

Volume 4 Issue 12
December 2022



Climate Smart
Communities
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

December Climate Smart *Meetup* Reducing Solid Waste at Festivals and Big Events: Featuring Greenway!



Tuesday
December 6, 2022
6:00 to 7:30 PM EST

Online event: [register here](#)

Have you ever attended a festival or big event and been appalled by the amount of garbage they generate and wondered if there was a better way? Well, there is! This Meetup will provide detailed information about how you approach

such a big task, when you start, how the communication with vendors goes, as well as the types of plastic that are and are not recyclable, etc. Our Meetups are solution and action-oriented and we found the perfect business to share with us their process and successes: Greenway.

Greenway will present the results of the 2022 Hudson Valley Garlic Festival. Greenway co-owners will describe their efforts to recruit volunteers, how they select compostable disposables, outreach and educate the vendors, and work within an existing system.

Greenway Environmental Services was founded in 1996. Shabazz Jackson and Josephine Papagni have been co-owners and operators since 2000. Greenway's Mission Statement has remained: Return the fertility to our soils, and at the same time, protect groundwater and surface water. We accomplish this by recovering the organic fraction of the waste stream and converting it to high-performance blended soils, compost, and mulch.



Greenway's owners are certified compost facility operators and professional soil blenders. They design, install, and train the users of Zero Waste Systems. They are experienced in designing and installing stormwater management. Greenway has demonstrated a commitment to environmental education and stewardship.

December Climate Smart Book Club: inconspicuous consumption – the environmental impact you don't know you have

Tuesday
December 20, 2022
7:00 to 8:30 PM EST

Online event
[Click here to register](#)



The Climate Smart Book Club book pick for December is the first-place winner of the Society of Environmental Journalists' Rachel Carson Environment Book Award. Join us on December 20th for our online discussion of this book: *inconspicuous consumption - the environmental impact you don't know you have*. From a former *New York Times* science writer, this urgent call to action will empower you to stand up to climate change and environmental pollution by making simple but impactful everyday choices.

With urgency and wit, Tatiana Schlossberg explains that far from being only a distant problem of the natural world created by the fossil fuel industry, climate change is all around us, all the time, lurking everywhere in our convenience-driven society, all without our realizing it.

By examining the unseen and unconscious environmental impacts in four areas—the Internet and technology, food, fashion, and fuel – Schlossberg helps readers better understand why climate change is such a complicated issue, and how it connects all of us: How streaming a movie on Netflix in New York burns coal in Virginia; how eating a hamburger in California might contribute to pollution in the Gulf of Mexico; how buying an inexpensive cashmere sweater in Chicago expands the Mongolian desert; how destroying forests from North Carolina is necessary to generate electricity in England.

Cataloging the complexities and frustrations of our carbon-intensive society with a dry sense of humor, Schlossberg makes the climate crisis and its solutions interesting and relevant to everyone who cares, even a little, about the planet. She empowers readers to think about their stuff and the environment in a new way, helping them make more informed choices when it comes to the future of our world.

Most importantly, this is a book about the power we have as voters and consumers to make sure that the fight against climate change includes all of us and all of our stuff, not just industry groups and politicians. If we have any hope of solving the problem, we all have to do it together. Read the book and join us for the discussion on December 20th!

Are Your Credit Cards and Bank Accounts Contributing to the Climate Crisis?

Those of us who are deeply concerned about our environment are confronting the climate crisis by making significant changes in our daily lives: Buying our food and household necessities at local farms and stores, driving less, walking, and using public transportation more, avoiding single-use plastic and eating a plant-based diet. But how much of an impact does one person's life-style choices really make? What if we knew that thousands, if not millions, of people are changing their habits to improve the quality of life on this planet. Wouldn't that strengthen our commitment?



Here's an idea:

Third Act <https://thirdact.org/>, an organization founded by Bill McKibbin, is calling for all seniors over 55 to pull their money out of banks and other financial institutions that are heavily invested in oil, gas, coal, and other climate-destructive industries. Many of us are saving for our retirement or already enjoying the benefits of having funded our 401ks and Social Security. The money that we have saved during our working years is now sitting in banks and investment accounts. If those institutions are JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citi Bank or Bank of America, our hard-earned life savings are being used to invest in the fossil fuel industry and deforestation.

