

Vol 2 Issue 5

May 2, 2020

New Paltz Climate

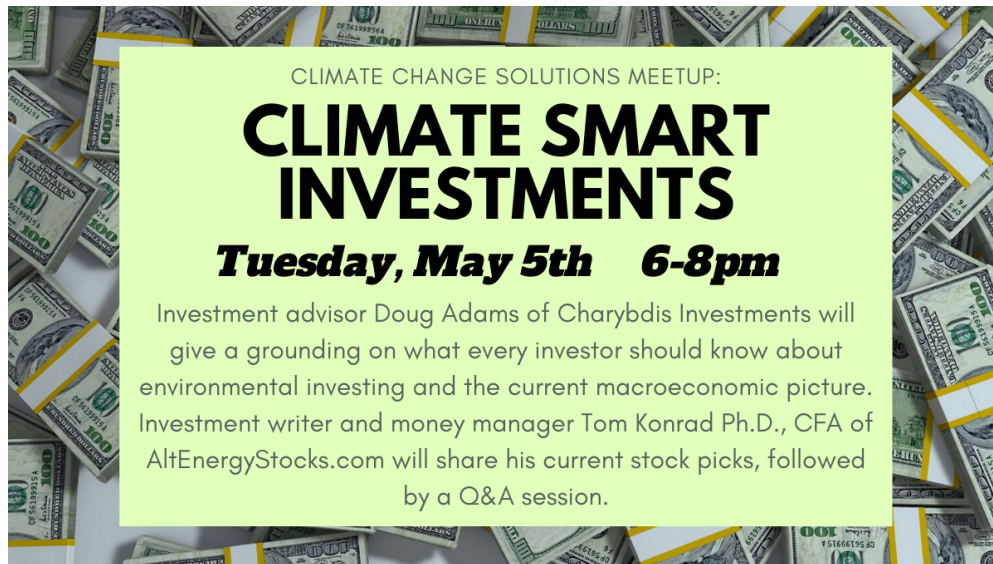
Smart Newsletter



Climate Smart  
Communities

Certified Bronze

## *Meetup:* Climate Smart Investing



CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS MEETUP:

# CLIMATE SMART INVESTMENTS

**Tuesday, May 5th 6-8pm**

Investment advisor Doug Adams of Charybdis Investments will give a grounding on what every investor should know about environmental investing and the current macroeconomic picture. Investment writer and money manager Tom Konrad Ph.D., CFA of AltEnergyStocks.com will share his current stock picks, followed by a Q&A session.

Tuesday  
May 5, 2020

6:00 to 8:00 PM  
EDT

We will be  
having our  
Meetup on  
Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/481075139?pwd=bHQzTFVhSEVZdzZkdW9ab1lFZkxydz09>

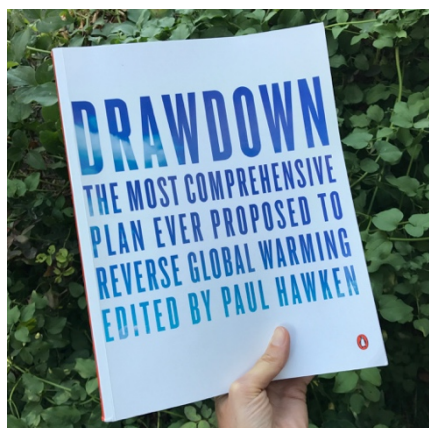
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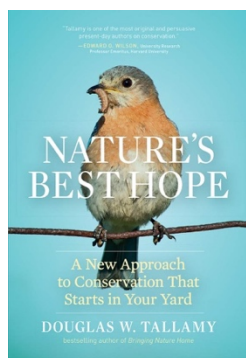
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# Climate Smart Book Club



Our Climate Smart Book Club continues to be a welcomed venue to discuss climate related books. We meet monthly to discuss the book we have chosen for the month and to select our books for the coming months. We just finished Greta Thunberg's *No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference* and were very moved by her powerful words (see Jim O'Dowds book review below). We have selected *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warming* as our May pick which we will discuss on May 19th. Since the 2017 publication of the New York Times bestseller, the non-profit organization Project Drawdown has emerged as a leading resource for information and insight about climate solutions. They continue to develop that

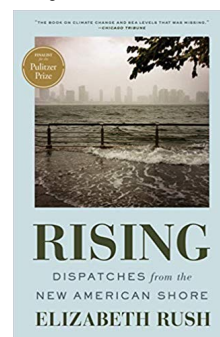
resource and share it online via their website. They conduct rigorous review and assessment of climate solutions, create compelling and human communication across mediums, and partner their efforts to accelerate climate solutions globally. For the purposes of the Climate Smart Book Club, you don't necessarily have to read the whole Drawdown book but pick several solutions that interest you and explore them at a deeper level. This can be done via the comprehensive website [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org). We were inspired last month by Greta Thunberg's book and hope that this inspiration can lead to a deeper exploration of the potential solutions.



