

**Volume 2 Issue 12
December 2020**



New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

December Meetup

Climate Smart Tree Planting: Who, What, Why, Where and When!



**Tuesday
December 1, 2020**

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM EST

Online event on Zoom

Free!

Zoom link below:

<https://zoom.us/j/99791341400?pwd=ZIRjbUFaVGJaazVXQkg3STBPSzhYdz09>

We all know about the importance of trees in fighting climate change through carbon sequestration but what can you do? Join us for this Meetup to learn more about the New York State Spring Seedling Sale through the DEC that begins on January 4th and offers an opportunity to buy tree seedlings at very low cost. Learn more about what trees to plant, where to plant, and when to plant! Most importantly, learn how to keep your trees and shrubs alive once they are planted.

Janelle Peotter, Coordinator for New Paltz Climate Smart, will begin the presentation and will be joined by lifelong tree nurseryman Tom Pinney Jr. Tom has over 50 years of experience at one of the largest and oldest wholesale tree nurseries in the Midwest. He has four plant patents specific to birch trees and a wealth of practical knowledge about the planting and growing of trees. George Profous, Senior Forester, Division of Lands & Forests with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will also be part of the panel. We will have an open forum at the end for discussion as well as a question/answer period.

Climate Smart Book Club:

Repair Revolution – How Fixers Are Transforming Our Throwaway Culture

**Tuesday December 15th
7:00 – 8:30 pm on Zoom**

John Wackman, area resident and founding member of our New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, will be joining us as one of the authors of his newly released book *Repair Revolution*. Every year millions of people throw away clothes, furniture, computers, appliances and countless other items that get broken through natural wear and tear simply because they lack the know-how to fix them. It's just more convenient to buy new stuff. This throwaway lifestyle depletes Earth's resources and adds to overflowing landfills. Although our society accepts frivolous waste as normal there is a better way. Repair Revolution chronicles the rise of repair cafés: nonprofit volunteer organizations devoted to repairing electronics and household items for free. Repair Revolution explores the philosophy and wisdom of repairing as well as the rising Right to Repair movement. It finishes with the practical details: online resources fixes for common product malfunctions and tips for founding your own repair café. Ultimately Repair Revolution is about more than fixing material objects: in an age of overconsumption and planned obsolescence do-it-yourself repair is a way of caring for our lives, our communities and our planet.



REPAIR REVOLUTION

HOW FIXERS ARE TRANSFORMING OUR THROWAWAY CULTURE
BY JOHN WACKMAN & ELIZABETH KNIGHT

“Chronicles the growing worldwide repair movement in abundant, inviting detail... **inspires and instructs.**”
—Stewart Brand, creator of the Whole Earth Catalog and author of *Maintenance*

“An inspirational yet practical primer on how to build and strengthen communities, one reclaimed, repaired, or restored object at a time.”
—David Malki !, author of *Wondermark*

“An important contribution... **offers extensive resources for taking action.**”
—Vita Wells, founder of the Culture of Repair Project

“A gold mine of inspiring stories... If you want to kick-start the repair revolution in your community, **this book is a must-read.**”
—Catherine Weetman, host Circular Economy podcast & cofounder Rethink Global

“The impulse to repair is present in every part of our lives. This book tells **the important story of the people leading the repair movement.**”
—Kyle Wiens, CEO of iFixit

“Presents the what, why, and how-to of bringing repair and reuse to every town in the USA.”
—Neil Seldman, president of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance

“Witness communities gathering to collectively build resilience, share technical skills, honor value, and celebrate creativity...**use this book to continue building support for a repair revolution.**”
—Katrina Rodabaugh, author of *Mending Matters*

Repair Revolution includes:

- the philosophy and conversations with leaders behind the international repair movement
- information about Repair Cafes, Tool Libraries, and Fixit Clinics across the U.S.
- the growing trend in “right to repair”
- a complete guide on How to Start a Repair Cafe in your town
- fix-it tips and resources for common repairs



For a media review copy or to schedule an interview with the authors, please contact Monique Muhlenkamp monique@newworldlibrary.com

TV producer and writer **John Wackman** founded the first Repair Cafe in New York. He lives in Kingston, New York. Community sustainability activist and organizer **Elizabeth Knight** is the author of *Welcome Home* and other books. She lives in Warwick, New York.

New World Library ★ 320 pages, b&w illustrations ★ \$18.95 pb
ISBN-13: 978-1608686605

Join us for the Book Club on December 15th on this link:

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

Climate Change Solutions January Meetup

**Do you want to save energy for the planet, save money
and make your home more comfortable?**

Learn from a panel of Energy Navigators!

