

Volume 4 Issue 7
July 2022



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

New Paltz Climate Smart Solutions July *Meetup* *What's Happening In Your Backyard?*



Tuesday, July 5, 2022
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM EDT

Here is the link to register for the Zoom:

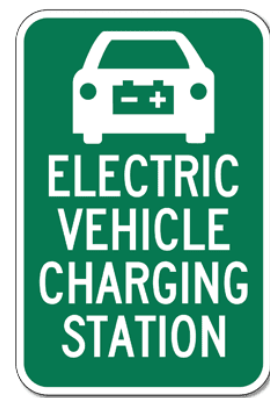
<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtf-GppjosH9brl7ixy2qGxJxwz89CCUQf>

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

This month we are going to do something a little different! Instead of having a presenter with a climate-smart solution, we are going to open the discussion to all participants to discuss the question "What is happening in your backyard?" Participants are free to share projects that they are working on, things they are proud of, problems that they would like to collectively problem-solve or even just discuss an issue about their backyard. If you live in an apartment or condominium complex, you could talk about something interesting your property management is doing or you would like them to do. Many of us spend a lot of time outside in the summer so it seems the perfect time to have this conversation!

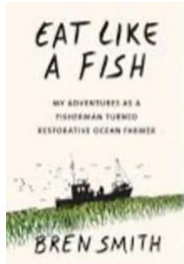
Needed: Sponsor for EV Charger

The Village of New Paltz is looking for a business sponsor to back a level 2 charger and one DC fast charger at Peace Park adjacent to Village Hall. The village had sponsored the charger in the past but is no longer able to financially. Other communities have local businesses who sponsor their charging station. This means it would be fully managed (Chargepoint could provide servicing as part of the annual fee package) and paid for by the business sponsors. The village could manage the initial installation and then hand everything over to the sponsors. If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring, please contact Mayor Tim Rogers at the Village of New Paltz.



July Climate Smart Book Club Selection:

Eat Like A Fish - My Adventures Farming the Ocean to Fight Climate Change



Tuesday, July 19, 2022
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

Online event:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81808309951>

This will be a hybrid event. We will be meeting in person as well as on Zoom. If you would like details about the in person location please call/text Mark at 646-296-4676.

Our book selection this month is *Eat Like a Fish: My Adventures Farming the Ocean to Fight Climate Change*, also goes by the title *Eat Like A Fish: My Adventures As A Fisherman Turned Restorative Ocean Farmer*. In the face of apocalyptic climate change, a former fisherman shares a bold and hopeful new vision for saving the planet: farming the ocean. Here Bren Smith—pioneer of regenerative ocean agriculture—introduces the world to a groundbreaking solution to the global climate crisis.

A genre-defining “climate memoir,” *Eat Like a Fish* interweaves Smith’s own life—from sailing the high seas aboard commercial fishing trawlers to developing new forms of ocean farming to surfing the frontiers of the food movement—with actionable food policy and practical advice on ocean farming. Written with the humor and swagger of a fisherman telling a late-night tale, it is a powerful story of environmental renewal, and a must-read guide to saving our oceans, feeding the world, and—by creating new jobs up and down the coasts—putting working class Americans back to work.

The reviews of this book are excellent:

“A mindbending look into an extraordinary world by a stunning and gifted story teller.” —Paul Hawken, author of *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*

“Bren Smith’s book on seaweed farming is something I’ve been looking forward to for years.” —Mark Bittman, author of *How to Cook Everything*

“A perfect balance between personal storytelling and blueprint for a new way to harvest our seas that can create meaningful jobs while simultaneously combatting climate change.” —Forbes

“This is a voice we haven’t heard before, a celebration of the daring life of fishermen—and a passionate argument that we must do things differently. Reading this book is a wild ride that will

change the way you think of the sea—and ultimately change the way you eat. It should be required reading for everyone.” —Ruth Reichl

“Bren Smith is a hero of ours—not just for his ingenious vertical farming of kelp and shellfish in the Thimble Islands, but for facing squarely the root causes of one crisis with many symptoms: climate change, desertification, obesity and hunger. This book shows us new ways to grow food and make a living that can both heal the planet and make life more satisfying.” —Yvon Chouinard, Founder of Patagonia

“What a remarkable book! Bren Smith has a (wild) life story to recount, a novel food-growing technique to describe, and a planet to help save. He’s a deft enough writer to pull it all off, with a wry joy that left me (more than usually) hopeful about our future.” —Bill McKibben, New York Times bestselling author of *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*

Climate Smart Tiffin Project Update



We have received our latest order of tiffins! Please email newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com if you would like to buy a 3 tier tiffin for the wholesale price of \$15. We are also looking for volunteers to table and sell tiffins at the New Paltz Open Air Market that run Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm. It is fun to engage with the public and get them thinking about how to reduce solid waste by bringing their own containers for take-out and bringing home leftovers from a restaurant.



