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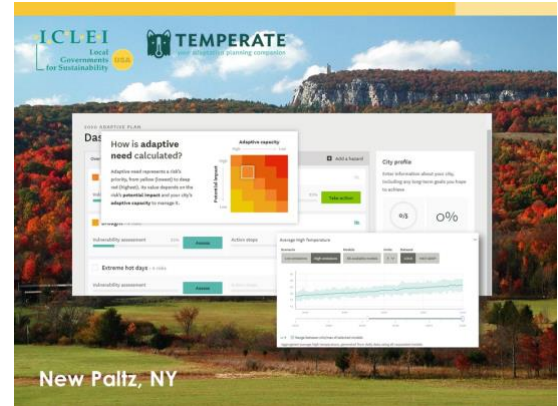
New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

*Please
complete this
survey!
See the link
below.*

New Paltz Assesses Climate Vulnerability

In the past year New Paltz Climate Smart has completed a greenhouse gas inventory, is currently working on a climate action plan, and is in the process of studying our vulnerability in New Paltz to climate change.

Climate change presents threats to New Paltz and the Town and Village may already be experiencing some of those impacts. To prepare for the future and ensure New Paltz remains a resilient and safe community, the Town and Village are developing a Climate Vulnerability Assessment throughout 2019. The assessment focuses on Town and Village operations and assets, but depends on community members like you to help identify what aspects of New Paltz may be susceptible to climate hazards—and how adaptable or ready our community is to face them. This activity will help advance New Paltz commitments toward the New York State Climate Smart Communities certification program. The survey will take you about 15 minutes to complete. Because climate change can impact many aspects of our community, the questions are grouped into community systems, such as for food, sources of energy, transportation and housing, and jobs. Your answers are entirely based on your perceptions alone (there are no right or wrong answers). Your responses will remain completely anonymous to be combined with answers from your neighbors who participate in the survey to inform New Paltz's Climate Vulnerability Assessment. You can skip any question, or mark that "you don't know", as well as provide explanations after the end of each section. Your thoughts will inform the development of the Town and Village's climate adaptation strategies.



<https://forms.gle/X8iirMnGKRdKRRKpo8>

Please share and encourage your friends and neighbors to complete the survey too. The direct link to this survey can also be found on the Town and Village of New Paltz websites.

On an ESCO? Getting Ready for New Paltz's CCA

I have had the pleasure to be on the CCA committee for New Paltz, and we had an exciting meeting last night that shows we are getting close! There will be lots of options for everyone in terms of our new, less expensive and greener energy, but lots of my friends have been asking me what to do if they are currently on an ESCO, like Green Mountain or Clean Choice Energy.

First off to everyone...don't let letters or calls from Clean Choice Energy fool you—they are NOT our CCA. Their prices are much higher, especially after your introductory period ends, so hang tight a couple more months for the Joule Community Energy letter which will introduce our CCA. (Clean Choice has been playing a bit dirty to sign extra customers up in the meantime).

If you are already an ESCO member, do your best to get out of your contract soon. I don't recommend you spend extra money to do so, so please check your individual contract. I had Clean Choice Energy, and I called them to cancel, which I could do because my term was over. They were slow about the cancellation though, so I also called Central Hudson, who helped me to change back to their regular service very quickly. Do your best to get back to being a standard Central Hudson customer to make CCA signup automatic, and easier, so you can take advantage of our great price and community benefits.

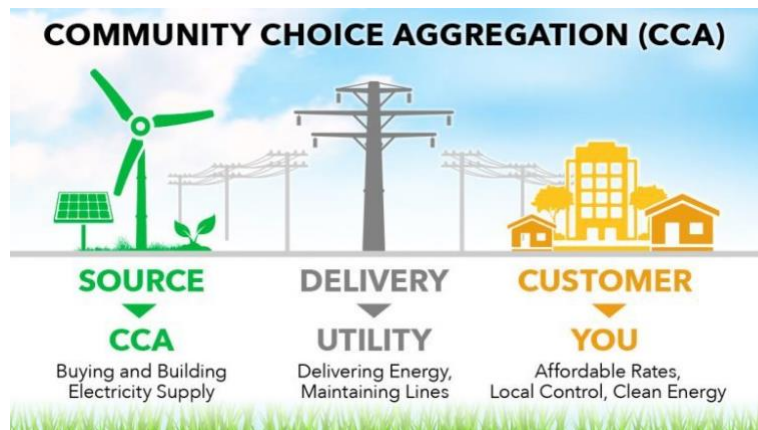
If you can't get out of your contract, no worries. If you don't want to pay the fee, just wait until the period expires, then cancel it and call Joule to sign up individually later for the CCA later. Bigger businesses also will have to call in if they would like to consider joining, as they won't automatically be signed up.

