

Volume 1 Issue 8
December 1, 2019

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Green Transportation: December 2nd

The Complete Streets Policy Ad Hoc committee has met twice since formation and is planning their third meeting on Monday December 2nd at 7:00 at the New Paltz Community Center. If weather prevents us from meeting at the Community Center, please call Janelle Peotter at 920-883-1788 and we will have a conference call meeting. So far we have reviewed the policy that the Village of New Paltz currently has, researched model policies and have begun to write our new policy using a template. We are looking for more members to participate in this time limited committee. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easier to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work.



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Next Monthly *Meetup* Tuesday December 3rd Climate Smart Holiday Potluck

Tuesday

December 3, 2019
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

(Note the time change for this month only.)

Unison Arts & Learning
Center
68 Mountain Rest Rd · New
Paltz, NY

Our Meetup this month will focus on how to celebrate the holidays while being Climate Smart! We will have a presenter but also want participants to bring and share their ideas. The focus will be on Climate Smart gift giving, decorating, entertaining and how to buy travel offsets. Participants

can learn about “Buy Nothing Day” and socialize with other “green” minded folks. Bring an idea and a dish to share for our holiday potluck! Let’s make this a zero waste event – no plastics or disposables please.

This is our eighth Meetup and we are receiving a lot of very positive feedback about the value of doing them. Our focus is how to incorporate Climate Smart choices into your everyday life. We use the Meetup platform and already have 80 members. Topics that we have covered in the past include electric vehicles, composting techniques, pollinator gardens, Community Choice Aggregation, alternatives to lawns, Repair Café and the repair movement, alternatives to plastics and other disposables. What ideas do you have for our next Meetup?? Please email Janelle at janellepotter@gmail.com with your idea, presenter or location.

Big Celebration with Little Impact: Suggestions for an Eco-Friendly Holiday



Vulnerability Assessment Workshop: Wednesday December 4th at 7:00 pm

This **Wednesday December 4th**, our municipal leaders, the Climate Action Coalition and the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force are all invited to participate in a climate change vulnerability workshop beginning at **7:00 pm at the Village Hall**. We will be learning about our vulnerability assessment which will include results from the Climate Vulnerability Survey. The survey reached 160 respondents at the time it was closed on November 25th, representing over 1% of the Town's population. Although the responses do not represent the whole community, they do provide some insight into where there is, and is not, consensus and understanding about climate vulnerabilities. The climate change vulnerability assessment further identifies community assets, systems, and populations that are particularly sensitive to the impacts of climate change. The assessment is a necessary step for developing a climate adaptation strategy, as it characterizes the physical and social elements of a community for which adaptation actions are needed. To give you a preview or example of one of our findings:

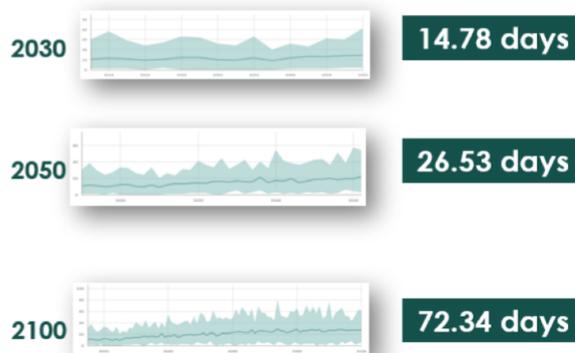


Climate data: Extreme Heat Events

[# days per year temps exceed historical highs]

In 2000s, New Paltz summer is hotter than the historical average **10 days** per year.

This trend is **increasing**.



New Paltz is projected to experience 7 times the number of days reaching mid-80s temperature. New Paltz in the 1990s rarely experienced temperatures over upper 80s Fahrenheit. Today, the current maximum average temperature for the Town is 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit. This

means that during any given summer, we can expect temperatures to reach the mid-90s, with only some years reaching 100 degrees. However, within a decade, the typical hottest days of summer will become warmer, reaching an average high temperature of 99.6 degrees in 2030. If you would like more details about this workshop, please email Janelle at janellepeotter@gmail.com

Students & Community Climate Strike

Friday December 6th 12:00 noon to 2:30 PM

US STRIKE WITH US
DEC 6

Students & Community Climate Strike
Friday, December 6th, 2019
Our children need a livable future!

HOW DARE YOU! **PLANET OVER PROFITS!**

You are ruining our future!

