

Volume 1 Issue 7
November 2, 2019

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Help Plant Wildflower Seeds This Sunday!



Join us to sow the wildflower seeds along the Empire State Trail! We will meet by the corner of 299 and North Ohioville along the Empire State Trail at 10am on Sunday November 3rd. This project has two purposes: to lessen our mowing, carbon footprint and increase pollinator habitat. Please share around. Many hands makes light work.

Thanks to the Town Highway Department, the super hard work of prepping the ground has been done for us!

Climate Change Theatre Action On Sunday!

Sunday November 3, 7:30pm at Denizen Theatre at Water Street Market. Admission by donation--all proceeds will go to [New Paltz Climate Action Coalition](#).

THE TIME IS NOW: Climate Change Theatre Action, with [Hudson River Playback Theatre](#), includes theatre on the spot from audience members' true stories as well as two specially-commissioned short scripted plays with guest professional actors. **THE TIME IS NOW!** is part of [CLIMATE CHANGE THEATRE ACTION](#), a worldwide series of over 300 performances of short climate change plays held alongside the biennial United Nations conferences on climate. Hudson River Playback Theatre, founded in 1990, has been offering climate-themed shows for 10 years to build dialogue and inspire action. For more information please visit www.hudsonriverplayback.org.

Complete Streets Policy Ad Hoc Committee

As a continuation of the Complete Streets Training that was completed last month on, we are forming an Ad Hoc Committee to actually write the new proposed policy for the Town and Village of New Paltz. The initial meeting of this group will be Monday November 4th at 7:00 at the New Paltz Community Center. Please join us if you are interested in helping. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians,

bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easier to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work.

Next Monthly *Meetup* Tuesday November 5th

Fixing Stuff, Creating Community & Repairing the World

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

[McFoxlin's](#)

[5 Church St · New Paltz, NY](#)



New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetup now has 78 members! This is our seventh event so far and will feature the Repair Café. The repair movement worldwide is at the forefront of the revolution to rethink our material world. All over the world people are pooling their resources, sharing information and learning how to be more than consumers. We are learning to be fixers, and we are starting to fix our world. We are fighting for the right to repair the things we own, for policies that require eco-design of all new products, and for the just transition to a circular economy. In taking up repair, we prompt a conversation and inquiry into the ethics and practice of care--of things, yes, but also of each other, our environment and our communities. In this session, we will look at how to ditch the throwaway economy and build more resilient communities. To fix is to learn.

To see how creative, vital and international the repair movement is, search repair on Instagram. There are 1,600 Repair Cafes in 33 countries: free community meeting places to bring a beloved but broken item to be repaired by an expert who is also your neighbor. They extend the useful life of tons of items every month, but the real significance is the signal they send: We are better off when we see our own community in the midst of cooperation, creativity and decency, where goals are achieved and positive outcomes realized. This idea is eminently replicable and will encourage climate change solutions at every level.



John Wackman will be our presenter. John organized the first Repair Café in the region in New Paltz in 2013. He is the coordinator, communicator and cheerleader for Repair Cafes in the Hudson Valley, now active in more than 40 communities in 12 counties in the Hudson Valley, Catskills and Capital region. His book *Repair Revolution*, co-authored with Elizabeth Knight, will be published in April 2020 by New World Library.

Note poster below for the November Repair Café Schedule.



repaircafehv.org

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

November 2		November 16	
Ossining	11-3	Hastings-on-Hudson	11-3
Ossining Community Center 95 Broadway		James V. Harmon Comm. Ctr. 44 Main Street	
Highland Falls	10-12	Saratoga Springs	12-3
Highland Falls Senior Center 78 Oak Avenue		Saratoga Springs Public Library 49 Henry Street	
Esopus	11-3	Phoenicia	11-3
Town of Esopus Library 128 Canal Street, Port Ewen		St. Francis de Sales, Parish Hall 109 Main Street	
November 9		Philmont	10:30-1
Woodstock	10-2	Philmont Library 101 Main Street	
St Gregory's Episcopal Church 2578 New York 212		November 23	
LaGrange	10-2	Tusten	11-3
LaGrange Town Hall 120 Stringham Road		Tusten Town Hall 210 Bridge Street	
Castleton-on-Hudson	11-3	New Paltz	10-2
Castleton-on-Hudson Village Hall 85 South Main Street		New Paltz United Methodist Church 1 Grove Street	
November 16		November 24	
Warwick	10-2	Gardiner	1-4
Senior Center behind Town Hall 132 Kings Highway		Gardiner Public Library 133 Farmer's Turnpike	



