

Volume 3 Issue 10
October 2021



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

New Paltz Drives Electric! Saturday, October 2nd



Are you considering buying an electric vehicle? Join us for an in-person outdoor event **New Paltz Goes Electric** here in New Paltz, New York on **Saturday, October 2nd from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm** to learn from owners who have done so!

You have two times and locations to talk to drivers and see their electric vehicles! We need both current owners of electric vehicles and people interested in learning more about these amazing vehicles. We will start by meeting at 11:00 am at the new Tesla chargers near Plaza Diner at the New Paltz Plaza. There will then be an informal all electric vehicle motorcade through New Paltz to the New Paltz Community Center at 3 Veterans Drive. There we will have a variety of electric vehicles on display and you will be able to talk to owners, ask questions, and compare your options.

No need to register in advance. Just come with either your electric vehicle or your questions and concerns about buying one and be prepared to meet a lot of owners who love their EV's! All attendees and volunteers are required to wear face masks whenever they are within six feet of another person at all National Drive Electric Week 2021 events. Please see this information about how to [improve how your mask protects you](#).

National Drive Electric Week, September 25th - October 3rd this year, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles, and more. Sponsored by New Paltz Climate Smart and New Paltz Climate Action Coalition. General questions may be directed to: newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com
This is our fourth year doing this event! To the right, is a photo of our all electric motorcade from 2018.



Theatrical Solutions to Fast Fashion: Impacts of Clothing Waste and Alternatives



Monthly *Meetup*

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

This will be an online event and the Zoom link is below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86112349884?pwd=MGIwbFRPV2tOVmdOZEJCdTVhdkljZz09>

Did you know that the fashion industry is the second-biggest consumer of water and is responsible for 8-10 per cent of global carbon emissions - more than all international flights and maritime shipping combined? The industry is the second-biggest consumer of water, generating around 20 percent of the world's wastewater and releasing half a million tons of synthetic microfibers into the ocean annually. Part of these emissions come from pumping water to irrigate crops like cotton, oil-based pesticides, machinery for harvesting, and emissions from transport. The industry is responsible for 24 percent of insecticides and 11 percent of pesticides. The average consumer buys 60 percent more pieces of clothing than 15 years ago. Each item is only kept for half as long.

Our presenter on this important topic of fast fashion and the impact it is having on our planet will be Alizon Santamaria. Her presentation, Theatrical Solutions to Fast Fashion, you will find both very interesting and a window into the issue of fast fashion.

Born and raised in Western New York State, Alizon Santamaria earned her BA in Theatre at SUNY Geneseo. She earned her MFA in Theatre Costume Production from Boston University. She now lives and works in Towson, Maryland (just north of Baltimore) with her husband Joseph, dog River, and cat Gertie. Alizon has in recent years gained a particular interest in sustainable practices in theatre and how they can translate to our everyday lives. In her talk "Theatrical Solutions to Fast Fashion" she addresses the problem of clothing waste and pollution through the lens of theatrical costuming.



After our speaker's presentation, we will also have an open discussion and an opportunity for participants to share what they know about the impact of synthetic fabrics on our environment, microplastics, and what some of the solutions and alternatives are.

October Climate Smart Book Club:

The Ministry For The Future

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM CDT

Online event – link below:



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

Our book selection for October is "The Ministry for the Future" by science fiction author Kim Stanley Robinson. This novel creates something truly remarkable: a credible, very-near future in which humans effectively solve the problem of climate change. In a review by Yale Climate Connections, book reviewer Michael Svoboda writes:

"In *The Ministry for the Future*, acts of eco-terrorism are clearly major drivers of the changes that first slow and then halt the centuries-long rise in greenhouse gas emissions, but Robinson keeps these actors offstage. The results of their actions – bombed power plants, downed jetliners, infected CAFOs – are reported third hand, in brief summaries of newscasts. Although each of these daring actions could be the plot of a thriller, Robinson does not spin out their stories, likely because he does not want to valorize violence even when it's clearly necessary to his plot.

For reasons that are less clear, the protagonists, too, are often kept at a distance, presented in abbreviated form in minutes from meetings or in surveillance reports.

And then there are the digressions. Many of the book's 106 chapters are devoted to such technical topics as the history of central banking, modern monetary theory, the Gini index, blockchain technology, Mondragon, carbon taxes, clean energy technologies, Jevon's Paradox, different forms of geoengineering, population biology, and wildlife corridors.

