

Volume 3 Issue 11  
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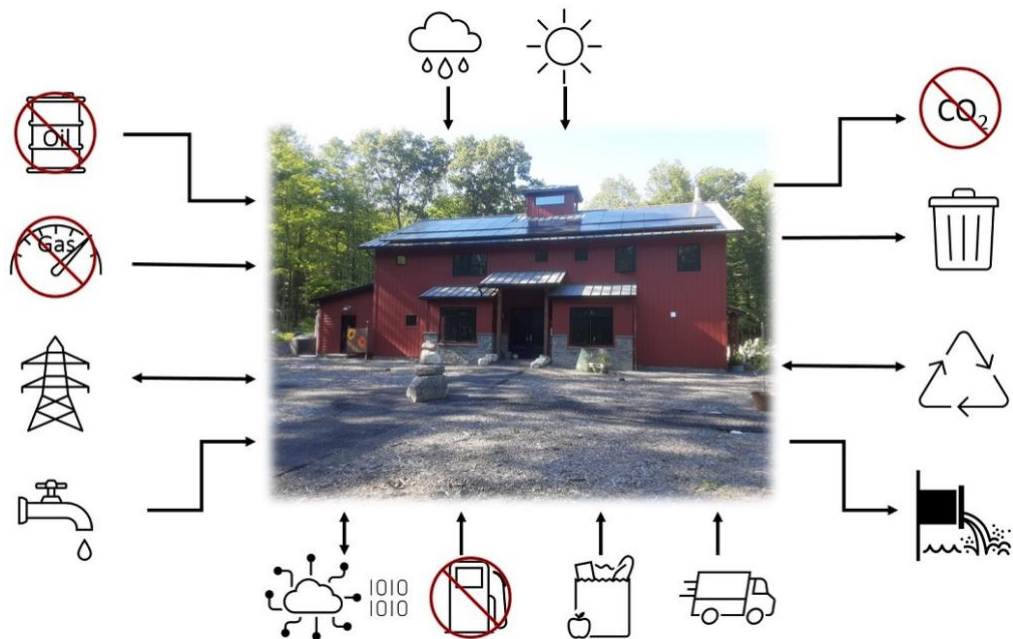


Climate Smart  
Communities  
Certified Bronze

# New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

## New Paltz Climate Change Solutions *Meetup:* Creating a Net Zero Energy and Fossil Fuel Free Residence

**Tuesday**  
**Nov 2, 2021**  
**6:00 to 7:30**  
**PM EDT**



Online event

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84120286006?pwd=bVNKdDZ6ZUdHQVJ6THJlVSEZzRTU5UT09>

Building a new home, or remodeling an existing one, offers the opportunity to reduce energy consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. With careful design choices, selection of materials, and the use of the latest technologies it is now possible to achieve two goals:

- \* Produce as much electricity in the course of a year as you consume
- \* Produce no Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Join us to hear Joe Londa describe the design choices, materials selection, and technologies

involved to reach these goals for a newly constructed Energy Star home in the Town of New Paltz. We will discuss the many tradeoffs that must be made along the way in designing and building to end up with an appealing home that strives to be Climate Positive.

The scope of the discussion will cover:

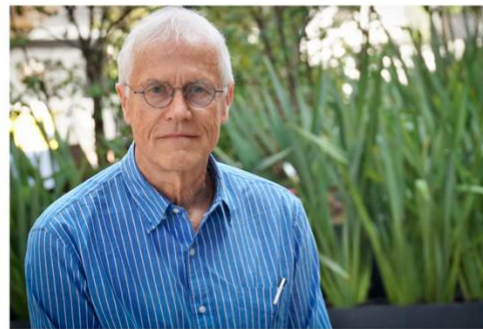
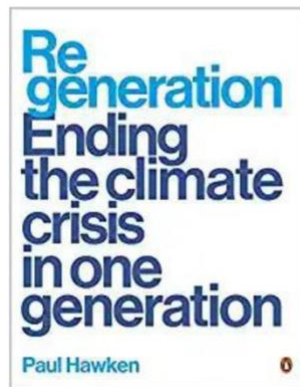
- Site and Local
- Design and Energy Star Standard
- Consumption
- Building Envelope (Infiltration and Insulation)
- Heating, Cooling, and Hot Water Systems
- Water Conservation
- Solar Panels, Inverters, and Batteries
- Ventilation
- Lighting
- Appliances
- Home Automation and Connected Devices
- Waste

We will allow plenty of time at the end for your questions and discussion!

