

Volume 4 Issue 9
September 2022



Climate Smart
Communities
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

New Paltz Climate Smart Solutions September *Meetup*: Choose Your Power! ESCO's, CCA's, Community Solar and more!



**Tuesday September 6th
6:00 – 7:30 pm**

Please register on our Meetup page:

<https://www.meetup.com/new-paltz-climate-smart-solutions-meetup/events/288152356/>

Due to recent events, this month we will be circling back to a discussion we have had before about choosing your own source of electricity supply. As of July 19, 2022, Hudson Valley Community Power Customers were returned to Central Hudson electricity supply service as a result of a default by program energy supplier Columbia Utilities Power, LLC (Columbia). Customers will no longer receive a fixed rate for 100% renewable electricity supply through the Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program, Hudson Valley Community Power. This Program is composed of residents and small businesses in the Cities of Beacon, and Poughkeepsie, the Towns of Clinton, Marletown, New Paltz, Philipstown, Red Hook, and Saugerties, and the Villages of Cold Spring and New Paltz. In returning to Central Hudson customers will also return to a variable electricity rate. The amount residents pay per kWh will change each month. The electricity will also no longer be 100% renewable. Given these recent changes with the energy supplier for our local CCA and it has brought up many questions: ***“Does the CCA still exist?” “What is the future of the CCA? Am I now on “dirty” power from Central Hudson?” “What is an ESCO and should I actively choose one now? If so, what is the best ESCO?” “What is Community Solar? I have heard that I can save 10% on my electric bill if I sign up for community solar. Is that true?”***

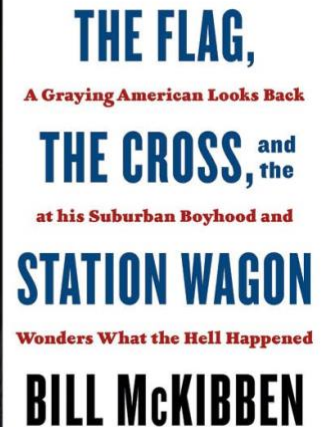
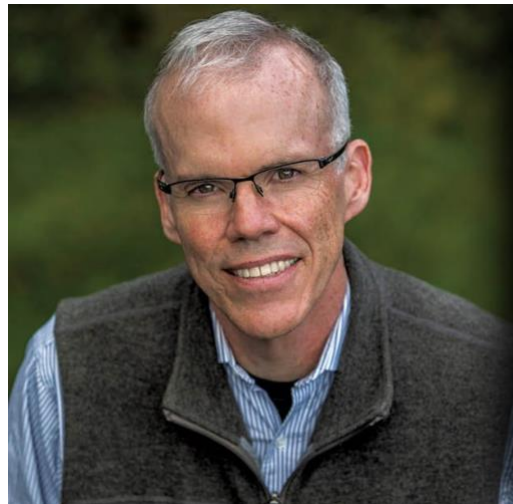
We will have a panel of experts from Hudson Valley Energy, Joule Assets, and an energy navigator with the answers to these questions and more. After the panel presentation, we will open up the Meetup for questions and further discussion.

September Climate Smart Book Club

**Tuesday,
September 20th**

7:00 – 8:30 pm

The September selection for our Climate Smart Book Club is *The Flag The Cross and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened* by Bill McKibben.



Like so many of us, McKibben grew up believing—knowing—that the United States was the greatest country on earth. As a teenager, he cheerfully led American Revolution tours in Lexington, Massachusetts. He sang “Kumbaya” at church. And with the remarkable rise of suburbia, he assumed that all Americans would share in the wealth. However, fifty years later, McKibben finds himself in an increasingly doubtful nation strained by bleak racial and economic inequality, on a planet whose future is in peril. The author asks himself: What the hell happened?

In this revelatory *cri de coeur*, McKibben digs deep into our history (and his own well-meaning but not all-seeing past) and into the latest scholarship on race and inequality in America, on the rise of the religious right, and on our environmental crisis to explain how we got to this point. He finds that he is not without hope. And he wonders if any of that trinity of his youth—*The Flag, the Cross, and the Station Wagon*—could, or should, be reclaimed in the fight for a fairer future.

Join our [Meetup page](#) for the Climate Smart Book Club! Please register with our the Zoom link to our online meeting:

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

New Paltz Community Climate Action Plan

The New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force is kicking off public engagement activities for the New Paltz Community Climate Action Plan. First off, there will be pop-ups in September to start gathering the ideas of New Paltz residents. Energy, Resiliency and Adaptation, Waste Reduction/Recycling, Transportation and Mobility, Smart Growth/Land Use – we want your thoughts regarding these topics. What can you do, and what can our community do, to reduce green-house gas emissions and fight climate change? Look for Task Force members with posters and post-its at Open Air Markets, Applestock, Repair Café, Movie Night and give us your input!

