

Volume 2 Issue 1
January 1, 2020

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Next Meetup Is Tuesday January 7th **Climate Smart Food Choices: Plant Based Diet**

CLIMATE CHANGE
SOLUTIONS MEETUP



Plant-based Diet

Tuesday, January 7th
6-7:30pm @ Lagusta's
Luscious Commissary
11 Church St, #1, New Paltz

Learn more about the benefits of eating a plant based diet - both for you and for the planet!

Presenter Rebecca Carucci & open discussion. Ideas and recipes will be shared!

Learn more about the benefits of eating a plant based diet - both for you and for the planet! Ideas and recipes will be shared. We will have a presenter but we will also have time for open discussion. You may want to arrive early and order some delicious plant based food off the menu at Lagusta's Luscious Commissary.

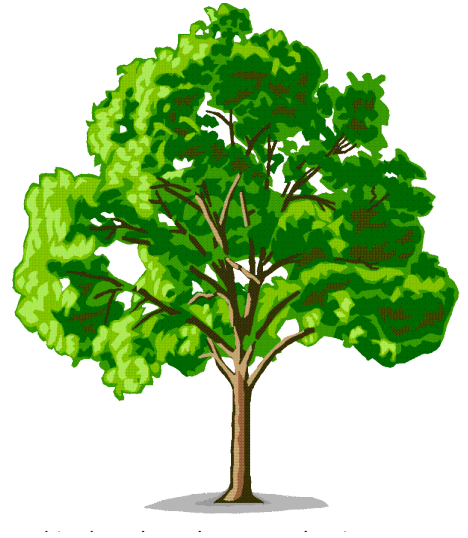
Our presenter, Rebecca Carucci is a Plant-Based Consultant and is Certified in Plant-Based Nutrition from T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies. A plant-based diet is based on foods derived from plants, including vegetables, whole grains, nuts, seeds, legumes and fruits. While some people choose to be completely meat and dairy-free (vegan), plant-based can also mean choosing to include a limited amount of animal products.

Beginning a plant-based lifestyle can be overwhelming and time consuming. Learning how to plan and cook meals, make the right choices when grocery shopping, and being able to still go out to all your favorite eateries is what most people struggle with when choosing a plant-based lifestyle. Some people give up, not because they don't want to continue, but because they didn't have the right tools to make them successful. Join our Meetup and learn how to be successful in this journey!

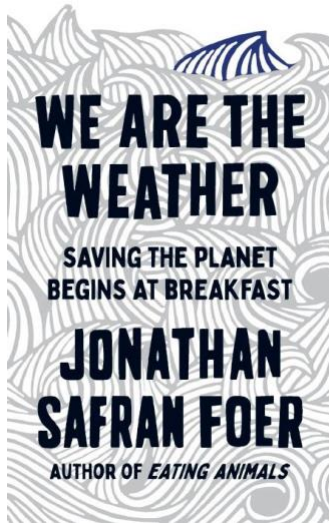
Moving more towards a plant based diet will reduce your carbon footprint and help our Earth. See you Tuesday January 7th at 6:00 at Lagusta's Luscious Commissary at 11 Church Street.

Saratoga Tree Sale

Every year the Department of Environmental Conservation has its annual tree and shrub seedling sale for the state of New York beginning on January 2nd. One of the action groups for New Paltz Climate Smart is Green Spaces and we encourage the planting of trees and shrubs to sequester carbon and slow the rate of climate change. However planting trees and shrubs also improve air and water quality, stabilize streambanks, create windbreaks and conserve energy, provide food and shelter for wildlife and improve the aesthetic value of the landscape. The Saratoga Tree Sale is a great way to pick up a quantity of trees at a discount. They are generally sold in lots of 25. For more information go to www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html



Climate Crisis Book Club



It started with a post made on Facebook but the idea has taken off with much interest. February will be the first meeting of the New Paltz Climate Smart Book Club. We have had many suggestions for possible books but we have selected the first book based on the topic of our January Meetup. The title of the book is We Are The Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast by Jonathan Safran Foer.

"Choosing to eat fewer animal products is probably the most important action an individual can take to reverse global warming — it has a known and significant effect on the environment, and, done collectively, would push the culture and the marketplace with more force than any march."

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.

The first meeting of our book club will be Tuesday February 11th. If you are interested in being part of the book club, contact Janelle Peotter so she can put you on the email list with an update regarding our meeting location.

Rolling Out Community Choice Aggregation!

The regulation-required Central Hudson letter that tells customers they are about to be switched into the Hudson Valley Community Power CCA program started arriving in New Paltz resident mailboxes on Thursday last week. This is great news – indicating we are indeed moving forward and folks will start rolling into the Program with the Program rate being shown on their Central Hudson bills starting in January, depending on their meter-read dates. So far our opt out rate is very low so this is great news. The CCA adoption means that most electricity customers in New Paltz will be receiving green power!

Applying for Bronze Certification as a Climate Smart Community

January 10th is the next application deadline for certification as a Climate Smart Community. We will be submitting for both the Town and the Village of New Paltz. It will take some time to have our application reviewed but we are hopeful that we have met all the requirements for bronze certification. To become a bronze certified CSC, an applicant must earn at least 120 points, complete at least one action under four different pledge elements, complete the two mandatory actions, and complete three priority actions. There are currently 289 registered communities in New York that have taken the Climate Smart pledge and so far 32 have reached the bronze level of certification and 2 are silver certified communities. We hope that 2020 is the year New Paltz attains bronze certification and begins the work of attaining silver certification.



What is the most important thing to recycle?