**Tuesday January 5th
6:00 on Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98300120114?pwd=dm1KOXB6LzlzRXZzaWZqQjBCd1o2QT09>

Meeting ID: 983 0012 0114

Passcode: 279294

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,98300120114#,,,,,0#,,279294# US (New York)

At the January New Paltz Climate-Smart Meetup the Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy Navigators will present ways to make your home more efficient while also saving you money! Depending on eligibility, there are numerous programs that can help people pay for these upgrades. We will discuss some of these programs and home updates during the Meetup. We are volunteers, so no sales pitches, and there is absolutely no obligation! We are trained to help people sort through the details and red tape. Our volunteer work is designed to work with ALL people, homeowners and renters!

Some of the topics we will cover are:

- ~Steps to a Net-Zero Home
- ~Updating to energy and cost-saving LED light bulbs
- ~Air sealing and insulation for seasonal comfort, cost-saving, and energy efficiency
- ~Options for upgrading your heating and cooling systems
- ~Ways to access solar power for all people. Solar doesn't even have to be on your own roof!
- ~Programs to potentially help you pay for these upgrades.

There are many other efficiency upgrades that we can discuss. We can also help guide you through the application and paperwork process.

Join us on January 5th to learn more!

Ongoing Projects On Our Path to Silver Certification



helping people reach their energy goals

• **Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool**

The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool and report that was generated by Cornell Cooperative Extension can be accessed on the Climate Smart webpages on both the Town and Village websites. The Climate Smart Task Force is identifying opportunities for implementation that will also provide Climate Smart points towards silver level to discuss with the Town and Village Boards.

• **Natural Resource Inventory**

The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) team has reviewed the penultimate set of maps, the story map outline, and the draft report from the consultants. The team's comments were compiled and sent to the consultants. The consultants intend to work on the next draft of the report and the story maps through the end of this year and into Jan 2021, with a target of having the next draft available by Feb. That draft NRI will then be presented to the Town and Village Boards in March for their feedback.

Although the NRI team had plenty of constructive notes for the consultants, the team continues to be enthusiastic about the NRI report and maps, with comments such as “ I have learned a lot” and “ It contains a wealth of information that is of encyclopedic proportions. It provides a resource guide for experts, scholars, municipal officials as well as lay people and anyone interested in learning about our local environment.”

• **100-year Floodplain Mapping**

The Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole Research Center) completed the flood mapping project with a final report and a set of slides. The GIS data from the report were sent to the Town EnCB and to the NRI consultant as well.

The data in the Woodwell report and the projections for the future differ from FEMA mapping in that the Woodwell report included not only the Walkill River but also local tributaries, the flood water associated not only with river flow but also from rainfall, and the projections for the future took climate change projections for increased rainfall and increased storms into account.

The findings of this project were presented to the Town and Village Boards at their joint meeting on Nov 4, to the Town Environmental Conservation Board at their Nov 11 meeting, and to the Climate Action Coalition at their Nov 19 meeting. The Climate Smart Task Force intends to contact the chairs of other Town and Village boards, committees, and commissions to schedule presentations with them also.

The flood mapping report and slides will soon be found on the Climate Smart webpage for both the Town and Village websites. In the meantime, you can actually watch the presentation by Woodwell Climate Research Center at the joint New Paltz Town and Village Board Meeting held on November 4th. The link is here:

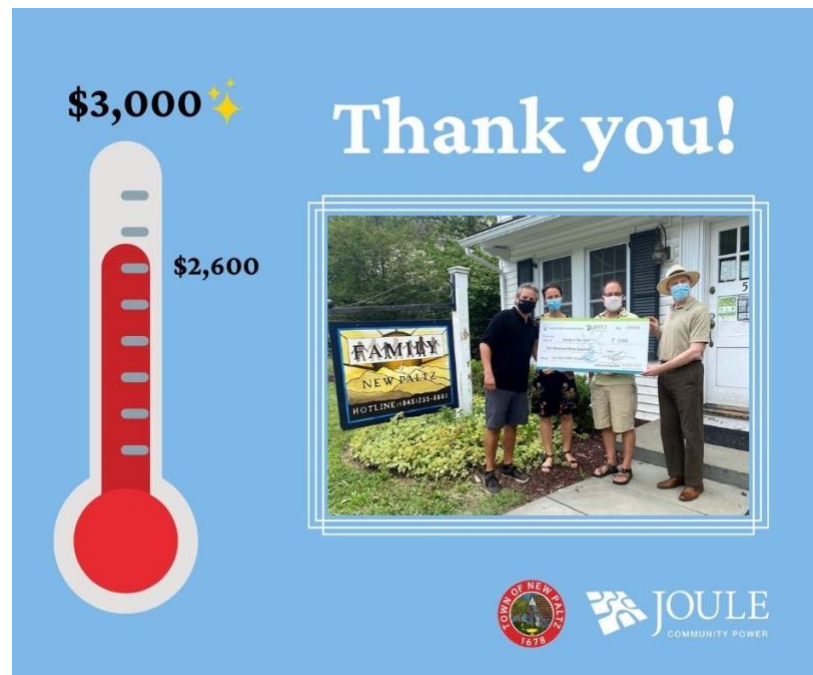
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_vxVe3hSdQ&feature=youtu.be

Can You Help Raise Money for Family of New Paltz?