Finally, if you are having any thoughts of joining community solar, that is fantastic, but also wait until our CCA letter arrives and you will be able to do everything at once. Joining together will help us see community rewards when the time comes!

For more information, please attend one of the next CCA info sessions:

Tuesday, August 6th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm at McFoxlin's, 5 Church St (see below)

Thursday, September 12th, 7:00 – 8:30 pm New Paltz Community Center



Laura deNey
New Paltz resident

Tuesday August 6th Climate Change Solutions Meetup

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at McFoxlin's – 5 Church St, New Paltz New York

Learn how you can get 100% green electrical energy and potentially save money through Community Choice Aggregation!

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a strategy that puts control of choosing energy supply in local hands. It is a municipal model for procuring energy that replaces the utility as the default supplier of electricity and/or natural gas for virtually all homes and businesses within a jurisdiction. By pooling demand, communities build the clout necessary to negotiate a fixed-rate, potentially lower pricing with private suppliers. Communities are also able to choose cleaner energy while developing distributed energy resources including local renewable energy projects and shared renewables such as community solar, energy efficiency, demand response, energy management, and microgrid projects. More than five million customers nationwide are served by CCA programs in seven states: New York, California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, New Jersey, and Rhode Island.

At this Meetup we will talk about the launch of CCA programs in New York to understand the unique way it's being employed by communities to transition to clean energy generation and adoption of other strategies to address the climate crisis. Our speaker is Jeff Domanski, Director of Hudson Valley Energy, a nonprofit focused on fostering sustainable communities with a emphasis on people-focused strategies. Jeff's team serves as the within-community support for the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA, which currently includes six cities, towns and villages, and which the Town and Village of New Paltz will soon be joining.

Our location host this month is McFoxlin's. Their tagline is 'fancy coffee, fancy beer, no fancy people' but they are really about having quality and when possible local products. If you like order dinner or a drink and eat while participating in the Meetup!

Complete Streets Training Scheduled for New Paltz

The New Paltz Bicycle Pedestrian Committee along with New Paltz Climate Smart in cooperation with the New York Bicycling Federation is sponsoring an all day Complete Streets Training on Thursday September 26th. Municipal leaders will be creating our new Complete Streets policy and learning about the implementation process. If you are interested in learning more or attending this workshop, please contact Janelle Peotter at 920-883-1788. Space is limited.

New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

Our Task Force meets every month on the third Monday of the month at the Village Hall in the main meeting room at 7:00. This month's meeting is August 19th. We welcome new members as there is much to do! Even if you can't attend these monthly meetings, there are eight action groups doing activities beyond meetings. Please call Janelle Peotter at 920-883-1788 or email her at janellepeotter@gmail.com for more information.

Climate Solutions Summit and Zero Emissions Parade

On Saturday September 2nd from 9am-5pm the



Climate
Solutions

Summit will be held at SUNY New Paltz, 1 Hawk Drive, New Paltz. The lead organizer is New Yorkers for Clean Power in conjunction with several others including New Paltz Climate Smart and the Climate Action Coalition. This 3rd annual Climate Solutions Summit aims to build a larger movement that is prepared to take action for climate solutions. The summit is an opportunity for organizers and people from all communities across the region to come together to share projects, case studies, resources, experiences and skills to tackle climate change and implement solutions. Visit climatesolutionssummit.org to register for this year's summit. As part of National Drive Electric Week we will be concluding the summit at with the second annual Zero Emissions Parade and Green Vendor Fair sponsored by New Paltz Climate Smart and the Climate Action Coalition. We are looking for drivers of electric cars and other zero emissions vehicles including bicycles and pedestrians to participate in the parade which will be through the SUNY New Paltz Campus. Please contact Janelle Peotter at 920-883-1788 or email Samrat Pathania samratpathania@gmail.com for more information.