12:00 WALK OUT
12:15 MARCH
-SUNY NP: Meet in front of Humanities Bldg
-HS Students: Meet in front of HS main entrance
-MS Students & Parents: Meet at corner of Main St. and S. Manheim Blvd
-Lenape & Duzine Students and Parents: Join the march at MS
1:00-2:30 RALLY
In front of DEC at 21 S. Putt Corners Road

Co-Sponsored by: Extinction Rebellion New Paltz, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, New Paltz Climate Smart Community, NYPIRG, Resisterhood, Tin Horn Uprising, U-Act and more!

Many students from SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz High School and the New Paltz Middle School will be walking out of classes at noon this Friday and marching to a location in front of the Department of

Environmental Conservation at 21 S. Putt Corners Road. Please consider coming out in support of these powerful voices. The Climate Rally with a slate of speakers will begin there at 1:00 pm.

"That action must be powerful and wide-ranging. After all, the climate crisis is not just about the environment. It is a crisis of human rights, of justice, and of political will. Colonial, racist, and patriarchal systems of oppression have created and fueled it. We need to dismantle them all. Our political leaders can no longer shirk their responsibilities."

Greta Thunberg

With the consequences of climate change becoming ever more clear and dire with each passing day, a new powerful wave of the climate movement has been swelling up over the last couple of years. Young people around the world have been rising up to defend our future, and have been going on strike – every week, all over the planet – for months. In the September Climate Strikes alone, 7.6 million people took to the streets.

Wildflower Seeds Planted!

During the last month wildflower seeds were planted along a stretch of the Empire State Trail near New Paltz through the efforts of our Green Spaces Action Group



and Liz Elkin! This project had two purposes: to teach about the importance of mowing less and thereby lowering our carbon footprint and to increase pollinator habitat. It will be fun to watch this project grow and blossom in the coming years.

CCA Update (CCA is Community Choice Aggregation)

The Welcome/Opt-out letter was mailed to every eligible home and small business in the Town and Village of New Paltz last month. Now that those letters went out, our one month opt-out period is in effect. During this time Hudson Valley Energy is available for both Town and Village residents to help answer people's questions and process opt-outs. They will continue to hold weekly community-hosted office hours on Mondays, 12:30-1:30, now in Village Hall. They are also hosting two more events - one in the Town of New Paltz and one in the Village of New Paltz this week.

Village of New Paltz

December 3rd (Tuesday) 7:30-9pm at Elting Memorial Library

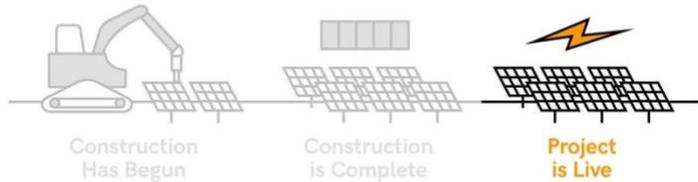
Town of New Paltz

December 5th (Thursday) 7:30-9pm at the Community Center

If you have further CCA questions, or didn't receive the letter and want to be part of the CCA, please contact Jeff Domanski at cca@hudsonvalleyenergy.org

Sign Up for Community Solar Now!

If you don't already have solar panels on your property, you can sign up for 10% additional savings on your electric bill and earn the town/village money towards a sustainability fund. Please consider signing up for the



additional community solar through this site. The only way New Paltz receives the sustainability fund money is if you follow the link provided here:

<https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/solar>

This community solar project is through Nexamp and is located in Rochester, New York and is now live! What does that mean for you? If you sign up, you will be helping to deliver clean, renewable energy generated by the sun to the electricity grid. You'll start seeing solar credits applied to your Central Hudson bill in the next 2-3 months. Once they confirm that the credits have been transferred to your Central Hudson account, you'll receive an invoice from Nexamp for 90% of the credit value that you received on your electricity bill. This means you'll be saving up to 10% on your annual electricity cost.

Climate Smart Task Force Now Meets at the Community Center

Our Climate Smart Task Force meets every third Monday of the month at 7:00. We had been meeting at the New Paltz Village Hall but we are now meeting at the Community Center. Please join us if you can. **Our next meeting is Monday December 16th.** We always welcome new members as there is much to do. We have 8 action groups:

1. The 6 R's - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle
2. Green Business
3. Green Spaces
4. Green Transportation
5. Publicity, Social Media, Press Releases
6. Youth
7. Alternative Energy
8. Lifestyle

For more information about New Paltz Climate Smart or any content in this newsletter, please contact:
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Call/text 920-883-1788 or
email janellepeotter@gmail.com