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Amazon lockers installing on Storrs campus this week

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Graphic of a student picking up a package at an Amazon locker. UConn will add two pickup lockers to campus this week.
PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY IANNACI/AMAZON

The University of Connecticut will add two Amazon delivery lockers to its Storrs campus this week, according to Associate Director of Logistics Andy Kelly.

The lockers, owned and operated by Amazon, will be located outside of Watson Residence Hall under the breezeway, and outside of Putman Dining Hall, near Garrigus, Werth, Hale and Ellsworth Residence Halls. The outdoor locations prevent any issues with card access, Kelly said.

According to Emily Cooperman, an account manager with Amazon, the lockers will be installed on Wednesday and should be activated and ready for orders by the end of the week.

Once activated, the lockers will show up as a delivery option for Amazon orders, Kelly said. The lockers will allow students to bypass campus mail services and get same-day or next-day delivery, something that is virtually impossible as of now, even with the recent addition of university-run self-service lockers.

"We track the packages. We take them to the mail room. Depending on if they're in part of campus where we have our own lockers, you know, they might have access to it sooner than if it goes to a traditional mail room," Kelly said. "And obviously, those mail rooms are constrained by the hours that we're open, which is significantly less than the access where we have lockers. And so [the Amazon lockers] will provide a solution to that problem."

Currently, UConn Mail Services operates its own lockers in Connecticut Hall, which covers South Campus and Alumni Quad; Shippee Hall, for Shippee, Buckley, Whitney, Holcomb, Sprague, Hicks and Grange residents; and Hilltop Apartments, Kelly said. Mail Services is in the process of finding funding for five more university-run locker sites. Kelly said that the end goal is to service all residential areas with lockers rather than an actual mailroom.

With the lockers, "the access to get your packages is by far, immensely better, and that's what we're going for," he said.

Kelly hopes the Amazon lockers will take a lot of packages off of Mail Services' plate.

"We have times where we're a day or two behind, and that doesn't meet the expectation of our customer base, the residential students on campus," he said.

Kelly said that Mail Services doesn't have the resources to deal with the influx of packages at their peak times — the beginning of the fall semester, for example.

Since a lot of the packages Mail Services receives are from Amazon, Kelly hopes the lockers will "drop that peak a little bit," and give them a better chance at getting packages to students in a timely manner.

"We think it's a reasonable expectation for folks living on campus to get their packages as soon as they get to the university," Kelly said.

LAMONT URGES CAUTION AS BLIZZARD HITS CONNECTICUT

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Gov. Ned Lamont urged Connecticut residents to use caution because of the blizzard conditions that started on Sunday, Feb. 22 and continued throughout Monday, Feb. 23.

According to Connecticut's Official State Website, "the forecast changed very quickly over the last 24 hours, and now it appears that we have a significant storm heading in our direction that is likely to bring blizzard conditions."

"In addition to high rates of snowfall, the particular concern with this storm are the very strong wind gusts, which will make travel extremely dangerous and will cause visibility to be very low," Lamont said. "I am urging everyone to plan ahead and stay off the roads on Sunday night and through at least Monday morning. We are monitoring the forecast as it evolves, and I advise everyone to stay alert for updates throughout the weekend."

The website also stated that, in anticipation of the storm, Lamont directed a partial in-person activation of the Connecticut Emergency Operations Center (EOC) starting at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday to track conditions and respond promptly to any emerging needs.

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GREEN AMENDMENT ADVOCATES HOLD TOWN HALL MEETINGS ACROSS CONNECTICUT

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Maya K. van Rossum, founder of the GAFTG movement, speaking in Mansfield, Conn. GAFTG's mission statement lists the benefits every person and community across the United States should experience when provided with a clean, safe and healthy environmen. PHOTO COURTESY OF @MAYAKVANROSSUM ON INSTAGRAM

Town hall meetings focused on constitutional environmental rights were held in Mansfield Center, Stamford and Middletown throughout February.

The town hall meetings were organized by Green Amendments For The Generations (GAFTG) and the organization's founder, Maya K. van Rossum. The events were also attended by other local activist groups including the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), The League of Women Voters in Connecticut (LWVCT) and others.

