

Volume 5 Issue 6
June 2023



New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Janelle Peotter Steps Down as Coordinator

As your volunteer Climate Smart Coordinator for New Paltz for the past five years, it has been a both a deeply rewarding and also an all-consuming effort at times. I have learned so much in the process but currently have personal demands on my time that do not allow for a singularity of focus. During my time as coordinator, the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force has been successful in earning Bronze certification for both the Town and Village of New Paltz as part of New York's Climate Smart Communities Program by completing all of the required actions and enough priority actions and other actions to exceed the 120 points required for Bronze certification. Examples of the completed actions included Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories, a comprehensive Natural Resources Inventory, Flood Mapping, a feasibility study for solar project at the village wastewater treatment plant, the development of Battery Energy Storage local law, an ongoing process to facilitate the build of community solar on the Town of New Paltz's capped landfill and so much more. Beyond doing actions required for certification we have also done an immense amount of public education through the sponsorship of 44 separate Climate Solutions Meetups that were open to the public as well as a vibrant Climate Smart Book Club that has read, discussed and been inspired by 38 different climate related books. I am proud of all that we have done especially during the challenging times of COVID. I am optimistic that new leadership will re-energize the Town and Village of New Paltz to the next level of Climate Smart certification: Silver!

Janelle Peotter

June Climate Smart Solutions *Meetup*: Backyard Forest Restoration to be Rescheduled

Have the wooded areas on your property suffered in recent years? Are they not looking very healthy? Mine certainly have suffered: the ice storm last year, invasives, the deer browse and our changing climate have all taken a toll. We wanted to have a Climate Solution Meetup on this topic because obviously having a healthy forest helps sequester carbon. We invited an Urban and Community Forestry Technical Coordinator at the DEC to discuss the management of our backyard forests, but he is no longer available for our June meeting. If there is interest, we will reschedule for later in the summer.

Meet the next Climate Smart Coordinator:

Dr. Yvonne Posey

We are delighted to announce the next Climate Smart Coordinator for New Paltz! Dr. Posey is a relatively new resident to New Paltz, transplanted here from Michigan to be nearer to family. She is a retired physician with specialty training in pathology and sub-specialty training in chemistry and toxicology. The Task Force has met with Yvonne and know she will make an excellent coordinator! She will be officially appointed at tonight's Town Board Meeting.



"I look forward to becoming a productive member of this community. I have always had an interest in addressing solutions, both personally and professionally, to climate change. I started with years of recycling my own trash and disposables to purchasing a hybrid vehicle before electric vehicles became widely available. Most recently, I took the step of removing my oil-burning furnace and central air conditioner, both of which were still functioning, to installing a geothermal heat pump. I am also looking forward to installing solar panels on my home here in New Paltz in the near future. As a physician, I have given multiple lectures over more than 20 years on Environmental Pathology to colleagues and medical students."

Dr. Posey looks forward to the challenge of coordinating the local Climate Smart Communities program and the opportunity to put her skills and knowledge to use in the service of the Town and Village of New Paltz to help lead New Paltz to Silver certification.

Welcome Dr. Yvonne Posey!

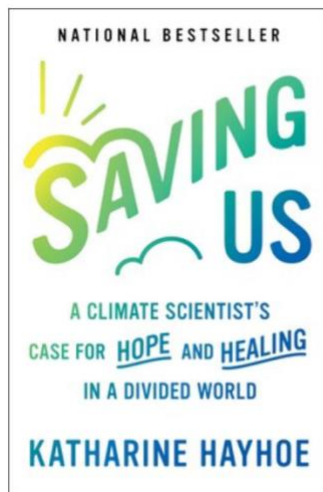
June Climate Smart Book Club:

Saving Us - A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World by Katherine Hayhoe

Called "one of the nation's most effective communicators on climate change" by *The New York Times*, Katharine Hayhoe knows how to navigate all sides of the conversation on our changing planet. A Canadian climate scientist living in Texas, she negotiates distrust of data, indifference to imminent threats, and resistance to proposed solutions with ease. Over the past 15 years,

Hayhoe has found that the most important thing we can do to address climate change is talk about it - and she wants to teach you how.

In *Saving Us*, Hayhoe argues that when it comes to changing hearts and minds, facts are only one part of the equation. We need to find shared values in order to connect our unique identities to collective action. This is not another doomsday narrative about a planet on fire. It is a multilayered look at science, faith, and human psychology, from an icon in her field - recently named chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy.



Climate Smart Book Club June 2023



Drawing on interdisciplinary research and personal stories, Hayhoe shows that small conversations can have astonishing results. *Saving Us* leaves us with the tools to open a dialogue with your loved ones about how we all can play a role in pushing forward for change.

