

Volume 1
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2019

New Paltz Climate Smart

Community

Involvement

Successful Community Potluck May 10th

We had our second annual community potluck and shared all the progress made in the past year. The completed greenhouse gas inventories were displayed and Amanda Gotto described next steps, Alex Coenen, Iliia Klimenchenko and William Jordan, three high school students from New Paltz shared their experience with the Green Business Challenge, Liz Elkin explained the forward movement on bringing Community Choice Aggregation to New Paltz and Janelle Peotter provided a synopsis of all the activities of the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force. We are grateful to St Joseph's Church for generously providing us the use of their fellowship hall.



New Paltz Climate Smart Action Groups

We have changed the name of our “subcommittees” to “action groups” because that is what they are! Here is a list of our current action groups, their tasks and key contacts:

6 Rs - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle. The order of the **Rs** is also important. This group is working on expanded recycling, food waste reduction, swaps, community education, etc. (Heidi Firstencel)

Green Business: Expand the number of businesses utilizing green business practices. This could be doing an energy retrofit, installing solar or other renewable energy, green procurement, etc. This group is also trying to assess what green businesses we want to attract to New Paltz, such as a zero waste store. Currently we have three high school students reaching out to all New Paltz restaurants. (interim leader Janelle Peotter)

Green Spaces: Habitat, Bee City, Edible Gardens, Tree Planting, pollinators plantings in public spaces (Liz Elkin)

Green Transportation: increasing safety & convenience of bicycling and walking in New Paltz, encouraging bicycle sharing, create new idling law, liaison with town bike/ped committee (interim leader Janelle Peotter)

Publicity, Social Media, Press Releases: Consciousness raising, Weekly Tips in paper (Jim Gordon & Victoria Hilton)

Youth: engagement, outreach, education, mentoring, coordinate projects with New Paltz Youth Program (interim leader Janelle Peotter)

Alternative Energy – Solar, Wind, implementing Community Choice Aggregation (Mark Varian)

Lifestyle – promoting a climate smart lifestyle, education, demonstrations (Orelle Feher)

Meetup

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 (We meet every 1st Tuesday of the month)
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Rethinking Disposables: Alternatives to Plastics

New Paltz Community Center
3 Veterans Dr · New Paltz, NY



Details

Decreasing plastic usage at home and finding solutions for our community to work toward a plastic free future. We are going to share ways to reduce plastic by helping people see how they can do it in 4 weeks through the Zero Plastic Challenge. We will have examples on display and people can share their own ideas and collaborate on tangible things we can all do. We will have demonstrations of how to make waxed cloth wraps and how to make your own toothpaste. You will also have an opportunity to learn more about New Paltz Climate Smart and gain ideas from Resisterhood on helping people on a budget be eco-friendly as well.

Idea for a Meetup?

We are looking for people to lead and locations to hold our Meetups. What would you like to learn about or share? Please contact Janelle Peotter at janellepeotter@gmail.com if you can help!

Next New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force Meeting

Join us on Monday June 17th at 7:00 at New Paltz Village Hall in the general meeting room for our monthly Task Force meeting which is always held the third Monday of the month. We welcome new members!

CCA Update

Our CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) Committee has been getting deeper and deeper into all the details on the CCA. The more we learn, the better we understand how important this action is for creating the market demand for renewable energy. We are happy that both the Village and the Town of New Paltz have passed laws to allow us to form a CCA. We are hoping that the Mayor and Supervisor chose a CCA administrator in the coming weeks. This would put us on the path to start drawing our renewable energy through the Central Hudson grid by October.



Volunteers Needed

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
- Serving on the Task Force which meets on the 3rd Monday of the month 7:00 pm
- Tech savvy person to keep website updated
- Meeting with restaurants as part of the Green Business Challenge

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