

Volume 2 Issue 1
February 1, 2020

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Next Meetup Is Tuesday February 4th How to Calculate & Offset Your Carbon Footprint

Have you heard about carbon offsetting? Are you unclear about its intricacy or unsure about its efficacy? This meetup will be an opportunity to hang out with other folks who may have similar questions or concerns. Samrat Pathania, a local teacher and environmental activist, will talk about some of the ins and outs of carbon offsets and why he sees them as a viable solution, at least in the short term, to the climate crisis.



CLIMATE CHANGE
SOLUTIONS MEETUP



How to calculate & offset your **CARBON FOOTPRINT**

Tuesday, February 4th

Learn how to calculate your personal impact
on the environment

Get tips & share ideas about ways to make
your lifestyle more eco-friendly!

6-7:30pm at McFoxlin's
5 Church Street, New Paltz

This is our tenth Meetup since starting these last May. Last month more than 20 people attended our Meetup held at Lagusta's Commissary on the topic of a Plant Based Diet. Rebecca Carucci did an excellent job presenting and leading our lively discussion. Don't miss this one!

There is a new Book Club in Town!

Have you been looking for someone to share your thoughts with after reading a book about climate change?

New Paltz Climate Smart is sponsoring this effort and has selected the first book for their

first book club meeting which will be **Tuesday February 11th at the Elting Memorial Library in New Paltz at 7:00 pm.** The book being discussed this month is ***"We Are The Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast"*** by Jonathan Safran Foer. More and more people are acknowledging the huge role that the animal agriculture industry plays in carbon emissions and climate change. Inevitably, this means that we need to shift our diets to be more sustainable, vastly reducing the amount of meat and dairy we consume, and increasing the amount of plant-based protein in our diets. Jonathan Safran Foer began his writing career as an author of fiction novels, which gives his non-fiction work a brilliant storytelling quality. In this book the author connects this insight to the climate crisis, looking at the environmental impact of agriculture industry.

Inquiring Minds Bookstore is carrying this book and if you identify that you are part of our Book Club they will give 10% off, or 30% on Wednesdays as this book is still a new release. It is available in hardcover and as an audiobook read by the author.

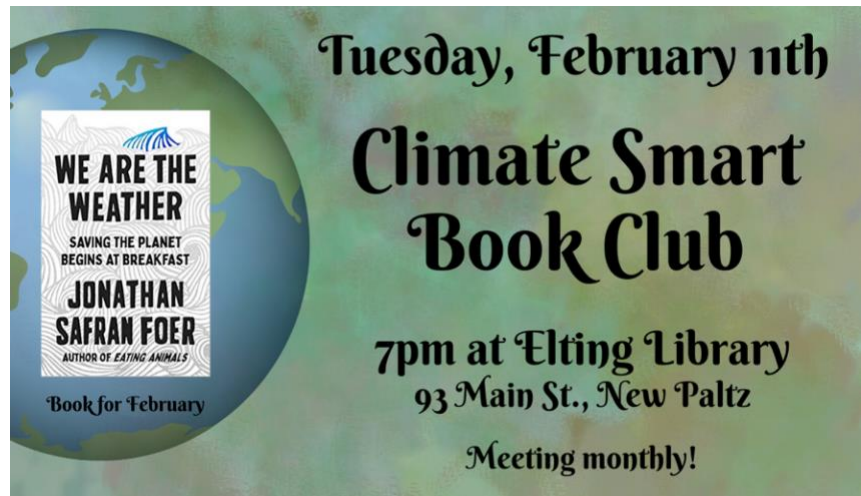
This Book Club is open to the public and at this first meeting the next book will be chosen based on group suggestions. You are welcome to attend even if you don't have a chance to read the book for this month. A unique aspect to this book club is that you can join us from anywhere in the world via Zoom online conferencing or in person right here in New Paltz NY. If you want to meet with us remotely, you are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: Feb 11, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[Register for Remote Participation in the Climate Smart Book Club](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Let's Stand Together Now To Stop Danskammer!

