

Show your thanks for what we do  
Your help makes  
a **BIG** difference