CCA Update (CCA is Community Choice Aggregation)

The Welcome/Opt-out letter that will be mailed to every eligible home and small business in the Town and Village of New Paltz is in the process of being modified and approved by the Supervisor and Mayor. We are told that letter will be mailed out sometime between Election Day and mid-November. Once those letters go out, our one month opt-out period will begin. This is when Hudson Valley Energy will be especially out and about in both the Town and Village to help answer people's questions and process opt-outs. They will continue to hold weekly community-hosted office hours on Mondays, 12:30-1:30, now in Village Hall. They are also required to host two events each in the Town of New Paltz and the Village of New Paltz during that time period. The following events are tentatively scheduled:

Village of New Paltz

November 23rd (Saturday) 2-3:30pm at Village Hall

December 3rd (Tuesday) 7:30-9pm at Elting Memorial Library

Town of New Paltz

November 23rd (Saturday) 4:30-6pm at the Community Center

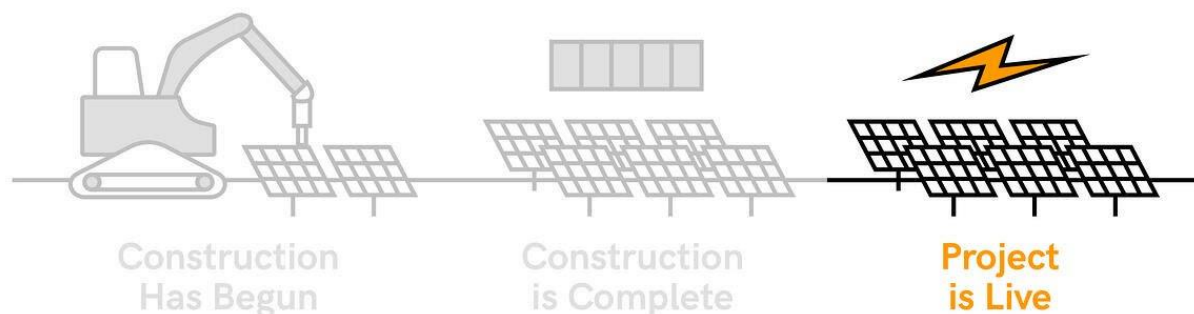
December 5th (Thursday) 7:30-9pm at the Community Center

If you have further CCA questions, please contact Jeff Domanski at cca@hudsonvalleyenergy.org

Sign Up for Community Solar Now!

Are you aware that there is a community solar part of the CCA? If you don't already have solar panels on your property, you can sign up for 10% additional savings on your electric bill and earn the town/village money towards a sustainability grant. This new solar farm is now live! Please consider signing up for the additional community solar through this site. The only way New Paltz receives the sustainability grant money is if you follow the link provided here:

<https://www.hudsonvalleycommunitypower.com/solar>



This community solar project is through Nexamp and is located in Rochester, New York and is now live! What does that mean for you? If you sign up, you will be helping to deliver clean, renewable energy generated by the sun to the electricity grid. You'll start seeing solar credits applied to your Central Hudson bill in the next 2-3 months. Please note that any unused credits will roll over from month to month and will never expire. Once they confirm that the credits have been transferred to your Central Hudson account, you'll receive an invoice from Nexamp for 90% of the credit value that you received on your electricity bill. This means you'll be saving up to 10% on your annual electricity cost.

