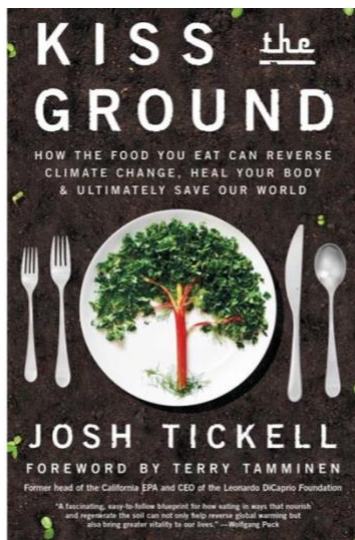


Volume 2 Issue 11
November 2020



New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Climate Smart Book Club: Kiss The Ground November 17th at 7:00 pm on Zoom



We have been reading a lot of tough but excellent books each month and we decided that for this next month we would give book club members the option to watch a movie! Our November pick for the Climate Smart Book Club is “[Kiss the Ground](#)”. It is a new film about how regenerating the world’s soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize Earth’s climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. The film is narrated by Woody Harrelson and is available now on Netflix. The 501(c)3 non-profit organization by the same name as the film “Kiss the Ground” is dedicated to regenerating farmland soil and training farmer leaders. The “Kiss the Ground” trailer can be viewed [here](#). For those preferring a book to read, you also have the option of reading the book “Kiss the Ground: How The Food You Eat Can Reverse Climate Change, Heal Your Body & Ultimately Save Our

World” by Josh Tickell. It is also available as an audio recording.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97222542754?pwd=SEp2emFQUGVNS2xSdDVKSzRVK0lwQT09>

Meeting ID: 972 2254 2754

Passcode: 988305

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Please consider signing for the Climate Smart Book Club on the Meetup platform by clicking here: <https://www.meetup.com/Climate-Smart-Book-Club/> You will get notifications of upcoming books and can also see what you missed! Tell your friends about the Climate Smart Book Club because anyone can join no matter where they live!

GO VOTE and Vote Yes for Local Law # 1

If you are a New Paltz resident, please turn over your ballot to vote Yes on New Paltz Local Law Number One on the ballot this November. Local Law Number One will establish a dedicated fund to protect clean drinking water, working farms, wildlife habitat, and natural areas in New Paltz. Voting yes is climate smart. Voting yes will protect the New Paltz we love for future generations before it's too late.

- Local Law Number One will not raise local property taxes.
- Revenue comes from a one-time, 1.5 % real estate transfer tax paid by buyers of properties.
- There will be an exemption on the first \$245,000 of the price, which will help first-time home buyers.
- Can we count on you to vote YES for NEW PALTZ LOCAL LAW NUMBER ONE?

For more information, watch these videos!

[State Senator Jen Metzger for New Paltz Local Law 1](#)
[New Paltz Town Supervisor Neil Bettez for Local Law 1](#)

Ongoing Project Updates

• Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool

The Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool and report that was generated by Cornell Cooperative Extension can be accessed on the Climate Smart webpages on both the Town and Village websites. The Climate Smart Task Force is identifying opportunities for implementation from the report to discuss further with the Town and Village Boards.

• Natural Resource Inventory

The Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) subteam has received the penultimate set of maps and the draft report from the consultants for review and comments. The NRI team will meet by Zoom with the consultants on Nov 10 to continue finalization of these documents.

• 100-year Floodplain Mapping

The Woodwell Climate Organization (formerly Woods Hole Research Center) presented the final draft of their report to the Task Force on Oct 21. The findings of this project will be presented to the Town and Village Boards at their joint meeting on Nov 4.

In summary, the report states that inland floods are some of the most devastating natural disasters and are expected to worsen under climate change due to the intensification of extreme precipitation. In this study present and future flood risk in New Paltz, NY, is examined through changes in the 1-in-100 year and 1-in-500 year flood events. Future rainfall and streamflow are estimated for two time periods, 2041-2060 (mid-21st century)

and 2071-2090 (late 21st century), using a regional climate model and river-reach scale hydrologic model.

The output of these simulations show that the historical 100-year rainfall event is 1.5x as likely in 2041-2060 and 4x as likely in 2071-2090. The historical 100-year streamflow event is 2x as likely in 2041-2060 and 3.7x as likely in 2071-2090. Even greater changes in frequency were calculated for the 500-year rainfall and streamflow events.

