

Volume 2 Issue 8
August 2020



Climate Smart
Communities
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Climate Solutions Meetup Tuesday August 11th at 6:00 pm

"Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Your Electric Bill...But Were Afraid To Ask!"

Electric Bills Explained

The following example explains line items found on residential electric bills.

Electric Delivery Charges
Delivery charges represent Central Hudson costs for delivering electricity to homes and businesses and are the delivery of electricity, lines, equipment and maintaining customer service.

- Basic Service Charge Includes maintenance of electric lines, metering, and other costs.
- Delivery Service Charge The cost of delivering electricity to customers, whether purchased from Central Hudson or another supplier.
- NYC Administration Charge This month's function charge reflects the cost of maintaining and operating the system that delivers electricity to customers. Customers receiving services will avoid this charge.
- Transition Adjustment This charge is assessed to help recover the cost of transitioning from energy supply through independent suppliers.
- System Health Charge (SHC) Allocated by the state through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, this charge is used to fund research and development, and also to encourage the use of renewable energy sources.
- Revenue Decoupling Mechanism (RDM) A mechanism designed to ensure that utility revenues are not affected by changes in energy usage, such as energy efficiency programs and renewable energy programs.
- Fixed Delivery Charge This bill will include a fixed charge for all customers, whether purchasing energy from Central Hudson or an independent supplier.

Electric Supply Charges
Supply charges are Central Hudson costs for electricity purchased on behalf of its customers on an individual meter. New York State customers are not subject to supply charges.

- Wholesale Charges (W/C) and charges related to transmission and energy. The charges are based on the Company's Regional Demand Response Program, the Company's Demand Response Incentive Program, the costs associated with certain elements of New York State's Demand Response Program, and the cost of certain elements of the Company's Demand Response Program.

Presenters:

John Maserjian with Central Hudson
Jeff Domanski and Roberto Muller from the Hudson Valley
Community Power partnership

This informative Meetup will be a presentation on understanding Central Hudson's electric bill and will provide nuanced information that can be helpful in decision making regarding being a part of a CCA (Community Choice Aggregation), Community Solar or installing solar on your property. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and have further discussion.

To sign up for this and other New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetups, go to our Meetup page below. Note that we normally meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 but we had to move the meeting this month due to presenter availability.

<https://www.meetup.com/New-Paltz-Climate-Change-Solutions-Meetup/events/272361145/>

Topic: Meetup: "Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Your Electric Bill But Were Afraid To Ask!"

Time: Aug 11, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98142950526?pwd=RFRSQ0xhbDZUaVI5QTladmx0MWVCZz09>

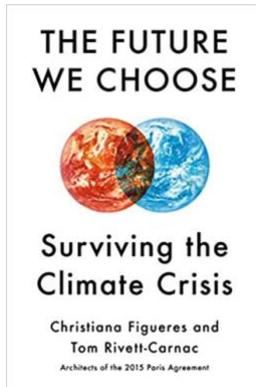
Meeting ID: 981 4295 0526

Passcode: 978444

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Climate Smart Book Club



The next selection for our monthly Climate Smart Book Club on August 18th at 7:00 pm is **The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis** by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac.

The authors who were important architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement set out two scenarios about the future of human beings on our planet. The first is if we maintain "...the very dangerous trajectory we are on right now." The authors state, "Be forewarned, this picture is dark....by mid-century human misery would be high, biodiversity would be decimated, and that we and our children would live in a world that is constantly deteriorating with no possible recuperation."

In the second scenario. "By addressing the causes of climate change now, we can at once minimize risks and emerge stronger. Today we have the unique chance to create a future where things not only stabilize but actually get better." This would involve however a massive World War II type commitment. What would that world look like? There would be: wide spread reforestation with a global proliferation of trees everywhere, including cities. Efficient mass transportation. Electrification of heating and cooling of houses and businesses as well as cars and trucks, powered by massive renewable energy projects. Regenerative agriculture would predominate and an international understanding that we are all in this together. This second scenario may seem like wishful thinking; too difficult, too expensive. But think of the difficulty and cost of the first scenario--the financial and the human cost.

Please consider reading the book as well as participating in a Zoom dialogue about the Climate Crisis and what we can do about it.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

Meeting ID: 910 6622 5574

Passcode: 605408

Submitted by Jim O'Dowd

Natural Resource Inventory

The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) subteam met with the consultants by Zoom on July 29th to review the proposed section maps and the report outline. This project is moving along nicely with content but community outreach has been hampered by the lack of face-to-face events with the public. Briefings with the Town and Village stakeholder committees, commission, and boards will be planned for the Fall once a near-final draft of all components is ready. Presentation for adoption by the Town and Village Boards is targeted for January 2021.

Amanda Gotto

Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County met with the Town of New Paltz on July 17th and the Village of New Paltz on July 22nd personnel by Zoom to review and complete information in the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning (CSRP) Tool spreadsheet for each municipality. The penultimate versions of the spreadsheet will be shared with the teams for final review in August. Draft reports with recommendations for each municipality will also be shared in August. The draft CSRP Tool project outcomes will be discussed with the CSC Task Force before being presented at the joint Village/Town Board meeting in September.

Amanda Gotto

100-year Floodplain Mapping

A kick-off meeting with Town and Village personnel and the Woods Hole Research Center team was held on June 30th. The goals of the project were set forth:

- 1) Through a robust exchange of ideas, create a useful actionable product to aid in decision making
- 2) Generate a robust quantification of data with a high degree of customization and usefulness
- 3) All designed to help prevent future flood problems, direct decisions on build-out, inform potential code changes, and augment the Town and Village Comprehensive Plans.