## November Climate Smart Book Club: Regeneration - Ending The Climate Crisis In One Generation

**Tuesday,  
Nov 16, 2021  
7:00 to 8:30  
PM EST**

Online event



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

Our book pick for November is by Paul Hawken and is a sort of sequel to "Drawdown" which we read as part of our Climate Smart Book Club in May of 2020. It is available both as an audiobook or softcover. Even if you are not up to reading the whole book you can easily pick and choose chapters that interest you. Much like Drawdown, each section stands on its own.

"Regeneration covers an impressively broad range of topics from food safety to the war industry, electric vehicles to mangroves, which serves to demonstrate how all-encompassing the challenge is... those of us who feel the weight of the crisis will find the book both clarifying and helpful as is his final exhortation: 'It's not your job to save the planet.' Rather, it is all of our jobs."  
—San Francisco Chronicle

"Regeneration is honest and informative, a rebuttal to doomsayers who believe it is too late."  
—Jane Goodall

"Regeneration is brilliant! Encouraging, inspiring, with the best science and a big heart. Wow! It is a direct practical path to save and transform the earth that we can actually do!"  
—Jack Kornfield, PhD, Founder of Spirit Rock Center

"Life-empowering! Paul Hawken has once again provided us timely and visionary leadership in this earth-saving compendium of insights from a team of experts sharing the transformations we are now carrying out as well as those we need to enact across a spectrum of human activities. Filled with hope, and agency, Regeneration is an inspiring and practical guide for a healthier world, uplifting our spirits and showing us exactly how together, we can do this!"  
—Dan Siegel, M.D., New York Times bestselling author

"Paul Hawken has delivered a must-read manifesto on the climate crisis. Feel both the urgency and agency as he lays out with crisp photos and equally crisp prose, the task at hand. Now is our moment. Let's seize it."  
—Michael E. Mann, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science, Penn State University

"Paul Hawken has done it again. With immense intellectual clarity and an abundance of simple, yet brilliant ideas, Regeneration shows us how to go beyond a net zero future by restoring the vital link between human and planetary health."  
—Paul Polman, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, IMAGINE and former CEO, Unilever

"Regeneration is descriptive and prescriptive. It is a candid assessment and a clear and inspiring path forward, educating and inviting all of us to participate in this incredible opportunity for change."  
—Robyn O'Brien, Food Activist & Author

## The Tiffin Project Update

The New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force has eight Action Groups that were created with community input. One of those Action Groups we call the 6 R's: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Recycle. Our Tiffin Project is a direct outgrowth of trying to reduce waste through the reuse of a container for take out from restaurants. We are promoting the use of tiffins – a container



*Figure 1 We have 3 tier and 2 tier tiffins for sale.*

that prevents needing to come home with plastic or other single use containers from a restaurant. Tiffins are made of stainless steel, reusable 1000's of times, and easily washed in a dishwasher. Tiffin style carriers are great at keeping the foods separate, in a structured container, to prevent your meal from getting soggy or squashed before you can eat it. While many of us feel good when our favorite restaurants puts our orders in compostable containers, remember that if these containers are put in the trash, they go to landfill. Landfill is an anerobic environment that does not compost materials. Even these compostable containers are single use and continue our addiction to single-use items, detracting from the most environmentally beneficial practices: reducing and reusing. Compostable containers take a lot of resources to make and are rarely actually composted because that needs to happen in an industrial facility which we do not have here in New Paltz.