Climate Smart Task Force Now Meets at the Community Center

Our Climate Smart Task Force meets every third Monday of the month at 7:00. We had been meeting at the New Paltz Village Hall but we are now meeting at the Community Center. Please join us if you can. Our next meeting is Monday November 18th. We always welcome new members as there is much to do. We have 8 action groups:

1. The 6 R's - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle
2. Green Business
3. Green Spaces
4. Green Transportation
5. Publicity, Social Media, Press Releases
6. Youth
7. Alternative Energy
8. Lifestyle

Solar at the New Paltz Landfill

Hurricanes, flooding, drought and forest fires are all happening with greater frequency as a result of climate change. These trends can be slowed by reducing our use of fossil fuels. Displacing our own need for fossil fuels through the increased use of local, clean, renewable power such as solar is a proven, clean and economically friendly way of being better stewards of the environment when faced with these undeniable greenhouse gas threats.



New Paltz now has the opportunity to host a solar array capable of providing almost 25% of the residential power needed in our community by leasing municipally owned space at the now closed landfill site at the far end of Clearwater Road near the Thruway. New York's new renewable energy goals are now 70% by 2030; this project is an excellent way for our community to make a meaningful contribution toward that goal while providing us with clean, local power.

A well-established and reputable solar company that has been vetted and critically reviewed has proposed a solar installation that would provide electricity for the equivalent of more than 1,300 homes. The company would have responsibility for building, maintaining, operating and ultimately removing the equipment when it ceases to operate, decades from now.

The surface of our closed landfill is not large enough to support all of these resiliency-building solar panels. Thus, the solar developer was asked to consider what could be built in an adjacent and limited area to optimize the solar potential and use of already existing electrical infrastructure that is available at the site. The resulting proposal includes tree removal of less than 17 acres that are adjacent to the landfill and the current County Waste Transfer Station.

While losing trees is generally not desirable, there is a strong case for the use of this limited number of disturbed acres - such as the clean energy that will displace fossil fuels, and the revenue benefits it will provide for the community - particularly in light of its already impacted location at the edge of the landfill and next to the active County Waste Transfer Station. The necessary area is small in scale in relation to large blocks of surrounding, deeper forest. Peer reviewed calculations show that the carbon lost by removing this number of acres of trees in forest of this type would be offset by the solar panels in less than three years of their expected minimum 25-year operation. By installing solar facilities in this location, in addition to the landfill space, there will be less need to install large-scale solar panels on important agricultural lands, more critically endangered grassland habitats or the iconic viewsapes that define our community.

As the committee of volunteers working on this project, we are committed to refining the proposal further to reduce the loss of trees, to mitigate impacts and to maintain a high level of solar power from the landfill site. We are confident that there will be a "sweet spot" for balancing these related but separate concerns resulting in a project that can meet many objectives with few impacts.

As we pursue a cleaner and more resilient energy future for New Paltz, we urge the community to keep an open mind and to recognize that success will include carefully weighing, considering and acting on our options for meeting the climate crisis challenges that face our community, state, nation and the planet.

Cara Lee, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Solar
Janelle Peotter, Coordinator, Climate Smart Task Force
Marty Irwin, Town Board Member

Welcome Winter Expo

Thursday November 21st 7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Expo will feature fun, family-friendly activities, tips for thriving during the winter, information on better environmental practices and how to save money and the planet too.

St. Joseph's
Parish Hall
34 South
Chestnut St.
New Paltz
Free admission,
free raffle, free
cider and cookies.



Bring a T-shirt and learn how to make a reusable bag. Mix your own herbal tea. Enjoy acoustic guitar music and the Tree Huggers. Learn about energy-efficiency and CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) information. Erik the Reptile Guy will entertain young people. Organizations that will table include the Repair Café, HeatSmart Ulster-Sullivan, Energy Conservation Specialists, New York State Solar Farm, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Hudson Valley Community Power, Nexamp, Natural Energy Solutions ...and more...

SPONSORED BY:

Interfaith Earth Action, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, and New Paltz Climate Smart

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

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