You easily can if you are eligible for community solar!

The Town of New Paltz is fundraising for the Family of New Paltz through the Hudson Valley Community Power community solar program. For each enrollment in the program, \$50 is donated to Family of New Paltz.

Thank you so much for your incredible support for Family of New Paltz. Because of you, we have been able to raise \$2,600 and counting. We are setting a goal of raising \$3,000.



For years, Family of New Paltz has been an anchor for area residents- a place where people are respectful and caring, and where the search for solutions is creative and tireless. Their shelters, emergency food pantries, domestic violence services, hotlines, and childcare supports all work together to help people achieve the changes they seek.

We hope that you join us in our efforts to raise money by enrolling in the Town of New Paltz community solar program. Our community solar program works to save you up to 10% annually on your electricity bill while supporting the development of clean, renewable electricity in New York State. **This program is open to any residents (owners and renters) and small businesses in Central Hudson territory.** We encourage you to enroll and begin participating today!

Enroll at: www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/enroll-ampion

To learn more about the amazing work that Family of New Paltz is doing please check out the video below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWfDQXuV_ps

ROCKING YOUR REUSABLES

During the Pandemic (by Iris Marie Bloom)



As we continue to tease apart the destructive triangle of climate destruction, plastics pollution, and the increase in single-use during the pandemic, we have a few more tips and information for you here:

1. Plastic Bag Avoidance Tips:

As we participated in service projects to get meals to hundreds of people during this pandemic Thanksgiving, we noticed that plastic bags, by the hundreds, are still standard practice for meal delivery "because it might spill." True, spills sometimes happen, but if you find yourself participating in this logic, try to interrupt it with alternatives, like having a rag towels, cardboard boxes or reused plastic (such as birdseed bags) available in the car to prevent or sop up spills.

Meanwhile, as of October 2020, New York State is finally enforcing the statewide plastic bag ban for shops: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/20/nyregion/what-to-know-new-york-state-ban-plastic-bags.html> Remember to bring your own bag!

2. Keep multiple reusables handy...

In [this article](#) 119 scientists recommended that **reusables are safe to use** during the pandemic, rather than single-use plastic.

Many restaurants in the Hudson Valley continue to thrive while providing takeout and also providing in-person outdoor dining. If you like to support these restaurants or know others who do, simply **having a few containers always**, always handy enables you to go zero-waste when faced with leftovers.

TIP: For restaurants which plan to pack your to-go items in single-use containers instead of using your reusable, sometimes you can avoid this! Instead, order the food as if it is "dine-in", then simply scoop it into your reusables and take it home. They have a plate to wash, but you've tipped accordingly, and no single-use items are put into play. This is important because the carbon cost of manufacturing single-use items, even if they are "plant-based" or "compostable in industrial facilities," is unacceptable.



3. Give some reusables as gifts!

ChicoBag and To-Go Ware estimate that they have, so far, prevented about 22.6 billion single-use items from entering the waste stream by providing handy, attractive reusables instead. So please consider, if you are giving material gifts at all, giving gifts that reduce single-use culture. The ChicoBag and To-Go Ware site is here (bamboo cutlery, etc.): <https://www.togoware.com/>

For a fancier gift, consider the Environmental Working Group stash of gifts including a vegan cookbook, reusable thermos, reusable metal straw with silicone tip, reusable bag and other items: <https://www.ewg.org/>

In general, we don't want to fall into the trap of "consuming more" in order to consume less! So we recommend these manufactured gifts with some hesitation. However, if you were planning to give something tangible and manufactured anyway... why not give something which may also help reduce carbon impact and help shift the culture a wee bit? Please give us feedback on these suggestions; we value your thoughts.

Hoping for a plastic-free, reusables-rocking holiday season, COVID-safe and low carbon for all, filled with love.

New Paltz Climate Smart Calendar

Tuesday December 1st 6:00 pm Climate Solutions Meetup - Climate Smart Tree Planting: Who, What, Why, Where and When!

<https://zoom.us/j/99791341400?pwd=ZlRjbUFaVGJaaZVXQkg3STBPSzhYdz09>

Wednesday December 15th 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club – Repair Café

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

Monday December 21st 7:00 pm Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

Tuesday January 5th 6:00 pm Climate Solutions Meetup: Energy Navigators

<https://zoom.us/j/98300120114?pwd=dm1KOXB6LzlzRXZzaWZqQjBCd1o2QT09>



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