TIAA, an investment firm that manages retirement accounts for university and healthcare professionals, is a major player in fracked gas power plants and agribusinesses exploiting and destroying the Amazon forests. It is also a heavy investor in for-profit prisons.

So far, Third Act has presented three types webinars designed to help folks find environmentally and socially responsible banks, credit card companies, and investments. These Zoom meetups have attracted over 1,000 registrants, and the audience is growing. Third Act continues to host big community calls, workshops and facilitated conversations each month that build skills, deepen interest, and get everyone working together on the big problems of our time. Third Act's goal is to get thousands of seniors to close out their accounts in their current financial institutions on the same day, March 21, 2023. Now that's an impact!



-Mark Varian, New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force member

Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Task Force Status and Living with Batteries

The modern battery is 222 years old and our thanks can go out to Italian physicist [Alessandro Volta](#) who built and described the first electrochemical battery, the [voltaic pile](#), in 1800 as we read in Wikipedia. That pile was made from a stack of copper and zinc plates, separated by brine-soaked paper disks. Today's batteries use an array of materials with lithium being one of the more common materials. For most people, batteries are ubiquitous and have changed how we live within the world by enabling wireless devices like mobile phones, laptops, tablets, power tools, ebikes, and electric vehicles (EV) to name just a few. Our society is far from done incorporating how we will live with batteries and the role they will play, especially in the transformation of the electric grid to being fossil fuel free, in our homes, and getting from place to place.

Batteries are one way to replace fossil fuel end use (i.e. cars), but ultimately they do need to be charged via the electric grid and here batteries will also play a role in the storage and distribution of energy. Renewable energy from solar, wind, and hydro can be inconsistent and when they are abundant (sunny, windy, or lots of rain) they can produce electricity that is not needed at that moment in time. Batteries can be used to handle what would otherwise be electrically "curtailed" by storing the energy that is not needed at that moment and then discharged during peak needs of the day, be that in summer or winter and avoiding the use of fossil fuel electric generators. This can be done in a bulk centralized manner, as New York State is planning, since Li ion batteries have a very high energy density per cubic foot.

They also have another usage model where they are deployed in a very distributed model such as individual homes, apartment complexes, businesses, and institutions. When batteries and solar panels are used together at the local level, they reduce demand on the grid by self-producing



electricity that is needed in real time or in a backup situation or shared via redistribution. I recently saw an example of this at the University of Massachusetts and it is described [here](#).

To facilitate the latter case, Towns in New York State and including New Paltz, are establishing a Permitting Application process on how small-scale batteries (<600KWh called Tier 1) can be installed in a controlled manner with the waiving of a Site Plan Review. We have drafted such a Permitting Application form and waiver criteria for small scale batteries and are in the process of completing the draft version with the assistance of the Town of New Paltz Building Inspector. For large scale batteries (>600KWh called Tier 2) we will utilize the Model law provided by New York State to understand how best to handle these larger batteries with safety and regulation in mind via a Site Plan Review. Since no system is completely risk free, we must also prepare Emergency Response plans, and codify them into the law, as a prudent step in preparing for the potential of a large battery system being installed. The BESS Task force is turning to that next step and will be working with the Town Emergency officials to develop those plans.

Educating the public on the future role of batteries in achieving a fossil fuel free electric grid is one of the things the Climate Smart Committee will focus on. Look for future presentations on this topic and ongoing discussion on how the electric grid transformation will emerge.

- Joe Londa, New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force member

Second Nature Refillery Is Now Open For Business!

Second Nature Refillery at Zero Place is open for business!!! Wendy Toman has worked so hard, nonstop, for so long to make her vision a reality. Those of you who have stopped in have seen first-hand how beautiful and creative this store is. Wendy made all of the hanging lights – some out of used paint sticks – brilliant! Most importantly this store is significant in its impact because there is no single use plastic packaging!

