

**Volume 4 Issue 10**  
**October 2022**



**Climate Smart  
Communities**  
Certified Bronze

# New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

## New Paltz Climate Smart Solutions October *Meetup*: Climate Smart Schools - Opportunities and Challenges



**Tuesday, October 4, 2022**  
**6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Online event

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/9tZAc-Gtrz0sHtx2Ne53V-lAdGZUVaZJFyI3>

At our last Meetup we discussed the importance of "choosing your power" and the conversation led to an exciting discussion on how this can be done in schools as well. Public schools are increasingly using savings from solar energy to upgrade facilities, help their communities, and give teachers raises — often with no cost to taxpayers. A recent New York Times article said that from New Jersey to California, nearly one in ten K-12 public and private schools across the country were using solar energy by early 2022. That's twice as many as existed in 2015.

After salaries, energy is the second biggest expense for public K-12 schools, amounting to some \$8 billion a year. Newly available federal funding for school energy upgrades in the infrastructure bill, along with incentives to adopt solar in recently passed climate legislation, is forecast to offset those costs while also clocking environmental benefits.

At this Climate Solutions Meetup, we are going to share examples of successes at nearby schools in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, potential opportunities for funding and challenges along the way. We will have an informal panel and many opportunities for participants to share.

## New Paltz 2030: Our Climate Action Plan

**Tuesday, October 11th • 7:00pm – 9:00pm Community Center, 3 Veterans Drive**

New Paltz wants your input!

We want to know your vision for the community to help us design a plan for a better tomorrow. In the next few months, the Town and Village of New Paltz are working on developing a Community Climate Action Plan. A climate action plan is a detailed and strategic framework for

measuring, planning, and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and related climatic impacts. Communities design and utilize climate action plans as roadmaps for making informed decisions and understanding where and how to achieve the largest and most cost-effective emissions reductions that are in alignment with other municipal goals.

### Why Participate?

This is a great way to voice your opinion regarding the things you care about. We need to know what you and our municipalities can do to combat the climate crisis.

### ***COME OUT TO VOICE YOUR OPINION AND THOUGHTS REGARDING:***

- Energy
- Resiliency and Adaptation
- Waste Reduction/Recycling
- Transportation and Mobility
- Smart Growth/Land Use



### **Plus refreshments and door prizes!**

Send questions or comments to: [climatesmart@villageofnewpaltz.org](mailto:climatesmart@villageofnewpaltz.org)

## September Climate Smart Book Club: Power After Carbon - Building A Clean, Resilient Grid



**Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Online event

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtce-qrD4vHdBnaq-6uNp7RImDtL8THZvs>

Our book pick our next Climate Smart Book Club is ***Power After Carbon – Building A Clean, Resilient Grid*** by Peter Fox-Penner. It is a timely book for many of us here in New Paltz who are currently working on the Battery Energy Storage Task Force or those trying to understand the delays there has been in putting solar on our local landfill.

As the damaging and costly impacts of climate change increase, the rapid development of sustainable energy has taken on great urgency. The electricity industry has responded with necessary but wrenching shifts toward renewables, even as it faces unprecedented challenges and disruption brought on by new technologies, new competitors, and policy changes. The result is a collision course between a grid that must provide abundant, secure, flexible, and affordable power, and an industry facing enormous demands for power and rapid, systemic change.

The fashionable solution is to think small: smart buildings, small-scale renewables, and locally distributed green energy. But author Peter Fox-Penner makes clear that these will not be enough to meet our increasing needs for electricity. He points instead to the indispensability of large power systems, battery storage, and scalable carbon-free power technologies, along with the

grids and markets that will integrate them. The electric power industry and its regulators will have to provide all of these, even as they grapple with changing business models for local electric utilities, political instability, and technological change. ***Power after Carbon*** makes sense of all the moving parts, providing actionable recommendations for anyone involved with or relying on the electric power system.

## Town of New Paltz Applies for Ecological Restoration Grant



Partners for Climate Action in the Hudson Valley (PCVAHV) is a group that works to cultivate and connect ecological leaders in communities throughout the Hudson Valley and support them with programs and grants that bolster their efforts to address the climate crisis, repair our natural systems, and foster local resilience. To that end, they are offering a grant for ecological restoration projects located in Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, or Ulster.

The Ecological Restoration Grant (ERG) objectives are: a visible and tangible project with results within a year's time that engages community members, has documentation and storytelling, is a collaboration where possible, and includes a commitment to DEI and accessibility.