New Paltz Repair Café

Bring your *BELOVED BUT BROKEN* item, and together with our Repair Coaches, **FIX** it.....for **FREE!**

- Mechanical & Electrical
- Things made of Wood
- Clothing & Textiles
- Jewelry
- Electronic & Digital Devices

Saturday, July 23, 2022

10:00 AM 2:00 PM

Location: New Paltz United Methodist Church, 1 Grove Street, New Paltz



New Paltz Climate Action Plan - Public Engagement

The New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force met last month with consultant Tiffany Zezula from the Land Use Law Center at Pace University to kick off planning for the public engagement part of creating our Climate Action Plan. We had a great conversation during our meeting and will be following up on this issue in the coming months. We are looking for ideas from the public as to how you stay informed about Town/Village news, what groups and organizations can help spread the word regarding the Climate Action Plan, and what events/locations are highly attended in the Town/Village from the months of August – October. All suggestions are welcome – email them to newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com.

New Paltz Police to Lease New Hybrid Vehicle

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In an article written by Terrence Ward, the Hudson Valley One reported on June 24th “Another hybrid vehicle is to be added to the New Paltz police fleet, replacing a gas-guzzling car with high maintenance costs with an SUV that’s got all the care and repair wrapped into a lease instead. Leasing allows for more control over the costs of vehicle ownership in this way. The lease, which requires \$7,000 down and annual payments of \$15,000 for four years, includes maintenance of all of the specialized law-enforcement hardware, too. Chief Robert Lucchesi noted at the June 16 board meeting that the fuel costs will be sharply reduced, too, since the gasoline-powered vehicles must be left idling to provide enough juice for the computer system inside. Idling also shortens the life of those combustion engines. That’s above and beyond the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Police vehicles contribute a significant portion to the Town government’s total carbon footprint, and each vehicle that is replaced with a hybrid makes a dent in those numbers. There is not yet an electric vehicle that can meet the needs of New Paltz officers, Lucchesi said.”

Help Green Spaces Action Group Battle Mugwort!



Liz Elkin is currently heading up a Green Spaces project to remove the invasive weed mugwort from the newly planted areas adjacent to the Empire State Trail. Volunteers from the community are needed to help pull mugwort every month on the first Wednesday beginning at 8:00 am. In July, this is Wednesday July 6th. No need to call ahead – just show up in your gardening outfit ready to join the “fun”. You will easily find the team on the Empire State Trail that runs parallel with 299 between N Ohioville Road and S. Elting Corners Road.

Plastic Recycling Doesn't Work and Will Never Work

Judith Enck (President of Beyond Plastics) and Jan Dell (Founder of Last Beach Cleanup) published "Plastic Recycling Doesn't Work and Will Never Work" in the Atlantic Magazine <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/05/single-use-plastic-chemical-recycling-disposal/661141/> and it is highly recommended reading.

In it they describe that Americans have a high degree of commitment to recycling of glass, paper, and plastic but that only glass and paper are examples of success. The recycling of plastic is failing, not because of the concept or process, but the very basic make up of plastic and the vast diversity of plastics themselves that prevent them from being mixed and create handling issues.

The article describes the different compositions and the characteristics of them. It also describes how they differ from glass and paper, which is that they are not inert and contain toxic materials and absorb chemicals that can be in the plastic stream (ie; plastic pesticide containers). The greatest risk in this is that we as a society fail to admit that plastic recycling is not working well and is not on a trajectory of being fixed. Some of the "fix" would be the ban of single use plastic bags and plastic containers. All of us as consumers can accelerate this change by speaking out on the subject and making purchases that reflect this desire. (Submitted by Joe Londa)

Ulster County Fair Signup and Proposed Presentation

(Submitted by Joe Londa)



The 2022 Ulster County Fair opens on Tuesday, Aug 2 at 4 PM and closes on Sunday August 7, 2022 at 10 PM. We need help with setup, breakdown, staffing, and planning for this year's Climate Solutions Booth. All volunteers who sign up to volunteer at the Fair will be provided with a free pass to gain entry for the day.

Thank you for your help and for completing [this form](#) to volunteer!

Set up is Tuesday morning. Here is the full schedule:

- Tuesday, Aug. 2: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Set up; Fair opens 4 PM to 10 PM (staff booth).
- Wednesday and Thursday Aug. 3 and 4: 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM (staff booth).
- Friday and Saturday Aug. 5 and 6: 10:00 AM to 11:00 PM (staff booth).
- Sunday, Aug. 7: 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM (staff booth); then close down, pack up and load out from 8 to 10 PM.

New Paltz Climate Smart July Calendar

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Tuesday July 19th at 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club: *Eat Like A Fish - My Adventures Farming the Ocean to Fight Climate Change*
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81808309951> or in person call Mark at 646-296-4676 for location

Saturday July 23rd from 10:00 – 2:00 pm Repair Café at the New Paltz Methodist Church

Tuesday July 26^h at 7:00 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting
[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Coordinator at newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com



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