

Prior to the O & G project, a lot of Condon's time was consumed by the enforcement of the polystyrene ban in Winsted.

"I was following the polystyrene (ban) from a distance," Condon said. "I made connections from working on the cable station."

"I realized it (the ban) was ineffective. I knew it was unenforceable because McDonald's products had switched from chlorofluorocarbons to HCFC-22. Had we passed that, we wouldn't have enforced it."

Last October, the town approved a ban on the use and sale of polyvinyl chloride and a restriction on the use of polystyrene packaging.

The status of the Barkhamsted landfill has also been on Condon's agenda the past two years. With the help of Winsted Community Lawyer Charlene Lavoie, Condon was able to put together the so called "below regulatory concern" resolution for the Barkhamsted landfill. That resolution, which limited what could be put in the landfill, was put in place because the federal government had lifted regulations on what waste could be dumped there.

"In 1965 and 1966, all this waste was regulated. When it's deregulated, it comes in any way," Condon said. "We were targeting what was coming into the landfill."

Lavoie, who is involved with citizen activism by trade, sees Condon's work as an example of grassroots support.

"It's the trickle up theory," Lavoie said. "It starts here. Linda is a great example of this."

In order to learn about the causes she fights for, Condon reads a lot of journals, magazines and newspapers, including the Christian Science Monitor

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Condon has lots of energy to donate to her community

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and Public Citizen.

Condon isn't just known for all her work on the polystyrene foam ban and the landfill resolution. She finds time to have a little fun.

When Winsted Selectman Walter D. Miller proposed a "boo" ban at Board of Selectmen meetings, Condon produced a video for Mad River TV 13 that poked some fun.

She decided to make a tongue-in-cheek film on Miller's proposed ban, which disallowed booing at public meetings, to show the humor in the issue. The short video was aired on the public access channel.

"I used music from the Pink Panther," she said. "I just filmed his (Miller's) feet as he walked into town hall." She then went around to people in town hall and asked them to boo. "Walter Miller played along," she said.

Despite all her community involvement, Condon wasn't always concerned with the environment. She had been a music instructor for kindergarten through eighth-graders at St. Anthony's School in Winsted in 1987 to 1988. She studied elementary education and nursing at St. Francis School of Nursing and Central Connecticut State University in New Britain before that. She and her husband moved to Winsted in 1986 from Watertown.

But Condon's main aspiration is a step away from town meetings. She would like to be a professional songwriter and video producer.

She has written children's, nonsense and school songs and opening numbers for dinner theaters. She also plays piano, banjo and guitar.

But, most of all, she wants to get out her message on saving the environment.