With these many different pieces, Robinson assembles a Rube Goldbergian machine for social change that ultimately delivers the goods: a more equitable social economy and a more stable climate, one in which CO₂ levels are actually falling from the peak level (478 ppm) reached in the 2040s. The Ministry finally achieves its goals when complex, interconnected social and economic processes are repurposed to direct power and money away from the production of fossil fuels, away the conspicuous consumption – and waste – of other goods, and toward health, human interconnection, and happiness.

The Ministry for the Future, then, is both an optimistic and a difficult work. Morally difficult for the role it envisions for violence, and sometimes a slow read for the many complex topics that must be explained along the way. But precisely because of the extra effort required, readers will finish Ministry with a clearer view of the big picture and a much better understanding of the many different pieces humanity must puzzle together to meet the challenge of climate change."

Introducing Joe Londa: New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force Member



Joe Londa, a recent retiree from a forty year career in Electronics and Information Technology, joined the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force last month. He is educated as a physical scientist but his passion is as a system scientist and complex problem solver. After many visits to New Paltz, he and his wife decided to relocate in 2017 and built a Net Zero Energy Fossil Fuel Free Energy Star Certified home. He looks forward to leveraging his recent building experience, and his System Science background, to make a strong contribution to the Task Force and New Paltz. You may bump into Joe on the trails as Trail Running is one of his hobbies.

The Tiffin Project: Moving Forward!

For the past couple of months in our newsletter we have told you about tiffins – a container that prevents needing to come home with plastic or other single use containers from a restaurant that you have to then throw away or recycle. While many of us feel good that 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 anaerobic 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. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to learn more about the issue of compostable containers and why they are not the best answer. As the “zero-waste” movement catches on in North America, people are looking to the tiffin carrier as a convenient way to cut back on the unnecessary waste associated with take-out food. Tiffins are reusable, dishwasher safe and therefore easily sterilized, and if ever necessary, fully recyclable. 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.



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 almost completely sold out of that first order and will soon be ordering more! More people are bringing them to restaurants and soon we will do another group 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?** We now have 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.

Climate Consequences of Crypto-Currency



On October 4 at 7:00 pm, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, Seneca Lake Guardian, Food & Water Watch and Earthjustice are hosting a webinar, the Climate Consequences of Crypto-Currency: Speaking Out Against the Greenidge Fracked Gas Power Plant. **This webinar will provide tips and tools for you to testify at the Virtual DEC public hearing on October 13th, 2021.**

Please fill out this form to attend! A zoom link will be shared with registrants prior to the event. Participate in this webinar to learn how we can stop the Greenidge facility from expanding its bitcoin operation on Seneca Lake, and how to fight back against the expansion of proof-of-work cryptocurrency mining in New York State. Proof-of-Work cryptocurrency mining uses enormous amounts of energy to power the computers needed to conduct business – should this activity expand in New York, it could drastically undermine New York's climate goals established under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. According to research from the New York Times, globally, Bitcoin mining consumes more electricity than the entire country of Ireland, which is almost 0.5% of all electricity consumption worldwide. The Greenidge Facility is the first test for New York when it comes to addressing cryptocurrency mining and how it would impact the state's climate goals.

You are encouraged to **sign up to speak at the DEC Hearing on October 13th as soon as possible.** (The October 4th webinar will get you prepped for this!)

Webinar on Refrigerants: Tuesday October 19th at 7:00

New Yorkers for Cool Refrigerant Management invites us to attend this webinar:

Fascinating/Disturbing/Essential Things to Know About Refrigerants and the Solutions We Can Implement. It will be a compelling, jam-packed hour about current progress and our initiatives for regulating, monitoring, capturing, reusing and destroying these super pollutants. [Register here.](#)

New Paltz Climate Smart October Calendar

Saturday October 2nd at the New Paltz Plaza at **11:00 am** and New Paltz Community Center Parking Lot from **12:00 to 2:00 pm**. New Paltz Drives Electric! Celebrating National Electric Vehicle Week.

Monday October 4th 7:00 pm Climate Consequences of Crypto-Currency Webinar [Please fill out this form to attend!](#)

Tuesday October 5th 6:00 – 7:30 pm Climate Solutions Meetup – Fast Fashion

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84949317067?pwd=VjJraWhSd1lrWVQvcisrZmRYd0pJUT09>

Monday October 18th at 7:00 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting
[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

Tuesday October 19th at 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club –
[Click here for Zoom link to Climate Smart Book Club](#)

Tuesday October 19th at 7:00 pm Webinar on Refrigerants [Register here](#)
(Sorry this date is in conflict with our Book Club – you will have to choose.)

Monday October 25th 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



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