A couple of months ago, a wholesale order was made for these tiffins so that they could be sold to individuals at cost. We have completely sold out of that first order and our next order is coming in this week. We will be at the Open Air Market in New Paltz on Sunday October 31<sup>st</sup> if you would like to see the tiffins and place an order. The New Paltz Tiffin Project is planned to be a three phased program. In this first phase we are encouraging individuals to buy a tiffin and bring it to restaurants both for take-out and for to-go containers used at the end of a meal you can't finish. In this way, we are introducing the tiffin to both fellow restaurant goers, restaurant staff and owners. In the next phase we would like to feature New Paltz restaurants that are willing to promote the use of tiffins. **Will you help us further promote the New Paltz Tiffin Project?** Through the Climate Action Coalition we have these high quality stainless steel tiffins for sale at cost – they are only \$15. Since they retail for \$29, you can't get them for a better price. Please contact Janelle to buy a tiffin or to help with this project by emailing [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com).

## A Climate Action Victory!



You have probably have heard by now but this is big news! The DEC denied Danskammer AND Astoria title V air permits! Danskammer has 30 days to appeal, but this is a HUGE victory for climate activists in New York. Thank you to anyone who worked on this!



# Industrial-Scale Cryptocurrency Mining in NY



Why should you care about cryptocurrency? Because it has huge climate impacts! We learn the From CBS News meteorologist and climate specialist Jeff Berardelli:

*“A plant in Seneca Lakes NY, named Greenidge Generation, lay dormant for more than five years. It was converted from coal to natural gas and fired back up in 2017 by a private investment firm with the intent to supply power to the*

*grid. Now, in addition to supplying power, the company has an industrial-scale bitcoin mining business on the property, an operation that's been growing. Recently, the number of mining machines has doubled from around 7,000 to over 15,000. According to an SEC filing by Greenidge Generation, in March the plant powered 19 megawatts of mining capacity. The document shows they expect that to more than quadruple by the end of 2022.*

*Why does bitcoin mining require so much energy that it pays to own a power plant? Every bitcoin transaction activates thousands of supercomputing mining machines, all competing against each other to solve puzzling mathematical problems, each vying to be the first to validate that transaction – and in return, win new bitcoin. More machines and cheaper power mean more profit. So, for power plants not operating at full capacity, mining can be an attractive new revenue stream. Advocates are concerned the floodgates are about to open, to open back up shuttered power plants across the nation.*

*Bitcoin miners are making deals to utilize or even purchase power plants in western New York, Montana and Pennsylvania, just to name a few. Horner Cornell University professor and natural gas expert Tony Ingraffea said outside the state of New York there are hundreds more plants. In New York State, two plants are targeted to quickly open up, he said. He said using power plants to mine bitcoin raises an ethical concern, because of emissions of carbon dioxide, and methane leakage, which is common along the supply chain leading to the plant.*

*And critics say the bitcoin industry's carbon emissions are already immense — larger than the total emissions of Sweden and Switzerland combined.*

*If you look at all the energy consumption of Google, Amazon and Facebook combined, [bitcoin mining] uses more energy than all of them," said New York State Assembly member Anna Kelles. "You need to have as many computers as possible and you need those computers online every single second of every single day. If they can work their way through all the regulations in New York State, which has some of the highest regulations in the country, it really sets a precedent," she said.*

*Greenidge's five-year air permit is now up for renewal. In an August letter to New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, Greenidge said that it is in compliance with New York's greenhouse gas emissions targets established by the new climate law. New York DEC says Greenidge's application has not yet demonstrated compliance with those requirements.”*

DEC has not made a final determination on the permit. Public hearings are planned, and **the DEC is accepting public comments on the renewal through November 19**. Greenidge pollutes our air, uses our precious freshwater resources, and contributes to the global climate crisis. We need climate advocates like you to ensure that fossil fuel-fired power plants get denied permits now. [Click here to submit a comment to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\) telling them to deny this permit renewal now.](#)

## New Paltz Climate Smart November Calendar

**Tuesday November 2nd 6:00 – 7:30 pm** Climate Solutions Meetup – Net Zero Home  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84120286006?pwd=bVNKdDZ6ZUdHQVJ6THJVSEZzRTU5UT09>

**Monday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting  
[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

**Tuesday November 16th at 7:00 pm** Climate Smart Book Club – Regeneration  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

**Monday November 22nd at 7:00 pm** Ulster County Climate Smart Committee  
<https://zoom.us/j/94174947702>

*If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact Janelle Peotter, Climate Smart Coordinator at [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com)*



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