

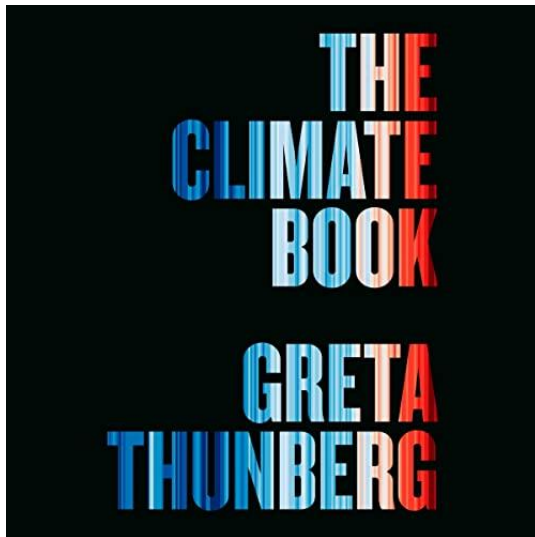
**Volume 5 Issue 4**  
**April 2023**



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze

# New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

## April 18<sup>th</sup> Climate Smart Book Club



### **The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**  
**7:00 PM to 8:30 PM CDT**

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZ0kc-2vqT0uG9M-KYuuK7uj7FMho-2aDbBP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our April and May Climate Smart Book Club selection is by Greta Thunberg, the world's leading climate activist. Her latest book has at its core the belief that we still have time to change the world and this is the essential handbook for making it happen. You might think it's an impossible task: secure a safe future for life on Earth, at a scale and speed never seen, against all the odds. There is hope—but only if we listen to the science before it's too late.

In *The Climate Book*, Greta Thunberg has gathered the wisdom of over one hundred experts—geophysicists, oceanographers and meteorologists; engineers, economists and mathematicians; historians, philosophers and indigenous leaders—to equip us all with the knowledge we need to combat climate disaster. Alongside them, she shares her own stories of demonstrating and uncovering greenwashing around the world, revealing how much we have been kept in the dark. This is one of our biggest challenges, she shows, but also our greatest source of hope.

Once we are given the full picture, how can we not act? And if a schoolchild's strike could ignite a global protest, what could we do collectively if we tried?

We are alive at the most decisive time in the history of humanity. Together, we can do the seemingly impossible. But it has to be us, and it has to be now. Join us for either or both of our discussions on this book – April 18<sup>th</sup> and/or May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## May 2<sup>nd</sup> Climate Smart *Meetup*: Bokashi Composting



New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force & UCRRA Present: “Intro to Bokashi Composting”

Celebrating Compost Awareness Week!

**Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023  
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**In person at the  
New Paltz Community Center!  
3 Veterans Dr, New Paltz, NY 12561**

Unlike “conventional” composting, Bokashi is an *anaerobic* process where food scraps are placed in a sealed, air-tight container and are fermented with the aid of a specialized additive (a microbial compost accelerator). After a few weeks of fermenting, the “unfinished” byproduct of bokashi should be added to a backyard compost pile to complete the decomposition process.

For many *advanced* composters, bokashi methods have a lot to offer as a way to manage meat, bones, and dairy products. Using Bokashi can also introduce beneficial microbes to the compost pile, which speeds up the process so you can use your finished compost faster. Join the UCRRA Recycling Outreach Team to learn about the wacky world of microbes and this interesting method of composting!

This workshop is designed for intermediate composters who want to take their composting to the next level. In this workshop, participants will learn the pros/cons of this method of composting, be introduced to the science behind how bokashi works, and learn how to get started (materials needed, recipes, tips and more).

This workshop is held in partnership with New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force and will be presented by Tanesia White, Recycling Educator of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA). **Class size is limited and participants must pre-register.** The signup form is available at the following link: <https://ucrra.org/event/intro-to-bokashi-new-paltz/>

***Note that we are not offering an April Climate Solutions Meetup but rather focusing on Earth Day in April. In June, our Climate Solution Meetup will focus on Backyard Forestry.***

## Update from BESS Task Force *by Joe Londa*

The minutes from the March 2nd 2023 Town Board Meeting approved a motion to send the proposed code changes regarding Battery Energy Storage to Attorney Moriello for review. <https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.townofnewpaltz.org%2Fsites%2Ffiles%2Fvylif3541%2F%2Fminutes%2F2023march2contphucgoctownboardmtg.docx>  
We have not been able to get a status from the Town on that task and thus don't know if any progress has been made.

