

Volume 4 Issue 3
March 2022



**Climate Smart
Communities**
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

Climate Smart Solutions Meetups: Past, Present & Future!

Would you believe that we have had 30 Climate Smart Solutions Meetups since we started this action in 2019? We meet the first Tuesday of almost every month beginning at 6:00. Before the pandemic we would meet in person, usually at a restaurant, and enjoyed listening to our Meetup presenter and the ensuing discussion over a meal or beverage. Since Covid, we meet on Zoom and have actually expanded our audience. Our next Meetup will be **Tuesday March 1st at 6:00** but it will be to look at our past topics and brainstorm/plan new topics and presenters. All are welcome to join in this planning process. Bring your ideas! Here is the link to this Meetup: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89286997041?pwd=WVlnSnM1NTJrbFBHQjY1Y0lpaTNRQT09>

It might be helpful to see just how diverse our topics have been – they are listed below. Many were recorded so do send an email to newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com if there is one that you missed and would like to see. We are working on getting more of the recordings uploaded to our [New Paltz Climate Smart YouTube Channel](#).

May 7, 2019 **Electrify My Drive : Electric Vehicle Basics**
June 4, 2019 **Rethinking Disposables: Alternatives to Plastics**
July 2, 2019 **Supporting Pollinators: Flowers, Birds and Bees**
August 6, 2019 **How to Get 100% Green Electricity: Community Choice Aggregation**
Sept 3, 2019 **"Honey I shrunk the lawn!" - Reduce the Carbon Footprint of Your Yard**
October 1, 2019 **Clean Up Your Act. Compost.**
November 5, 2019 **Fixing stuff, Creating Community & Repairing the World**
December 3, 2019 **Climate Smart Holidays**
January 7, 2020 **Climate Smart Food Choices: Plant Based Diet**
February 4, 2020 **Calculate and Offset Your Carbon Footprint**
March 3, 2020 **Climate Smart Voting: Super Tuesday**
April 7, 2020 **Refrigerants: The Most Important Thing You Could Ever Recycle**
May 5, 2020 **Climate Smart Investing**
June 2, 2020 **10 Money Saving Steps to 100% Renewable**
August 11, 2020 **Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Your Electric Bill...**
September 1, 2020 **Light Pollution & Dark Sky Friendly Lighting**
Oct 6, '20 **Water Management Tips for Residential Landscaping with Climate Change in Mind**
December 1, 2020 **Climate Smart Tree Planting: Who, What, Why, Where and When!**
January 5, 2021 **Energy Navigators**
February 2, 2021 **Regenerative Agriculture and Carbon Farming Offsets**

March 2, 2021 **Converting a 1790s Farmhouse to Zero/Low Energy**

April 6, 2021 **Green Burials**

May 4, 2021 **Film Discussion & Panel: The Story of Plastic**

July 6, 2021 **The Future has Arrived: Why Your Next Car Should be Electric!**

August 3, 2021 **Energy Efficient Solutions For Your Home**

September 7, 2021 **Synthetic Turf Carpeting is a Hot Mess**

Oct 5, '21 **Theatrical Solutions to Fast Fashion: Impacts of Clothing Waste & Alternatives**

November 2, 2021 **Creating a Net Zero Energy and Fossil Fuel Free Residence**

December 7, 2021 **Bitcoin, Cryptocurrency, Blockchain: The Promise and the Peril**

February 1, 2022 **Designing Climate Smart Municipal Buildings**

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday!

Spring Forward: Ditch Disposables!

March 16th Online Event

Get ready to Spring Forward and Ditch Disposables! Every winter for the past few years, Interfaith Earth Action, New Paltz Climate Action Coalition, and the Climate Smart Task Force have sponsored an event featuring environmentally beneficial home improvements to keep the heat in and the cold winter weather out. This March these environmental organizations are taking a new tack. As we emerge from a bitter winter and the isolation imposed by Covid 19, this year's event focuses on escaping from the clutches of single-use plastics and other "disposable" packaging and utensils, and finding new methods to shop for food and other household products.