Potential projects can be for cultivating biodiversity; reforestation; contributing to stream, river and pond health; managing invasive species; sourcing, cultivating and/or installing native plants and seeds; supporting pollinator health and populations; building soil health and sequestering carbon; reducing waste and related emissions; and implementing municipal and community compost projects. The awards will be announced in January, 2023, and will range from \$1000 - \$100,000. The Town of New Paltz, together with Bloom Fine Landscaping and New Paltz Climate Smart, has submitted an application. Our project is a Conversion of Mowed Lawn to a pollinator-friendly minimal-mow area and an Invasive Species Remediation with native pollinator-supporting plants and seedlings. This project will not only restore 2 municipal zones, this project will be shared as examples and templates for achieving restoration of similar public and private areas in New Paltz and beyond.

The project will take place in two locations: Location 1 is a Town-owned and maintained ¼ acre portion of lawn in front of the Town Community Center on N. Chestnut Street/Rte 32 N. Location 2 is the Town-maintained buffer strip of the Empire State Trail along Rte 299 from Ohioville Rd. to the Thruway exit.

The project's purposes are to replace non-natives with native plants, support the health and welfare of pollinators, encourage more biodiversity with a variety of locally-appropriate native plants, use a creative non-chemical persistent manual management of invasive mugwort, and reduce weekly mowing sessions and related gasoline emissions while saving labor/gasoline costs to taxpayers.

The impacts on the community and surrounding environment we hope to achieve are a demonstration to our Town Board and Maintenance Department, to our residents, and to our neighboring communities that both a mowed lawn and an invasive-infested strip can be successfully restored to attractive and balanced biodiverse ecosystems, with manageable amounts of effort and cost.

## BESS Task Force

New York State has a goal to install 1,500MW of Energy Storage by 2025. Lithium Ion Batteries in an array will be the most common solution and they are referred to as Battery Energy Storage Systems or BESS for short. New Paltz is a candidate site and to be considered we must have a permitting process and local law (Code) that applies to a BESS installation. Toward that end, a BESS Task Force has been established, led by Climate Smart Community member Joe Londa, and they are charged with developing the proposed permitting application for Tier 1 Batteries (less than or equal to 600kWh) and Tier 2 Batteries (greater than 600kWh) and the applicable law, both of which would be brought to the Town of New Paltz Board for review and approval. At the October 6th meeting we plan to present the proposed Permitting applications.

Further reading on the NYS efforts to transform the grid can be found here <https://www.nyiso.com/documents/20142/2223020/2021-Power-Trends-Report.pdf/471a65f8-4f3a-59f9-4f8c-3d9f2754d7de>

## Want To Learn More About The Inflation Reduction Act?

### From the Green New Deal to the Inflation Reduction Act: The Inside Scoop on the Passage of the Nation's First Climate-Health-Tax Bill

**Date:** Wednesday, October 12 at 5 pm

**Location:** LC 100

**Livestreaming:** [Click here to watch this event virtually](#). The event will also be recorded.

**About:** Learn about the behind-the-scenes negotiations and advocacy for the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act with Tim Sahay (Ph.D. Physics, MIT) of the Green New Deal Network and [Ted Fertik](#) (Ph.D., [Economic] History, Yale) of the Working Families Party and the Grassroots Power Project. Both Sahay and Fertik serve as senior policy analysts for their respective organizations. Sponsored by the Office of Campus Sustainability and the Sustainability Ambassador Carbon Neutrality Team, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Business, the Economics Department, the History Department, the Geography & Environmental Studies Department, and the Environmental Task Force.

### Webinar Login Details:

From the Green New Deal to Inflation Reduction Act

Date and time: Wednesday, Oct 12, 2022 5:00 pm | (UTC-04:00) EST

Join link: <https://newpaltz.webex.com/newpaltz/j.php?MTID=m84e5d233ed75a9fc8cdc20e396fa68ed>

Webinar number: 2433 450 0160

Webinar password: ClimateCrisis (25462832 from phones)

Join by phone +1-415-655-0001 US Toll

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to help us design a plan for a better tomorrow.*

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**Wednesday, October 11th • 7:00pm – 9:00pm**  
**Community Center, 3 Veterans Drive**



*A strategic plan for reducing GHG emissions*



## New Paltz Climate Smart October Calendar

**Tuesday October 4th at 6:00 – 7:30 pm** Climate Solutions Meetup – Climate Smart Schools - Opportunities and Challenges

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAoc-Gtrz0sHtx2Ne53V-lAdGZUVaZJFyI3>

**Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 - 9:00 pm** *In person* at the New Paltz Community Center! All are invited to the Climate Action Planning Workshop. Location: Community Center at 3 Veterans Drive

**Tuesday October 20th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm** Climate Smart Book Club: *Power After Carbon - Building A Clean, Resilient Grid*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUtce-qrD4vHdBnaq-6uNp7RlmdtL8THZvs>

**Tuesday October 27<sup>h</sup> at 7:00 pm** monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting

[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

*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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