## Earth Day 2023: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Earth Day Fair here in New Paltz! Jim O'Dowd, also a member of our Climate Smart Task Force, is one of the organizers. "We're looking forward to a full scale 20th Anniversary Earth Day Fair this year and we would like to cordially invite the Town and Village of New Paltz to be a part of it! We're working on the theme of the *Ten Commitments* for a greener and more sustainable community and world.

### ***The Ten Commitments: A Pathway to Sustainability***

1. ENERGY: Select your Energy Sources Carefully Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), Community Solar, Community Choice Aggregation (CCAs), Solar Panels, Air Source Heat Pumps, Geothermal Heat Pumps
2. MONEY: Choose how to invest and use your money: How do the managers of your IRAs, banks, and credit card companies invest your money?
3. TRANSPORTATION: Try alternative forms of transportation: Public transportation, carpooling, biking and walking, electric vehicles (EVs).
4. CONSERVATION: Conserve energy: Get a home energy audit, improve your home's insulation, develop conservationist habits: use LED lightbulbs and turn them off when not needed, take shorter showers, wash clothes in cold water and hang to dry.
5. FOOD: Select what you eat with mindfulness: Consider what you eat and what you don't eat. Eat lower on the food chain, choose organic food, join a CSA, support regenerative agriculture.
6. GARBAGE: Eliminate waste carefully: Garbage, composting, recycling, Plastic Problems. The 6 Rs--Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair
7. TEAMWORK: Cooperatively connecting with others to keep the earth habitable: "Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." – Ryunosuke Satoro
8. CITIZENSHIP: Actively promote democracy: Be a good citizen, vote at the polls and with your dollars to protect the earth, cooperate.
9. BUY/DON'T BUY: Be a climate-smart consumer: Consider what you buy and what you don't buy. Make clothing purchases with our planet in mind. Avoid plastic and other non-recyclable containers.
10. SELF CARE: Do the right thing by staying sane, laughing, and focusing on doing good: Manage stress in your life, don't let climate change lead you to despair, take care of yourself, maintain family ties and friendships, live your personal morals and ethics and faith-based beliefs.

Interfaith Earth Action, the Caring for Creation Committee of the Reformed Church of New Paltz, and the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition present the

# Earth Day Fair

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!



**Saturday, April 22, 2023, 11am - 4pm**

**RAIN or SHINE!!**

**Nature Walks 10:00am & afternoon**

**Reformed Church of New Paltz, 92 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY**

- *Enjoy free, fun-filled educational and interfaith celebration events focused on sustainable and "green" living.*
  - *Learn about the 10 Commitments: A Pathway to Sustainability*
  - *Enjoy music, demos, children's activities, and healthy food*
- For more information, call Mara (845.750.8292) or Jim (845.416.4185)



# Will New Paltz School District Become Climate Smart?

*By Joe Londa*

The School Board approved the 23-24 School Budget on March 29th, based on a 1.23% tax levy and the expense plan includes \$574K for the purchase of 5 Gas/Diesel Buses. Joe Londa proposed that as the State has a mandate to switch purchases to EV Buses in 2027, that the School Board should either make these a smaller number of EV Buses with a small increment of Level II or III Charging infrastructure or alternatively Lease the 5 Gas/Diesel Buses. In the Lease case, it would lower the expenses and avoid the likely 15 years of GHG emissions over the life of these buses. The response from the Superintendent was that they had insufficient time to analyze the proposal.

Amplifying the Lease proposal, is the fact that the School District has contracted with CPL, with 75% funding from NYSERDA for the study, to develop a plan to evaluate converting the school fleet to an EV Fleet over time along with the needed infrastructure to support conversion. The infrastructure would include Utility connection upgrade, Level II and III Charging, PV Array, Battery Energy Storage System, and possibly a Fossil Fuel Backup Generator for long duration electric outages. As the cost of this project is made available, it will likely identify the need for a Capital project and associated Bond to fund the effort. New Paltz School District owns the buses and current infrastructure and this positions it well compared to other school districts that don't. The last status report was on February 12th and it was that CPL was waiting for NYSERDA approval on the funding the evaluation. A date for the Final Report from CPL has not been published.