By Liz Elkin

Next week, Thurs. Feb. 6th, Danskammer Fracked Gas Power Plant is hosting an "informational meeting" for elected officials at their offices at 181 South Plank Rd, Newburgh.

The meeting begins at 6pm but we need to be there by 5:00pm to show that Danskammer is wrong for the Hudson Valley, wrong for New York, wrong for the planet and unnecessary for the power grid. We all know that money and infrastructure needs to be put towards smart, 21st century, green energy sources NOT dirty, harmful fossil fuels of the past. Furthermore, why must another marginalized community like Newburgh, be subjected to severe health risks in their own backyards? Please follow this link to RSVP to the Facebook event.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/477669796509330/>

In case you're unfamiliar: Danskammer is the fracked gas power plant that has filed an application to rebuild on a flood-prone site on the banks of the Hudson River. Not only is this ill-advised with more regular superstorms caused by the climate crisis, but it is also completely unnecessary. New York State already has an annual surplus of power in our electrical grid.

Cuomo has announced that over 1700 MW of offshore wind power will be coming online in the next few years. There will be powerline transmission improvements that will increase the transport efficiency of our existing power in the grid, gaining another 1250 MW. 180 MW of solar and 1,508 MW of land-based wind projects are in the midst of the approvals. An additional 3,880 MW of solar is also in the earlier stages of permitting review.

Danskammer is behaving like all fossil fuel companies. They are downplaying the massive health and environmental impacts, while ignoring the extreme climate crisis that we are all facing, in order to rake in millions of dollars before our government shuts down these dirty polluters for good. We must protect ALL communities and focus our taxpayer money on building more renewable energy sources.

We are in the midst of an uphill battle with big business and misguided politics to make better choices for our people and our planet. However, we have proven that People Power can make a change, especially when we come together at the right times in the right places. NOW is the time to STOP Danskammer before it does more damage to our beloved Hudson Valley community.

If Danskammer is built, it will likely be the last fracked gas power plant built in NY. Do you want this dirty dinosaur in our backyard, contaminating our air? Come to 181 South Plank Rd, Newburgh, Thursday, Feb 6th at 5:00pm to learn more and show your opposition! RSVP to this Facebook event. <https://www.facebook.com/events/477669796509330/>

Ad Hoc Complete Streets Committee

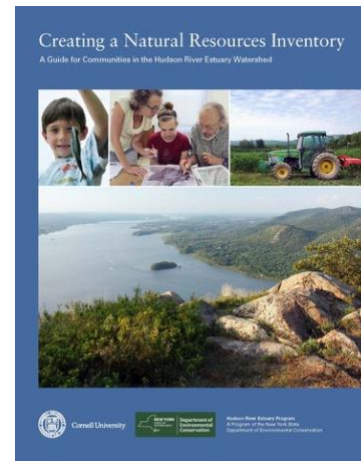
This short term committee is working on writing a new Complete Streets policy for the Town and Village of New Paltz. We have been meeting since October and encourage those who are interested to help research and write this new policy. The recent headlines in the New Paltz Times “Unsafe to Cross” further highlights our safety issues and the need for Complete Streets. Our community greenhouse gas footprint is intimately tied to our transportation mode being primarily car centric. Please support us start to change that by being part of the New Paltz Bicycle Pedestrian Committee or the Ad Hoc Complete Streets Committee.

Our February Complete Streets meetings will be on Monday February 3rd at 7:00 in the small meeting room at the Community Center and Tuesday February 18th in the large meeting room at the Community Center. Anyone is welcome to join us.

New Paltz Awarded DEC Grant for Natural Resources Inventory

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced grant awards totaling more than \$957,000 for 23 projects in 11 counties to help communities along the Hudson River Estuary design and improve recreational access, enhance education about the river, and advance stewardship of natural resources. New Paltz is one of three awardees in Ulster County, receiving a grant to conduct a Natural Resources Inventory for the Town and Village.

A Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) compiles and describes important naturally occurring resources such as forests, wetlands, surface and ground waters, and farmland within a given locality (e.g., municipality, watershed, or region). Cultural resources, such as historic sites, scenic vistas, and recreation areas, are often included in an NRI as well. Information is usually presented in a series of maps and an accompanying report with narrative descriptions, supporting data tables, and recommendations. An NRI is essential for comprehensive land-use planning that proactively considers a community’s resources. The New Paltz NRI project will update and expand on the Town’s Open Space Plan to provide an online set of maps and information that identify the current natural resources throughout the Town and Village. The completed NRI will be a reference document for use by Town agencies, landowners, and others seeking information about New Paltz’s resources and landscapes, and will provide guidance for land-use planning, land development, and conservation.



Certification as a Climate Smart Community

The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program reviews certification applications from local governments three times a year. Local governments seeking to be designated Certified Climate Smart Communities can upload action documentation at any point in time in the municipal dashboard, but the review of applications will occur on a set schedule each year; this schedule is referred to as the application cycle. These deadlines are followed by a review period of about six weeks, after which applicants will be notified if they achieved certification. Both the town and the village of New Paltz applied on January 10th and we are starting to get feedback from reviewers. We will not get notification as to certification until February 28th but we are optimistic that both the Town and Village of New Paltz will attain bronze certification. We will keep you posted!

NEW YORKERS for REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT

Did you know that refrigerants are the most important thing you can recycle?

If you have an old refrigerator, freezer or air conditioner that you are planning to replace it is vitally important to make sure that the appliance is properly recycled by having a professional remove the refrigerant. The HFCs in your old appliance spare the ozone layer,

but have 1,000 to 9,000 times greater capacity to warm the atmosphere than carbon dioxide! However, cool savings are hiding in your refrigerator. If you are a Central Hudson residential electric customer and own a working refrigerator or freezer, you can get it picked up at no charge from the address on your billing account and receive a \$50 reward. Through-the-wall and/or window air conditioners can also be recycled along with a qualifying refrigerator or freezer. Your appliance will be picked up, at no charge, from the address listed on your billing account. To schedule your appointment over the phone, call 866-706-3995. For more information or to sign up online go here: <https://www.arcaincutility.com/NY/CH/index.cfm>

If your appliance is no longer working and if you are a New Paltz Property Tax payer another option is to use one of your Spring Drop Off Coupons at the New Paltz ReUse at 3 Clearwater Road, New Paltz, NY 12561 **Spring Drop Off Coupons** for spring drop off will be available after April 1st. You need to pay New Paltz **PROPERTY TAXES** to be eligible. Please bring your tax bill. The drop off is Saturday April 25th through May 8th from 9am to 4:30pm. They will accept one (1) refrigerant unit at no charge. Normally, there is a \$15 charge to drop off appliances with refrigerants so that they can be properly recycled.

Finally, when considering a purchase of a new appliance ask what type of refrigerant is used and consider buying the appliance that has a refrigerant with a lower global warming potential. If you care about climate, you need to care about refrigerants.

Repair Cafés are Climate Smart!!

February Repair Café Schedule



Free repairs by experts... who are also your neighbors

	Woodstock St Gregory's Episcopal Church 2578 New York 212	10-2
Feb. 1		
	Tusten Tusten Town Hall 210 Bridge Street Narrowsburg	11-3
Feb. 7	Castleton-on-Hudson Castleton-on-Hudson Fire Dept. 11 Green Avenue	4:30-7:30
Feb. 22	Pine Bush Crawford Town Hall 121 New York 302	10-2
Feb. 23	Gardiner Gardiner Library 133 Farmers Turnpike	1-4
Feb. 29	Rondout Valley (Rosendale-Marbletown) Rondout Municipal Center 1915-1925 Lucas Ave. Ext Cottkill	10-2

*Our goal is to make sure our citizens
can choose to repair and reuse
instead of throwing away or buying new*

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 janellepeotter@gmail.com