

Volume 2 Issue 3

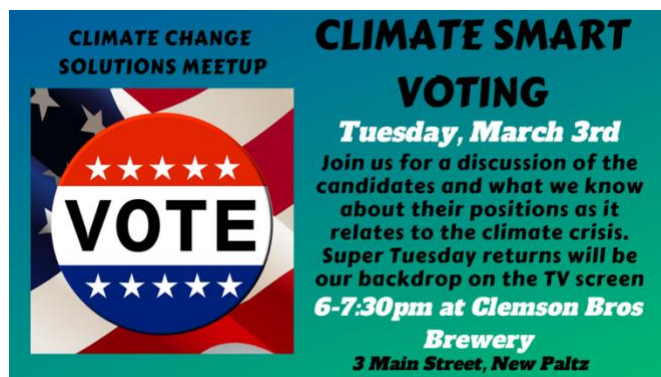
March 1, 2020

# New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

## Next *Meetup* is Tuesday March 3rd at Clemson Bros Brewery: Climate Smart Voting

March 3rd, the first Tuesday of the month as our regular Meetup time, correlates with Super Tuesday. Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Democrats Abroad, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Virginia will all hold their presidential primaries on that date. We have decided to dedicate this Meetup to talking about climate smart voting while watching the early returns of Super Tuesday. Climate change is only going to become a bigger voter issue as the US inches closer to the presidential election. The existential threat has already climbed close to the top of Democratic voters' priorities. The topic has gotten a boost from huge protests, major reports issuing dire warnings, and extreme weather events bringing the issue home for Americans.

As of November, climate change became the 11th most important voting issue for registered voters, according to the most recent survey from Yale and George Mason University. That's six spots higher since a previous survey in April 2019. When voters were asked to specify the single most important issue they considered when voting for a candidate, global warming ranked even higher — fifth on the list for all registered voters, and first for liberal Democrats.



“THAT’S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE IN AMERICAN POLITICAL HISTORY”  
“The short thing to say there is, wow, that’s never happened before in American political history,” says Anthony Leiserowitz, director of the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication. “It’s now possible to say that climate change is one of the top voting priorities for one of our two major political parties.”

**Join us at Clemson Bros Brewery at 3 Main Street for this Meetup. I imagine some of us will stay late to continue watching the returns – so feel free to join us even if you have to come late!**

# 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 next Complete Streets meeting will be on Monday March 2nd at 7:00 in the small meeting room at the Community Center. Anyone is welcome to join us.**

## Climate Smart Book Club

Have you been looking for someone to share your thoughts with after reading a book about the climate crisis? Are you just curious to learn more about the climate crisis and what you can do? If so, then the Climate Smart Book Club might be for you. New Paltz Climate Smart is sponsoring this effort and has selected the book for their second book club meeting which will be **Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> at the New Paltz Community Center at 7:00 pm.** The book selected this month is *On Fire: The Burning Case for the Green New Deal* by Naomi Klein.



Last month the book club read *We Are the Weather: Saving The Planet Begins at Breakfast* by Jonathan Safran Foer. This book acknowledged 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 Climate Smart Book Club highly recommends people read this book – it is a fast read and really is “food for thought”.

Our book club is open to the public and you are welcome to attend even if you didn’t have a chance to read the book for this month. If you have further questions, please contact Climate Smart Book Club organizer Janelle Peotter via email at [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com).