Refrigerants! Did you know that refrigerant management is the #1 solution in Drawdown? Refrigerants, specifically CFCs and HCFCs, were once culprits in depleting the ozone layer. Thanks to the 1987 Montreal Protocol, they have been phased out. HFCs, the primary replacement, spare the ozone layer, but have 1,000 to 9,000 times greater capacity to warm the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. It is critically important to pay attention to all the refrigerants in your life – in your refrigerator, your car, your air conditioner, mini split heat pump, and dehumidifier. When considering a purchase ask what type of refrigerant is used and consider buying the appliance that has a refrigerant with a lower global warming potential. Most importantly make sure the refrigerant is captured and recycled in any appliance that has reached the end of its lifecycle. More about this issue in coming newsletters.

Repair Café is Climate Smart!



repaircafehv.org

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

January 5	Esopus Esopus Library 128 Canal St, Port Ewen	11-3
	Poughkeepsie First Lutheran Church Catherine and Mill	9-12
January 12	Castleton-on Hudson Village Hall 85 S. Main Street	11-3
	Ossining Community Center 95 Broadway	11-3
January 19	New Paltz United Methodist Church Main & Grove	10-2
	Warwick Senior Center behind Town Hall 132 Kings Highway	10-2
January 21	Red Hook Community Center 59 Fisk Street	12-4
January 26	Yorktown Grace Lutheran Church 3830 Gomer Street	10-2
	Tusten Tusten Town Hall Narrowsburg	11-3

New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

2019 Annual Report of Activities

Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF) Members: Janelle Peotter, Amanda Gotto, Mark Varian, Jim O'Dowd, Wendy Rudder, Orelle Feher, Liz Elkin, Joe Bergstein, Hope Nitza, Lynn Cherry, Jim Gordon, Victoria Hilton

New Actions Towards Certification as a Climate Smart Community:

- The Town and Village of New Paltz were invited to join 6 other Hudson Valley communities in the Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI) sponsored by the Hudson Valley Regional Council.
- CSTF members Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, and Amanda Gotto completed the 11 month first-ever CAPI training on creating and analyzing a Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) for local government operations. This made it possible to then research, conduct, and analyze local government operations GHGI for both the Town and the Village with volunteer time, saving each government approximately \$10,000 in consultant fees.
- Town of New Paltz Greenhouse Gas Inventory for local government operations - CSTF completed and presented to Town Board; final report written and posted on Town website
- Village of New Paltz Greenhouse Gas Inventory for local government operations – CSTF completed and presented to Village Board; final report written and posted on Village website
- State Master Contract for DEC grant executed - CSTF created workplan and detailed budget and drafted text for contract; CSTF wrote two required Quarterly reports for submission to State portal
- Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – CSTF reviewed draft; Consultant completed and presented to joint Town and Village Boards, this project was funded in part by The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, section 15 of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; final report posted on Town and Village webpages
- Contract with ICLEI for Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategy executed - CSTF reviewed and advised contract details
- Execution of Community Choice Aggregation contracts by both Town and Village of New Paltz – CSTF supported process of selecting administrator and informing public with letters to editor, press releases, and web commentary
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment - CSTF reviewed draft; ICLEI completed and presented to joint Town and Village Boards, funded in part by The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, section 15 of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- Climate Change Vulnerability Survey – CSTF administered ICLEI survey over three month period with 170 respondents, funded in part by The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, section 15 of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Climate Change Vulnerability Workshop – hosted by CSTF; conducted by ICLEI on December 4 with Town and Village Board Members, CSTF members, and CAC members, funded in part by The Climate Smart Communities Grant Program, section 15 of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- DEC grant for Natural Resources Inventory – CSTF wrote application for submission on State portal; grant was awarded Dec 2019.

Task Force Meetings: Meetings were held every third Monday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00. Agendas and minutes archived on the Village and Town of New Paltz websites.

Education and Awareness:

- Heat Smart – CSTF had a table at this event in New Paltz on February 7
- Go Green in Gardiner – CSTF had a table for this event on March 16
- Earth Day Fair – CSTF had a table and gave an invited slide presentation in New Paltz on April 27
- Annual Climate Smart Community Potluck – CSTF held this event on May 10 at St. Joseph's Church
- New Paltz Regatta – CSTF shared a table at this event on June 23.
- Complete Streets Training- CSTF arranged this event for twenty Board, Municipal department heads, and community members on September 23
- Climate Summit at SUNY New Paltz – CSTF had a table and helped plan this event on Sept 21
- 2nd Annual Zero Emissions Parade and Green Vendor Fair – CSTF planned and participated in this event on Sept 21
- Student Climate Strikes – CSTF supported two of the events on Sept 20 and Dec 6
- Welcome to Winter Expo - CSTF had a table at this event on Nov 21
- Eight New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetups (84 Meet-Up members) held on first Tuesday of each month at various locations. The following were topics in 2019: Climate Smart Holidays (Unison); Fixing stuff, Creating Community & Repairing the World (McFoxlins); Clean Up Your Act. Compost (Liquid Mercantile); "Honey I shrunk the lawn!" - Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Your Yard (SUNY New Paltz); How to Get 100% Green Electricity: Community Choice Aggregation (McFoxlins); Supporting Pollinators: Flowers, Birds and Bees (Kalleco Nursery); Rethinking Disposables: Alternatives to Plastics (Community Center); Electrify My Drive: Electric Vehicle Basics (Rosendale Café)
- Eight New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletters created and widely distributed
- Social Media Presence on Facebook, Instagram and Meetup
 - Facebook: 68 posts, viewership range up to 252 views per post
 - Instagram: 43 posts, 262 followers
 - New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetup: 83 Members
- Mentored 6 interns – three from NP High School, 2 from SUNY New Paltz, 1 from Cornell

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

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