

Volume 1
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New Paltz Climate Smart

Successes

Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act Passed!

On June 20, 2019, the New York State legislature enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. When implemented the new law will have an extraordinary impact on virtually every sector of the State economy, requiring reductions in statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 1990 levels by 2030 and 85% of 1990 levels by 2050. Separate provisions of the law – those relating to “community protection” – address environmental justice and toxic air pollution impacts on disadvantaged communities.

Many of us on the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition and with New Paltz Climate Smart lobbied heavily in Albany for this act to be passed. While working on our own greenhouse gas footprint here in New Paltz it is vital that we also work at the state and national level to change policy. This success shows it is possible!

Community Choice Aggregation Moving Forward

The town and village of New Paltz, along with Joule Assets/Hudson Valley Energy, hosted two public information sessions on the CCA – Community Choice Aggregation. There was a daytime session on June 24th at Village Hall and an evening session at the Community Center on June 27th. People were engaged in hearing more and had good questions but no one who attended these meetings was opposed to the CCA. It is important to talk to your friends and neighbors during this 60 day waiting period. A postcard explaining the program and the opt out option will be going out to all Central Hudson customers except for those who are currently in an ESCO, have a block on their account or are in low income housing. If you or someone you know has questions, have them call Jeff Domanski with Hudson Valley Energy at 616-483-1338.

New Members and Growing Interest

Every month at every event we get more people on board with New Paltz Climate Smart. We want to continue to grow the program with the goal to become a certified Climate Smart Community. We hope to submit our application in January of 2020.

Upcoming

Meetup:

Tuesday, July 2nd 2019 (We meet every 1st Tuesday of the month)
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Kalleco Nursery at 801 NY 32 in Tillson

Supporting Pollinators: Flowers, Birds and Bees

Pollinators are the industrious and specialized creatures who provide the gift of reproduction to most flowering plants, and they are in trouble. Pollinating insects and birds face many challenges, especially pesticide poisoning, loss of their plant allies, and a swiftly changing climate. They need our help, and luckily, there's a lot that we can do. We begin by getting to know the pollinators and the special relationships they have with flowering plants. For instance - usually, when we think of pollinators, we think of honey bees. But honey bees are not native to the US - here in New York State we have over 400 species of native bees, and 90% of those are solitary species that do not live in communities or make honey. Our native mason bees, digger bees, sweat bees, and many others, are more active than honey bees throughout the day, the year, and in all weather conditions, making them the most efficient pollinators of our native plants.



At this Meetup we will talk about the fascinating variety of pollinators here in the Hudson Valley, the threats they face, and the many ways that you can help to support them - both in the garden, the kitchen, and in your conversations with friends and family. Our presenter will be Laura Wyeth, horticulturist and biology instructor at SUNY New Paltz. In addition to caring for the campus greenhouse and introducing students to the wonderful world of plant life, she has been helping to develop a campus Biodiversity Initiative, which includes attaining Bee Campus USA certification. She is excited to share what she has learned on this topic and answer questions about pollinators and plants.

Climate Smart Task Force:

Our next Climate Smart Task Force meeting is Monday July 15th at the New Paltz Village Hall beginning at 7:00 pm. We are looking for new members of the task force too so please consider attending a meeting to learn more about what we are all about!

We need immediate volunteers for these tasks:

- Serving on the planning committee to green up Taste of New Paltz
- Heading up the 6 R's action group
- Heading up the Green Transportation action group
- Heading up the Green Business action group and coordinating with next year's high school student volunteers. Our focus is restaurants.
- Serving on the Task Force which meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7:00 pm
- Tech savvy person to keep website updated

In the news...

New Paltz Climate Smart at the Wallkill Regatta

The craft deemed Most Likely to Sink by the judges in advance managed to make it to the finish line intact – a feat most did not accomplish. The Reduce & Recycle was a raft made from discarded water bottles and other recycled materials was entered by the Climate Action Coalition and New Paltz Climate Smart. That boat was part of our effort to raise awareness about the 6 R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose and lastly Recycle. Holly Shader was the fearless captain of our craft.



To volunteer or to get more information on anything related to New Paltz Climate Smart, please contact Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Coordinator at janellepeotter@gmail.com or call her cell phone at 920-883-1788