A unique aspect to this book club is that you can join us right here in New Paltz at the Community Center this month or from anywhere in the world via Zoom online conferencing:  
When: Mar 11, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting if you are joining us via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/join/register/u5YvcOivqiljgA75hR8ksQ0RQLECJRzk0w>

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

## Update on our Bronze Certification!

While we were expecting notification on Friday officially announcing our Bronze certification for both the Town and Village of New Paltz, we received this email:

*Dear Applicants,*

*Last month, we received 23 applications for Climate Smart Communities certification. This amounted to just over 600 individual action submissions – more than we've ever received in one round!*

*While we are so pleased at this level of participation, it has slowed down the review process. We are not yet finished reviewing your applications. We are aiming complete the review by **next Wednesday, March 6.***

*Thank you for your patience as we do our best to manage this growing program.*

*We appreciate your commitment and participation.*



**Ms. Dazzle Ekblad**

*Climate Policy Analyst, Office of Climate Change*

*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

So, we will keep you posted with official notification but in the meantime we are moving forward on further actions to make our community more climate smart! Our next goal is silver certification which is a high bar but doable with the work of many!

## Earth Day Fair on Saturday April 18th

This is a free annual celebration of Earth Day on the grounds of the Reformed Church on historic Huguenot Street and will be from 11 am to 5 pm. It is a collaborative effort that draws on the assorted faith communities. There are usually 30-40 tables sharing information about nonprofits in our area that support the environment as well as related businesses. New Paltz Climate Smart has reserved a table and we are

looking for volunteers to person the table in a couple of shifts. There is wonderful live music from noon on. There will be delicious vegetarian and vegan food for sale at very reasonable prices. It brings young and old together and is a happy yearly event that marks the beginning of spring! The theme for this year's Fair is "What we can do?". The organizers want to highlight simple ways and actions that we can take to be more "earth friendly". We have so many ideas to share! Please call Janelle at 920-883-1788 or email [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com) to volunteer to help our table at the Earth Day Fair or to help pull together our display.



# NEW YORKERS for L REFRIGERANT MANAGEMENT

So, your refrigerator isn't getting as cold as it used to, and you're thinking it's going to be less expensive to replace it than to get it fixed. You go to your favorite big box store, look for fridges that are the right color and have the features you want, hopefully check to see which are Energy Star appliances, then from this short list start comparing prices and looking for sales. Hold on a minute!

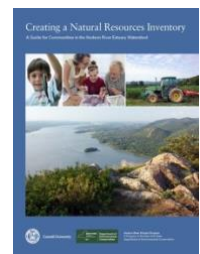
We are all concerned about climate change, so you should also look at what refrigerant is used in your next refrigerator. This information is not listed on spec sheets, in user manuals or on websites, and the sales staff on the floor is unlikely to know about this. But if you open the door of a refrigerator and snap a picture of the [specs], you can look closely at the picture and see if it uses R-134a, a refrigerant currently being phased out by an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (that's the [Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol](#)), or if it uses R-600, a new refrigerant in the United States that has been used abroad for many years. As far as greenhouse gases, on a 20-year basis, R-134A is about 3830 times as powerful as CO<sub>2</sub>, while R-600 has zero global warming potential.

If you are concerned about climate change, you might consider actually getting one of the older kinds of refrigerators, knowing that you will responsibly take care of the refrigerants when it reaches the end of its useful life, and leave the new refrigerators for people who are unconcerned about climate change and may mismanage their appliance when it ultimately goes kaput. (Actually, most electric utilities throughout New York will offer customers an incentive fee of \$25 or \$50 if they give up an old refrigerator or freezer that is still working, so please hunt down those program details for your old refrigerator.)

If your appliance is no longer working and if you are a Town of 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. The drop off is Tuesday, April 21st through Saturday, May 2nd from 9am to 4:30pm. Please bring your tax bill. They will accept one (1) refrigerator unit at no charge. Normally, there is a \$15 charge to drop off appliances with refrigerants so that they can be properly recycled.

## Natural Resource Inventory Update

Last month we shared with you that New Paltz was awarded a DEC grant to do a Natural Resources Inventory or NRI. 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. Creating an NRI and adopting it through local law can earn us up to 10 points in the Climate Smart Communities certification process. Our New Paltz Climate Smart Project Manager, Amanda Gotto, has announced that a consultant has been selected and we are now making plans for a kick-off meeting with the key stakeholders. We are targeting end March/early April for this meeting and look forward to keeping you updated. We are grateful to the many groups that wrote letters of support for required matching resources (staff and volunteer time) which were instrumental in New Paltz being awarded a DEC Hudson River Estuary Program grant including the Town of New Paltz Board, the Village of New Paltz Trustees, our Environmental Conservation Board, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, and the Wallkill Alliance.