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.

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

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

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.

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



A strategic plan for reducing GHG emissions



August Climate Smart Book Club Read Leads to Deeper Understanding of the Carbon Bankroll

Last month our Climate Smart Book Club read *The Climate Diet: 50 Simple Ways to Trim Your Carbon Footprint* by Paul Greenberg and his 34th tip was “Pressure your financial institutions to be better.” This generated a larger discussion and resources were shared. Several of us in the group have signed the Banking on our Future pledge which you can find here:

<https://thirdact.org/what-we-do/banking-on-our-future/>



Battery Energy Storage Task Force

The Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Task Force in New Paltz had its first meeting on August 30, 2022 and will continue to meet every two weeks on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am at least for the next several months. If you would like to participate on the BESS Task Force, please contact Janelle Peotter for details. Training will soon be available to learn more about the issues of battery storage. The Task Force plans to promote the adoption of a uniform permit for small scale battery storage and will be working to create a Battery Energy Storage Law.

Volunteers still needed for the Hudson Valley Garlic Festival Zero Waste Team!

The **Hudson Valley Garlic Festival** is transitioning to a Zero Waste event. This festival takes place on **October 1 & 2, 2022 at Cantine Field, Saugerties, NY**. It attracts 30,000-50,000 people over a two day weekend including many people from New Paltz. Last year, all of the waste (130 cubic yards) was loaded up and sent 250 miles away to Seneca Meadows Landfill. This year, they are introducing a Zero Waste System that is designed to recover 95% of the waste. In order to accomplish this, they need volunteers who are able to work **3-hour shifts** and help set up and oversee the collection set outs. Volunteers collect the material as the attendees dispose of it and make sure it is placed in the right receptacle, as opposed to trying to separate mixed waste. **You will be given free admission, a parking pass, and a tee-shirt** - *and satisfaction that they are part of an action to demonstrate the possibilities for managing our waste.* Here is a link to the Volunteer Application: <https://www.greenwayny.com/zero-waste-opportunities.html>



Additional Task Force Members Needed

The Climate Smart Task Force serves as a central body of leadership that promotes and supports climate mitigation and adaption in our community. The task force should consist of, at minimum, community members and municipal representatives (staff and/or elected officials). Our task force is a dedicated group of volunteers that meet once per month in the evening – currently the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We are in need of more active members to accomplish all that there is to do! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Janelle Peotter by emailing janellepeotter@gmail.com Below are our current Task Force Members:

Janelle Peotter	Climate Smart Coordinator
Amanda Gotto	Project Manager
Orelle Feher	Task Force Member
Joe Londa	Task Force Member
Jim O'Dowd	Task Force Member
Mark Varian	Task Force Member – Secretary
Julie Seyfert-Lillis	Town Board Liaison
Alexandria Wojcik	Village Board Liaison
Lynne Cherry	Task Force Member at Large
Liz Elkin	Task Force Member at Large
Megan Wolff	Task Force Member at Large

Repair Café In New Paltz Saturday, September 17th



Come celebrate Autumn at the New Paltz Repair Café on Saturday, September 17th at the United Methodist Church. From 10 am to 2 pm, coaches will be on hand to diagnose and fix a grand variety of items. including mechanical, electrical, digital, wood, weld, sewing and textiles, jewelry, zipper repair, and doll repair. Additionally, there will be a take-apart table where children young

and old can use tools to see what's inside mechanical devices. Weather permitting, this will be an outdoor event. So bring a broken but beloved item to be fixed by experts who are also your neighbors. Mask policy: optional if outdoors, mandatory if indoors per church policy. Plus: Bring a food item for the Family of New Paltz

For more information about Repair Café, visit www.repaircafehv.org. New Paltz Repair Café meets at 1 Grove Street in New Paltz.

Climate Smart Task Force Green Spaces Action Group



Help the habitat for pollinators every 1st Wednesday of the month! Bloom Landscape Design & Fine Gardening is the lead on this awesome project and you can “bee” proud of your work as you roll by on the Empire State Trail. See the poster below for details.

Green Spaces is one of the eight Action Groups that the Climate Smart Task Force organizes its efforts around.

New Paltz Climate Smart September Calendar

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<https://www.meetup.com/new-paltz-climate-smart-solutions-meetup/events/288152356/>

Saturday September 17th 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Repair Café held at New Paltz United Methodist Church, 1 Grove Street, New Paltz, NY 12561

Tuesday September 20th at 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club: *The Flag The Cross and the Station Wagon: A Graying American Looks Back at His Suburban Boyhood and Wonders What the Hell Happened*

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

Tuesday September 27^h at 7:00 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting

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

Tuesday October 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm New Paltz Community Center at 3 Veterans Drive. Community meeting regarding our Climate Action Plan

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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