Join us Tuesday June 13th at 7:00 to discuss this important book. If you don't have time to read the book, there are videos that can be easily found on Ted Talks or You Tube with the author Katharine Hayhoe discussing her book. We meet to discuss these Climate Smart books on Zoom so you can join us wherever you are in the world! (The host had a schedule conflict so we are having the Book Club discussion one week earlier than our normal pattern – in case you noticed!)

Please register in advance here and then you will be emailed the link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpd-GtpzsrE9OTto9T4voE2TdA-gD2lrF->

Mohonk Consultations Honors Judith Enck

Plastic manufacturing and its' disposal are very big climate issues. Some of us from New Paltz Climate Smart have worked closely with Beyond Plastics which was founded by former U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, Judith Enck. Mohonk Consultations will be honoring Judith Enck on Sunday, June 11th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm for her groundbreaking efforts to bring attention to the plastic pollution crisis. The event will take place at the Mohonk Mountain House Pavilion (skating rink) and will involve a delicious buffet meal, guest speakers include Ramon Cruz (Sierra Club), Jen Metzger (Ulster County), and Megan Wolff (Beyond Plastics Policy Director and member at large for New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force), along with music from *Betty and the Baby Boomers*. Purchase tickets online at [Mohonk-consultations.org/award2023](https://mohonk-consultations.org/award2023).

Meet the Newest Member of the Task Force:



Dylan Moscoso

Dylan Moscoso is a recently graduated student from SUNY New Paltz, majoring in Public Relations and Environmental Studies with a Journalism minor. Living in New Paltz for the last five years, he has been working in the community through the Free Food Fridge, the Wallkill Valley Land Trust, and volunteering with Huguenot St Farm. Hoping to connect people through access to green space alongside fresh and natural foods, Dylan hopes to contribute to the accessibility in town for those without cars while working with the Climate Smart Communities Task Force to ensure our town/village receives the credit for our fight against climate change.

Pop-up House Concert Repair Café Fundraiser

Did you know that New Paltz can get points on its Climate Smart application for promoting our local Repair Café? It is definitely climate smart to keep things out of the landfill that can be repaired! Repair Cafés are free events but there are expenses so fundraising is needed but we will do it with some musical “funraising”!



Repair Cafe Hudson Valley is excited to host musicians Ken Lonnquist (<https://www.kenlonnquist.com/>) and Ken Aigen, longtime friends of John Wackman for a pop-up house concert to support Repair Cafe on June 7th. The evening promises to be an engaging and entertaining event that brings together music enthusiasts, and passionate advocates for sustainability. Anyone who knew John, knows how passionate he was about music. Both Lonnquist and Aigen were musical soulmates of his. The opportunity presented itself very recently, so we are still putting together the details (like location and exact time...). It will most likely be an acoustical event with Lonnquist on guitar and Aigen on keyboards, playing a variety of styles from Beatles to folk. Look for further details on Instagram and Facebook pages of Repair Cafe Hudson Valley (<https://www.instagram.com/repaircafehudsonvalley/>, <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=repair%20cafe%20-%20hudson%20valley>) For more information, contact Holly at 845-256-1395

One Step Closer to Solar on the Landfill

On Thursday June 1st the Town Board has on its agenda the “Authorization for Supervisor to authorize Amendment #1 to the agreement with Sunlight to install solar panels at the landfill”. This process of researching viability of solar on the landfill, putting out RFP’s, vetting companies, working with the utilities, and collaborating with solar developers has been a long

and difficult road spanning more than four years. Long term members of the committee are Cara Lee, Marty Irwin, Ted Nitza and Janelle Peotter. The project has had to be downsized due to the very significant cost of interconnection fees and will therefore reduce revenue to the Town of New Paltz but it remains a project that we very much hope will still go through.

New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force Members:

Yvonne Posey	Climate Smart Task Force Coordinator
Jim O'Dowd	Task Force Member
Mark Varian	Task Force Member
Orelle Feher	Task Force Member
Joe Londa	Task Force Member
Izzy Defino	Task Force Member
Dylan Moscoso	Task Force Member
Lynne Cherry	Task Force Member at Large
Liz Elkin	Task Force Member at Large
Megan Wolff	Task Force Member at Large
Julie Seyfert-Lillis	Town Board Liaison
Alexandria Wojcik	Village Board Liaison

New Paltz Climate Smart June Calendar

Wednesday June 7th, evening House Concert Fundraiser for Repair Café, time & location TBA

Sunday June 11th, 4:00 - 7:00 pm Mohonk Consultations Honors Judith Enck at the Mohonk Mountain House. Tickets available here: mohonk-consultations.org/award2023

Tuesday June 13th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm Climate Smart Book Club: Saving Us - A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9t4voE2TdA-gD2lrF-tZcpd-GtpzsrE9OT>

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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