## Youth Climate Action Film Festival

This past weekend SunCommon and the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition sponsored a film screening for youth and families at the New Paltz Community Center. The film lineup included the short film with Greta Thunberg entitled "Nature Now"

<https://www.conservation.org/video/nature-now-video-with-greta-thunberg>, as well as several films from Young Voices for The Planet including "Words Have Power" and "Save Tomorrow". Hudson River Playback Theatre helped viewers process what they had just seen with improvisational theatre. Filmmaker, author and illustrator Lynne Cherry was also there to talk about her Civic Engagement and Democracy curriculum which can be viewed here: <https://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/civic-engagement-democracy-curriculum/>

If you missed this event and or just want to see more of these inspiring films go to <https://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/youth-climate-videos/>

### Youth Film Screening



**New Paltz Community Center**

**FREE! All ages welcome!**



**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 [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com)**





## Climate Action through Zero Waste SUNY New Paltz

Tuesday, March 3, 2020 – confirmed  
(Postponed from Tues., February 18)

### Agenda



2:00 – 2:30 p.m. (**CANCELLED**: Tour of New Paltz Reuse & Recycling Center, Clearwater Rd. Please call Laura Petit, Town of New Paltz Recycling Coordinator, to schedule a tour at your mutual convenience. (845) 255-8456

3:00 ~~3~~3:45 p.m. **Tour Peregrine Hall Food Recovery Initiative**, including Compositing at SUNY/New Paltz -- Kevin Dicey, General Manager, SUNY/NP Sodexo ~~Now confirmed~~. Please meet at main (north) entrance to Peregrine Dining Hall at 3 p.m. sharp!

4:00 ~~5~~5:00 p.m. **Approaching Zero Waste Workshop** – Lecture Center 102

- Ulster County Waste Prevention & Diversion Laws and Zero Waste Policy -- Ulster County Legislators Manna Jo Greene and Laura Petit
- Approaching Zero Waste in Ulster County -- Katherine Beinkafner, Ph.D., Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency Board Member
- Zero Waste at Community Events, MJ Wilson, Zero Waste Coordinator at Clearwater Festival
- Repair Cafe -- John Wackman; organizer of Repair Cafes in Mid-Hudson region
- Q&A Panel: How Can You Help? Moderator, Angelina Peone, UCRRA Recycling Coordinator

5:00 ~~6~~6:00 p.m. **Planet or Plastics: Moving Beyond Plastics with Judith Enck**, Senior Fellow and Visiting Faculty member at Bennington College; former EPA Administrator ~~Region 2~~, SUNY New Paltz ~~Lecture Center 102~~.

6:00 ~~7~~7:00 p.m. **Open Student Forum on the Future of Single Use Plastics** at SUNY New Paltz ~~Lecture Center 102~~.

**Campus Map:** <https://www.newpaltz.edu/media/web-assets/printable-campus-map.pdf>

**Sponsors:** The Benjamin Center (BenCen), Hudson Valley Regional Council, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Mid-Hudson League of Women Voters, New Paltz Climate Action Committee, New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force, Repair Café -- Hudson Valley, SUNY New Paltz Office of Campus Sustainability, Sustainable Hudson Valley, Ulster County Climate Smart Committee, Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

**For more information:** [mannajo@aol.com](mailto:mannajo@aol.com) 845-807-1270



If it can't be reduced,  
reused, repaired, rebuilt,  
refurbished, refinished,  
resold, recycled or  
composted....  
then it should be restricted  
redesigned, or removed from  
production.  
~Pete Seeger