You can Zoom into Spring Forward: Ditch Disposables on Wednesday, **March 16, at 6:00 PM.** The program will feature Megan Wolff, Policy Director of Beyond Plastics, discussing the impact of plastics on the climate and our health; Iris Marie Bloom, Director of Protecting Our Waters, on the latest legislation banning the use of some



**Spring Forward:
Ditch Disposables!**

Let's get rid of single-use packaging—bad for the environment, bad for your health!

Introducing Climate Smart tiffins—reusable take-out containers!

Featuring the new, local MAP of places you can shop plastic-free, buy in bulk, refill liquids, & bring your own container

March 16th - 6^{pm}
ONLINE!

RSVP at www.bit.ly/springforward2022

single-use plastics; and Lisa Lindsley Director of Investor Engagement at Majority Action, leading outreach with institutional investors to support their efforts to implement sustainable business strategies.

A highlight of the event will be the debut a new MAP (My Alternatives to Plastics) that directs shoppers to local businesses where they can buy in bulk, refill liquids, or bring their own containers and to restaurants that are “tiffin friendly.” Tiffins are reusable stainless steel containers that are perfect for take-out.

RSVP for this free event at www.bit.ly/springforward2022

Climate Smart Book Club

After Cooling: On Freon, Global Warming, and the Terrible Cost of Comfort

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM EDT

Online event

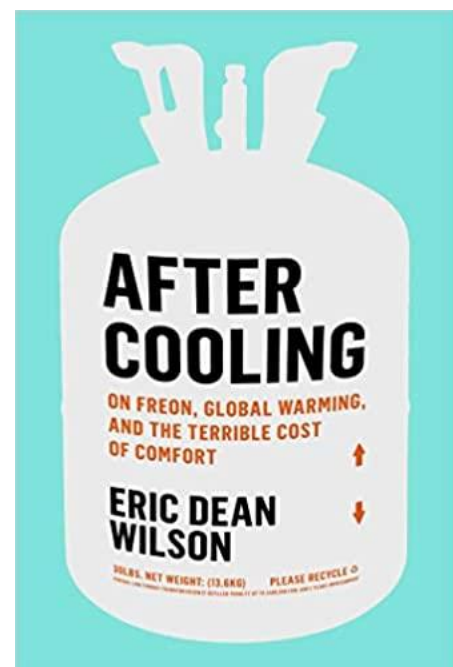
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91066225574?pwd=TIVKMU9vNWkxMGE5ZzdTM2VabWMxQT09>

Below are excerpts from the review in the New York Times by Hope Jahren published on July 20, 2021:

“...After his deftly persuasive opening argument that cutting back on machine-made cooling is the most pressing environmental task of our generation, Wilson walks us through the science of chemical coolants in detail, both the chemistry and physics of these miracle molecules, and the horrifying discovery of the havoc they wreak within the thin protective layers of the Earth’s atmosphere.

Woven into Wilson’s history of the first modern coolant — Freon, a compound in the chlorofluorocarbon, or CFC, family, was developed in the 1930s — is an interesting fable about how our best efforts toward environmental regulation can bring out the worst in us.

Our ability to dramatically cool the spaces we inhabit has changed the way we travel, consume food, use medicine, design our architecture and much more. But eventually, the chemical compounds used for this cooling cannot help leaking from coils and holding tanks as machines age and are discarded. Upon release, they form persistent greenhouse gases — meaning refrigeration as a practice makes an outsize contribution to global warming. In

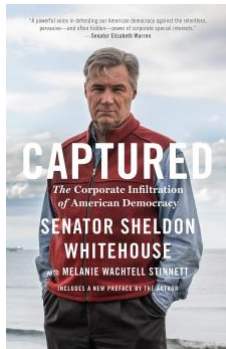


a supreme irony, one Wilson points out, our world before the adoption of institutional air-conditioning was cooler overall.