As Wendy would say, she wants to help you reduce your carbon footprint by changing your shopping habits, one plastic-free swap at a time, until it becomes Second Nature! Be sure to stop by and shop for household goods, fresh produce and lots of food staples. If you bring some empty containers, you'll be ready to go!



I think Kimiko Link said it best in a recent New Paltz Community Facebook post: *"My new favorite shopping venue! You can feel uplifted by every purchase! Thank you, Wendy, Dave and Gilly, for sharing this great concept with our community-making it so easy for all of us to be less wasteful and support conservation of the planet's resources! Can't wait to bring my container in to try the heavenly scent refillable cedar shampoo (although the aromatherapy aspect may result in even longer showers for my teenage daughters!) and the wild blueberry toothpaste tablets! Yum! Everyone grab your containers, head over to second nature, and support the Tomans and their great new shop at Zero Place in New Paltz! And gift certificates would make great present for all your earth caring friends!"*

Looking for a place to buy a Climate Smart Tiffin? You can now purchase them at Second Nature Refillery! New Paltz Climate Smart has been promoting the idea of bringing your own container to restaurants for take-out and left overs. We have been looking for a retail location in New Paltz to make our tiffins widely available and we are very glad that Second Nature Refillery is now carrying them! Tiffins are a great way to limit your use of single use packaging at restaurants.



So start saving up your empties, and walk, trot, bike, bus, or drive over to Second Nature Refillery at 87 N Chestnut St in New Paltz in the Zero Place Building.

Open Wednesday – Friday 12 – 6pm, Saturday 10-4 pm, and Sunday 12 – 4 pm

New Paltz wants your input!

*We want to know ways that you want to
reduce greenhouse gas emissions*

Did you know that in one year the New Paltz community creates 72,116 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions (1 metric ton = 2,204 lbs)?

That's 11,353 lbs for every man, woman, and child living here. As in the rest of the country, transportation is the single largest contributor.

We can work together to find ways our community can reduce those numbers. What are you willing to do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

The Town and Village of New Paltz are working on developing a Community Climate Action Plan. A climate action plan is a detailed and strategic framework for measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and related climatic impacts. Communities design and utilize climate action plans as roadmaps for making informed decisions and understanding where and how to achieve the largest and most cost-effective emissions reductions that are in alignment with other municipal goals.

But we need your input and opinion! Take the Survey!

**TAKE THE SURVEY AND VOICE
YOUR OPINION REGARDING:**

- Energy
- Waste Reduction
- Transportation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NPCAPSurvey>



This project has been funded in part by The Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.





Bike to Shop!

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 10TH
NOON TO 2:00 PM**



Join the fun, reduce your carbon footprint and ride your bicycle
on this 4 mile group ride!

Be prepared to shop! We are doing planned stops at Second Nature
Refillery, Lagusta's Lucious Cafe, Water Street Market & Tops Plaza

**MEET AT THE NEW PALTZ COMMUNITY CENTER
3 VETERANS DR, NEW PALTZ, NY 12561
AND DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!**



SPONSORED BY:

**NEW PALTZ BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE &
NEW PALTZ CLIMATE SMART TASK FORCE**



QUESTIONS? EMAIL:

NEWPALTZCLIMATESMART@GMAIL.COM

New Paltz Climate Smart November Calendar

Tuesday December 6th at 10:00 am BESS Task Force. Contact Joe Londa at londajm@gmail.com if you want to participate & need the link.

Tuesday December 6th at 6:00 – 7:30 pm Climate Solutions Meetup – Reducing Solid Waste at Festivals and Big Events: Featuring Greenway!
Online event: [register here](#)

Saturday December 10th from 12:00 Noon to 2:00 pm Bike to Shop!
Meet at Community Center parking lot at 3 Veterans Drive in New Paltz

Tuesday December 13th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting

Tuesday December 20th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm Climate Smart Book Club:
inconspicuous consumption: the environmental impact you don't know you have by Tatiana Schlossberg. Online event: [Click here to register](#)

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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Reduce your use of single use!

Bring your own container, such as this tiffin, to restaurants for take out or left overs. We have tiffins for sale through New Paltz Climate Smart or the Climate Action Coalition at the wholesale cost of only \$15

BYOC:

Bring Your Own Container!