Using these estimates as inputs into a flood model reveal significant increases in flood risk across New Paltz. The total flooded area for the 100-year event increases by 7% by mid-21st century and 20% by late-21st century. The number of buildings flooded by the 100-year event increases by 12% by mid-21st century and 34% by late-21st century.

There are also increases, although smaller, in the future periods for the 500-year event.

Monthly Climate Solutions Meetup

The New Paltz Climate Change Solutions Meetup meets almost every month on the first Tuesday at 6:00 pm. Due to the first Tuesday being election night in November, we will not be meeting this month. It is noteworthy that so far we have had 17 different Meetups on a wide variety of topics! At each Meetup we invite a speaker or presenter to teach us about a topic in order to learn practical ways to mitigate or adapt to climate change in our own daily lives. We always incorporate a question and answer period that leads to lively conversation where we learn from each other. Here are the topics we have covered so far:

- Water Management Tips for Residential Landscaping with Climate Change in Mind
- Light Pollution & Dark Sky Friendly Lighting
- Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Your Electric Bill...
- 10 Money Saving Steps to 100% Renewable
- Climate Smart Investing
- Refrigerants: The Most Important Thing You Could Ever Recycle
- Climate Smart Voting: Super Tuesday
- Calculate and Offset Your Carbon Footprint
- Climate Smart Food Choices: Plant Based Diet
- Climate Smart Holidays
- Fixing stuff, Creating Community & Repairing the World
- Clean Up Your Act. Compost.
- "Honey I shrunk the lawn!" - Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Your Yard
- How to Get 100% Green Electricity: Community Choice Aggregation
- Supporting Pollinators: Flowers, Birds and Bees
- Rethinking Disposables: Alternatives to Plastics
- Electrify My Drive : Electric Vehicle Basics

Where do we go from here? What topics are you interested in? What presenters would you recommend? Send an email to newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com with your recommendations. If you haven't yet, be sure to sign up on the Meetup platform by clicking here: <https://www.meetup.com/New-Paltz-Climate-Change-Solutions-Meetup/> Our next Meetup will be Tuesday December 1st. We always begin our Meetups at 6:00 pm.

Community Composting Project Underway

Distressed at the idea that your vegetable scraps are being driven in dirty diesel trucks four hours to a landfill in Watertown, NY, and four hours back? That's 105 gallons of diesel per truck load and a considerable amount of CO₂ emissions. Instead, why not keep our food scraps here to enhance the soil of our surrounding homes and gardens? We are looking for volunteers to help with a plan to obtain town approval, build,



and maintain community compost bins at the Community Center. You will be rewarded with compost for your garden and your neighbors'! If interested, please contact Joanna at joannamdempsey@gmail.com

Save Up to 10% on Your Electric Bill, Support Local Renewable Energy and Support Your Community



Join Our Webinar on November 12th to Learn More

As a member of Hudson Valley Community Power, the Town and Village of New Paltz are

supporting a community solar program that increases their community's access to 100% renewable electricity, supports local development of renewable energy, all while lowering the electricity costs of their residents and small businesses. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of New Paltz has chosen to specifically raise money for local COVID-19 relief efforts, through enrollments in this community solar program.

For each enrollment in the community solar program, the Program Administrator partner (Joule Community Power) will donate \$50 to Family of New Paltz. So far, the Town of New Paltz has raised \$2,300 for Family of New Paltz. We are setting a goal of raising \$3,000 total by December

1st, 2020. In addition to the Town's efforts, each community solar enrollment in the Village of New Paltz will raise \$50 to support a future local sustainability project.

Community solar allows both residents and small businesses to tap into the benefits of solar without needing to install their own panels. If you have your own solar panels or are already subscribed to a solar farm, then you already receive solar credits and are not eligible to enroll in this community solar program. If your community is participating in the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, you can still enroll in community solar. CCA and community solar work well together and increase your savings, while supporting the development of local renewable energy. Any home or small business in Central Hudson territory can enroll.

Hudson Valley Community Power will be hosting a virtual information session and Q&A about the program on Thursday, November 12th from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Representatives from Joule, Hudson Valley Community Power and the Town of New Paltz will be there. To register, please go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-solar-in-new-paltz-tickets-126581339193>.