“After Cooling” has its greatest impact when it asks us to think deeply about the reasons humans wish to change the temperature of their surroundings. At one time, occasional sweating was simply accepted as a way of life, Wilson postulates, but now we regard comfort as a prerequisite for work and play. But what does it really mean to be comfortable? Is it merely the absence of discomfort, or is it something more? Is it a bodily experience or an emotional state? Wilson invites the reader into deep existential discussions by invoking broad themes of culture and philosophy — an unusual and delightful trait for a book on climate change. Particularly fascinating is Wilson’s examination of the marketing impulse behind the phrase “air conditioning,” as opposed to “air cooling” or something more concrete. Clearly, the production of a better “condition” of air, of better “conditions” for life, is the very definition of progress, isn’t it?

Wilson dares to state plainly that lasting climate solutions hinge on our capacity to redefine what makes our lives meaningful, not on new technologies or better products. The first baby step may be as simple as experimenting with an air-conditioner on a hot July day, setting the room a few degrees higher than usual, and asking ourselves at bedtime whether we even noticed."

Please join us on Tuesday March 15th to discuss this important book: *After The Cooling*. Discussing these books together is so enriching. So what books are on the horizon? Sometimes it is helpful for getting in your book order, reserving a book at the library or just planning out what book to read next! Here are the Climate Smart Book Club picks for the next two months:

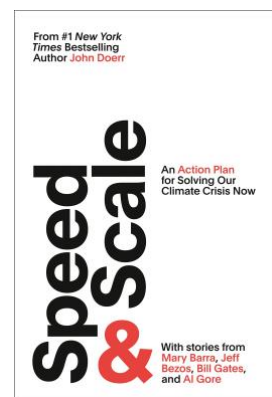


April 19th

Captured: The Corporate Infiltration of American Democracy by Sheldon Whitehouse

May 17th

Speed and Scale: An Action Plan For Solving Our Climate Crisis Now by John Doerr



You are now the proud owner of a tiffin, what comes next?

- **Bring your tiffin when you order take out.** When you order, tell the restaurant that you will be bringing your own container. When you drop off your tiffin or come to pick up your food, take the opportunity to show the server how the tiffin works.
- **Bring your tiffin in to a restaurant** where you dine in, just in case you order a meal that is too big and you want to bring home some food.
- **Share the facts:**
 - Bioplastics and compostable plastics sound promising but they're filled with false promises.
 - Toxins in polystyrene readily leach into food and drinks, a process that is accelerated by heat and contact with fatty and acidic foods.
 - At least 15 million metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year – much of it plastic that we thought was being recycled. By 2025, experts predict that there will be one pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish.
 - Every year, plastics add as much greenhouse gases to the atmosphere as 189 new coal plants.
 - 91% of all plastics have not been and will never be recycled.
 - Molded fibers, containers like those brown cardboard-y bowls that look natural - like they should be better for you, often aren't. To make the paper water and oil resistant, they often use a highly fluorinated chemical, which isn't something we want a lot extra of in our bodies.
 - Tiffins are made of stainless steel, are 100% recyclable, easily cleaned and sterilized, and release no toxins in your food. They are safe to use even in this time of a pandemic.
- **Tell us your experience** with restaurants that you take your tiffin to. Email us at NewPaltzClimateSmart@gmail.com and let us know the name of the restaurant, where it is and if they are “tiffin friendly”. We are compiling a spreadsheet that we will be sharing and want to have as many restaurants listed as possible.
- **Put your tiffin in your car.** We recommend putting your clean tiffin in your car so that when you go to a restaurant you always have it with you – much like many of us now leave our reusable shopping bags in the car for those unplanned stops at the market.



This project is co-sponsored by the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force which meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7:00 pm and the Climate Action Coalition which meets every Thursday from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. For more information about either of these organizations or to find out how to buy a tiffin at cost, contact Janelle Peotter at 920-883-1788 or by emailing newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com. We need all the help we can get!

New Paltz Climate Smart March Calendar

Tuesday, March 1st at 6:00 pm Climate Solutions Meetup – [Link](#)

Tuesday March 15th at 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club: After Cooling [Link to Climate Smart Book Club](#)

Wednesday March 16th at 6:00 pm Spring Forward: Ditch Disposables
www.bit.ly/springforward2022

Monday March 21st 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



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