The Mansfield town hall meeting was held at the Mansfield Public Library on Monday, Feb. 3 with State Rep. Gregory Haddad and State Sen. Mae Flexer in attendance.

The Stamford town hall meeting was held at the Stamford Government Center on Tuesday, Feb. 10 and was attended by Rep. Matt Blumenthal, Sen. Pat Billie Miller and other state municipal leaders.

The Middletown town hall meeting was held at the DeKoven Center on Feb. 11.

In a press release, NOFA reported that over 95 Connecticut residents attended across the three event days, and that "conversations at the events highlighted concerns over increasing extreme weather events, water pollution and threats to public health and the need for proactive legal tools to protect communities from environmental harm."

"The level of turnout and engagement at every one of our town hall events for the Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment has demonstrated that people are looking for solutions when it comes to environmental protection," said Maya K. van Rossum, founder of GAFTG. "People are recognizing that pollution is damaging the water, air, climate and environments that communities need to not just survive, but to thrive, and they are tired of piecemeal legislative solutions that are not solving the problem."

GAFTG's official mission statement "is to ensure every person and community across the United States is able to experience the health, quality of life, education, joy and economic prosperity provided by a clean, safe and healthy environment"

"The proposed green amendment would outline the right of all residents to clean air, water and a healthy environment." NOFA said in a press release. "Green Amendments have already been successfully adopted in Pennsylvania, Montana, and New York, and have provided strong legal frameworks to prevent environmental harm and hold decision-makers accountable"

GAFTG and green amendment supporters urge Attorney General William Tong to support the amendment and help bring it forward for a vote during the 2026 Connecticut senatorial session.

"Every Connecticut resident has an inalienable right to live in a safe and healthy environment, including clean water, air, and soil, and a stable climate," said Blumenthal. "Enshrining that right in our state Constitution will ensure Connecticut's long-term dedication to environmental health and safety, and that every Connecticut resident, in every community — including farmers, hunters, outdoorspeople, and others — can trust we will preserve the environment for this generation and the ones to follow. I'm committed to working with advocates, stakeholders and our state Attorney General to protect these rights in perpetuity by amending the state Constitution"

Patricia Rossi, the co-president of LWVCT, said a safe climate is "necessary to human health."

"The League of Women Voters fully supports the Environmental Rights Amendment which would ensure these fundamental human rights for all Connecticut residents," Rossi said.

More information about the Connecticut Environmental Rights amendment and similar amendments is available at ctgreenamendment.org.

CT, OTHER STATES SIGN AGREEMENT WITH DEPT. OF ED FOR DEI FUNDING

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Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, along with 19 other state attorneys general, has come to an agreement with the federal government to stop them from withholding funds from schools with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) policies.

"Another major defeat and retreat for the Trump administration and Linda McMahon. Connecticut schools have always and will always comply with federal civil rights laws. Trump and McMahon tried to force [Make American Great Again] ideology on Connecticut students and teachers by illegally withholding taxpayer dollars. We stopped them, and we're going to keep fighting and winning to protect Connecticut families," Tong said in a press release.

The Feb. 6 agreement protects the nearly $400 million that the Connecticut State Department of Education receives from the federal government, including Title I funding, which provides money for districts with many low-income students. Other education services funded by the federal government include special education services, recruitment and training for teachers, programming for Learning English as a Second Language services and support for children without housing, according to the press release.

"As a condition of receiving these funds, state and local education agencies provide written assurances they will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin," the press release said. "Connecticut has consistently and regularly certified its compliance with Title VI and its implementing regulations."

This resolution comes nearly a year after the U.S. Department of Education sent out letters to state and local education agencies in April 2025, notifying them that they must comply with the administration's interpretation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which says that DEI policies are discriminatory, particularly for white and Asian students.

The federal government cites Students for Fair Admission v. Harvard (2023), in which the Supreme Court found that race cannot be a factor in college admissions, as the driving factor for this anti-DEI push. Though the case applied to college applications, the U.S. Department of Education said they see it as applying more broadly.

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GREEN AMENDMENTS FOR THE GENERATIONS
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St. John's takes first place into Hartford on Wednesday

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