To learn more or to enroll and save up to 10% on your electric bill, you can [visit this website](#), or call (845) 859-9099 ext. 4.

We Have a PPE Problem... a Pandemic of Plastics Everywhere

The response to the global pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus seems to have created a situation where people and communities have reversed course on efforts to reduce the ubiquity of single use plastic. Yet a [statement](#) signed by 119 scientists from 18 different countries including epidemiologists, virologists, biologists, chemists and doctors, all agree that reusable cups, bags and containers are perfectly safe to use as long as people employ simple and basic hygiene. Evidence indicates that the virus spreads primarily from inhaling aerosolized droplets, rather than through contact with surfaces, the scientists say. The notion of plastics as a safer alternative to reusable containers is a myth perpetuated by the [plastics](#) industry. To keep people safe and protect our planet, we should listen to the best available science instead of underhanded marketing from the plastic industry. The promotion of unnecessary single-use plastics to decrease exposure to the coronavirus negatively impacts the environment, water systems, and potential food supply compared to the safe use of reusable bags, containers and utensils. So what can you do right now? We all want to support local restaurants so here are some suggestions from Iris Bloom when you order for pick up:

- **Bring** bamboo cutlery plus a variety of reusables in a variety of shapes and sizes
- **Ask ahead** (before ordering)
- **Avoid** places that will not allow reusables and serve in single-use plastic
- **Confirm "no plastic"** at the time of ordering
- **Speak** kindly to the server
- If anything, including water, is going to be served in single-use plastic, "**just say no.**"

- *Be kind and supportive of managers, servers, etc. throughout and tip at least 20% -- all the places where I go, this is appreciated because servers, also, are experiencing emotional pain at being "part of the plastic problem" and they don't like it and they like positive solutions.*

Long term, New Paltz Climate Smart would like to do more on this issue of plastics. Please send an email to newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com with the word “plastics” in the subject and together we will do further research and maybe find some creative ways to make a difference!

Transportation and Climate Initiative



nyfortci.org

Urge Gov. Cuomo to
adopt an equitable
Transportation &
Climate Initiative

NY for TCI is a campaign led by public interest organizations, businesses, and individuals demanding healthier, more equitable, sustainable, affordable, and accessible transportation solutions for all New Yorkers through a regional Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) program. TCI is a regional “cap-and-invest” program proposed by New York, 11 neighboring states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and Vermont), and the District of Columbia that would limit and reduce transportation pollution, and invest in communities to provide better, cleaner, and safer transportation solutions in urban, rural, and suburban areas of New York.

The TCI program would set the region’s first cap, or limit, on transportation-sector carbon pollution and require oil companies that supply polluting transportation fuels like gasoline and diesel to reduce the pollution they cause over time. The TCI program would also require oil companies to pay for the pollution their products cause, generating billions of dollars for investment in better, cleaner transportation solutions. New York and the other states would each decide how best to use their share of these payments to support in-state and local transportation solutions that benefit residents.



Please consider signing the letter to Cuomo <https://nyfortci.org/letter/> urging Governor Cuomo to seize this opportunity by committing New York, by the end of 2020, to the implementation of an ambitious equitable and sustainable regional TCI program that helps us build the transportation future New Yorkers want and need.

Annual Welcome Winter Energy Expo

*As Winter approaches, let us embrace it! Please join New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, New Paltz Climate Smart and Interfaith Earth Action for our **Annual Welcome Winter Energy Expo on December 3rd. Pop online anytime between 5-8pm.** Learn about easy & affordable ways to winterize your home, how to sign up for community solar & save money, and learn about different energy options for your home, business, or house of worship! Renters are especially encouraged to join us. Energy efficiency experts will be on-hand, ready to answer any questions you may have. Find out about free energy audits and securing grant funding for energy upgrades! Register at bit.ly/welcomewinter2020*



Calendar

Wednesday November 4th: Presentation of our 100 Year Flood Mapping to the Joint Town and Village Board by Woodwell Climate Organization

Monday November 16th: New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force meeting on Zoom

Tuesday November 17th: Climate Smart Book Club at 7:00 pm on Zoom *Kiss The Ground*

Tuesday December 1st: Climate Solutions Meetup at 6:00 pm

Thursday December 3rd: Welcome Winter Energy Expo

Tuesday December 15th: Climate Smart Book Club – *Repair Revolution* by John Wackman