Amanda Gotto

Community Preservation Fund

Last week the New Paltz Town Board passed "Local Law D1", which enables creation of a New Paltz Community Preservation Fund for protection of clean water, farmland, open space, habitat and recreation areas, as well as historic preservation. Revenues for this fund will come from a local real estate transfer tax which will not impact local real property taxes for residents.

Thanks again to many of you who voiced support for a New Paltz Community Preservation Fund at the public hearings held by the Town Board - your support was important.

This law will now be voted on by residents of the Town of New Paltz. It will appear as a local proposition on your ballot for the November 3rd elections. Between now and then the New Paltz Community Preservation Task Force will be sharing information with New Paltz voters about the importance of voting "YES" for the Community Preservation Fund. If you are interested in helping with the campaign for the Fund or want to learn more about the Community Preservation Plan or Fund please look [here](#).

Potential Trans-Hudson Development

The New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force submitted a letter to members of the New Paltz Town Board on July 24, 2020. For your information, here is the content of that letter:

As members of the Climate Smart Task Force of New Paltz, we are writing to urge the town board to vote against the proposal by Trans-Hudson for a zoning waiver that allows drive-through window for a restaurant to be built on the property on the corner of North Putt Corners Road and Rt. 299. First and foremost, we would like to remind you of the pledge the New Paltz Town Board took to become a climate smart community. This pledge includes a number of actions and commitments that help the town become a healthier community. These include:

Decreasing energy use

Shifting to clean, renewable energy

Enhancing community resilience to climate change

Supporting a green innovation economy

Implementing climate-smart land use

Engaging in an evolving process of climate action

*May we also remind you that the main goal of the NYS Climate Smart program is to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. Allowing a drive-through window for a restaurant goes against the pledge that this board made as well as the goals of NY Climate Smart.*

*Contrary to the claims of the developers, there are not “numerous” drive-through windows already in existence at New Paltz restaurants. There is a total of 3 - and for good reason. In a small community, the size of New Paltz, attracting additional local or Thruway traffic that exits the highway solely for the purpose of visiting a fast food, drive-through establishment results in a significant increase in carbon emissions from the vehicle traffic. This is the opposite of the Town of New Paltz Board’s pledge to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**. The pledges to **decrease energy use and to implement climate smart land use** would also be voided with the additional traffic brought on by a drive-through restaurant. The adjacent Empire State Trail has been a great success and a boon to New Paltz since it opened. It is a great example of how our community has supported green space and encouraged a pedestrian and non-car-centric culture. But granting this waiver would undo that step, instead promoting car use. We urge you to vote against granting this waiver. Besides being unnecessary (the overwhelming majority of restaurants in New Paltz are successful businesses and have NO drive-through windows), it is in conflict with the board’s pledge and the Climate Smart community goals.*

*And please note that the Climate Smart Task Force sees this as an opportunity to fulfill another part of the town board’s pledge: to **Engage in an evolving process of climate action**. We expect that the town board will join in this opportunity.*

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We sincerely hope that your final decision will reflect the points we have made.

Very Truly Yours,

The Climate Smart Task Force,

New Paltz, NY

Individuals reading this newsletter are encouraged to learn more about this project and speak out at any public hearings.

Green Group Purchase Program: Offer ends Sept 8th

The next page is a flyer with all the details you need to take advantage of group purchase discounts of renewable technologies. Note that the offer ends September 8th. Here is the link to learn more and sign up: <https://sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program/>

Calendar

Tuesday, August 11th 6:00 pm Climate Smart Meetup: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Your Electric Bill But Were Afraid to Ask
<https://zoom.us/j/98142950526?pwd=RFERSQ0xhbDZUaVJ5QTladmx0MWVCZz09>

Monday, August 17th 7:00 pm Climate Smart Task Force monthly meeting
Contact Janelle or Amanda for more details

Tuesday, August 18st 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

For more information about New Paltz Climate Smart or any content in this newsletter, please contact:

Janelle Peotter

New Paltz Climate Smart Coordinator

Call/text 920-883-1788 or

email newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com



GREEN GROUP PURCHASE PROGRAM



The Green group purchase program makes it easier, more affordable and convenient for residents and small businesses in Ulster and Dutchess County to switch to renewable technologies through pre-selected, trusted suppliers while getting negotiated group purchase discounts.

OUR PARTNERS

Lighthouse Solar

Rooftop solar panels, battery storage, EV charging outlets, and air source heat pumps

Receive a 15% discount off normal pricing for all systems installed; \$250-\$500 per installation will be donated to the United Way of the customer's home county

Solstice Power Technologies

Community solar subscription

Receive up to 10% savings compared to your current bill;
\$150 sign-up bonus to all customers; for each signup they receive, Solstice will donate \$150 to the United Way

Blue Wave Solar

Community solar subscription

Receive up to 10% savings compared to your current bill;
\$150 sign-up bonus to all customers; for each signup they receive, BlueWave will donate \$150 to the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley

RYCOR HVAC

Mitsubishi cold-climate air source heat pumps and heat pump water heaters

RYCOR will provide a \$100 discount per installed unit to every customer and will donate \$100 for each sale to Marie Fareri Children's Hospital

Energy Conservation Specialists

Building air sealing and insulation

Provides energy assessments; get 5% off insulation and air sealing services

These offers end September 8th. Check out sustainhv.org/green-group-purchase-program to sign up or contact groupbuys@sustainhv.org for more information