This points to the importance of Legislative Mandates to drive change for GHG Reductions, but without Mandates for Green solutions, many organizations funded by Taxpayers will likely select the lowest cost solution, which will likely be mature Fossil Fuel Solutions. For this reason, Joe Londa has proposed to the New Paltz School Board the adoption of Climate Change Action Planning Policy that guides selection of solutions prior to the establishment of Mandates. For instance, Building Electrification is mandated in NYC for New and Major Renovations, but not yet across NY state. Thus, with no policy in place and no mandate, a Fossil Fuel Boiler that failed now has a much higher likelihood to be replaced with another fossil fuel boiler.

Other School Districts in the USA have been establishing Green Schools for Energy and Operation Policy. One of these is the Long Beach Unified School District and can be found here and most notably driven by the students who championed the establishment of the policy; <https://go.boarddocs.com/ca/lbusd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=CG9U3R7A205B>

The New Paltz School District should take advantage of another NYSERDA funded program to size the electrification of Buildings and connect it with the sizing of the Microgrid being proposed for the EV Buses as it might be a more cost effective solution in aggregate. <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/P-12-Initiative/P-12-Clean-Green-Schools-Initiative>

It should be noted that the Microgrid institute proposed establishing a Microgrid at the High School in 2015 and at that time it included a Natural Gas Combined Heating and Power (NG

CHP) element. Much has changed on energy production (PV's) and storage (BESS) since 2015 and that a NG CHP should not be needed and even a Fossil Fuel Backup Generator may not be needed based upon statistical evidence of duration and frequency of electric grid outages. Where a building is located in the Electric Grid Distribution can play a large role in the frequency and duration of outages and only by looking at the data of outages at that specific site can an informed decision be made for the risks of not using a Fossil Fuel Backup Generator and instead just relying upon PV's real time production and BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) scale.

Microgrids are going to play an important role in Electric Grids as they reduce Loads on Centralized Generation and Transmission (avoiding large capital outlays and long implementations) and can also provide reliability, resilience, and lower operating cost for those who make the capital outlays. Return on Investment is looking better and better on Microgrids as the cost of the Centralized grid may only increase overtime and PV and BESS cost/Unit of Energy comes down. Technology is not so much of a challenge anymore and more so the financing and will to act prior to a mandate being established.

## **New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force Members:**

Janelle Peotter	Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator
Jim O'Dowd	Task Force Member
Amanda Gotto	Task Force Member
Mark Varian	Task Force Member
Orelle Feher	Task Force Member
Joe Londa	Task Force Member
Izzy Defino	Task Force Member
Lynne Cherry	Task Force Member at Large
Liz Elkin	Task Force Member at Large
Megan Wolff	Task Force Member at Large
Julie Seyfert-Lillis	Town Board Liaison
Alexandria Wojcik	Village Board Liaison

## New Paltz Climate Smart April/May Calendar

**Tuesday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 – 8:30 pm** monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting. We meet online. Send an email to the address below if you are interested in participating.

**Tuesday April 18<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 – 8:30 pm** Climate Smart Book Club: The Climate Book: The Facts and the Solutions *by Greta Thunberg*. Register in advance to receive the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=2vqT0uG9M-KYuuK7uj7FMho-2aDbBP>

**Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11:00 am - 4:00 pm** Earth Day celebration in New Paltz at 92 Huguenot Street

**Tuesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> 7:00 – 8:30** Climate Solutions Meetup on Bokashi Composting in person at the New Paltz Community Center. Preregistration is required <https://ucrra.org/event/intro-to-bokashi-new-paltz/>

*If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Coordinator at [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com)*



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**Reduce your use of single use!**

Bring your own container, such as this tiffin, to restaurants for take out or left overs. We have tiffins for sale through New Paltz Climate Smart or the Climate Action Coalition at the wholesale cost of only \$15

**BYOC:**

**Bring Your Own Container!**