Members of our book club find it is helpful to plan ahead a few months so that people have time to order the books and read them. We had planned to read John Wackman's book *Repair Revolution* but publication has been delayed so we have a new June pick: *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard* by Douglas W. Tallamy.

Our July book pick is *Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore* by Elizabeth Rush. *Rising* is a sobering and unflinching look at the impact of rising sea levels from the front lines--those coastal communities dealing with

hurricanes, flooding and loss of property. What this book does best is bring the theoretical problem of climate change to the here and now. It isn't some potential issue for the future. In fact, many people are already affected by it today. Rush shows that it's not just people, but also trees and animals and entire ecosystems on the coast that are on the verge of total collapse.



We meet via Zoom and when it is safe to do so, we will also meet in person. **Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** You can sign up via our Meetup page <https://www.meetup.com/Climate-Smart-Book-Club/events/270420373/> or by emailing Janelle at [newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com](mailto:newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com) that you want to be part of the bookclub.

## Book Review: *No One is Too Small to Make a Difference* by Greta Thunberg

Who is Greta Thunberg and what does she want? Greta Thunberg was born in 2003 the same year as our first Earth Day at the Reformed Church. In 2018, as a fifteen-year-old girl with Asperger's, inspired by the student strike at Parkland, she skipped school and sat in front of the Swedish Parliament to protest humanity's lack of action in the face of climate change. She responded to critics who said she was too young to be doing this and she should be in school. She agreed and added, "*We children shouldn't have to do this. But since almost no one is doing anything and our very future is at risk, we feel we have to continue.*" Greta states that her Asperger's gives her a clear black and white perspective and that "normal" people are the strange ones. "*They keep on saying that climate change is an existential threat and the most important issue of all. And yet they just carry on like before... There are no grey areas when it comes to survival. Either we go on as a civilization or we don't.*" The stark clarity of her perspective cuts through all the delays, detours and denials of politicians, corporations and perhaps all of us. Her point is that if we believe the scientists that the planet is warming primarily as a result of human activity—and the evidence is overwhelming that this is the case—then doesn't it make sense that we change that activity? She points out that this is especially evident when the warming is causing fires, draughts, flooding, catastrophic storms and is headed toward tipping points that will "set off ... irreversible chain reaction beyond human control." The short, 106 page book, is a collection of her speeches that repeat her call for action and confronts leaders from around the world. Greta does not suffer fools, deniers or avoiders, and to date, she doesn't seem to be scared, flattered or co-opted by all the glitz of her current notoriety. You Go, Girl!

Jim O'Dowd

## Natural Resource Inventory Update

Natural Resource Inventory grant – The project kick-off meeting, originally planned as face-to-face, was held as a Zoom event on March 24 to introduce the consultants and the project goals to community leaders. Invited participants included the consultants Rick Lederer-Barnes and Nan Stoltzenburg, DEC project manager Nate Nardi-Cyrus, and members of the Climate Smart Task Force, Town and Village Boards, Town Environmental Conservation Board, Village Environmental Policy Board, Town and Village Planning Boards, Town Historical Preservation Committee, and Town Clean Water Open Space Preservation Commission. The team reviewed the categories of potential resources suggested in the DEC guidance: geology and soils, water resources, habitats and wildlife, climate, cultural resources, and land use and target timelines for the project. Since the meeting, team members have been given an example NRI <https://arcg.is/SWuja> for comments on overall format and ease of use. Team members are also submitting photos that illustrate the various categories of resources in New Paltz.

Amanda Gotto

# Community Choice Aggregation Update

On April 16<sup>th</sup> seven of us from the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force and the Climate Action Coalition joined together on a Zoom session with Jeff Domanski of Hudson Valley Energy to gain an update regarding our CCA – Community Choice Aggregation. Many of us had questions about rate comparisons and community solar which was discussed in depth. As you will see from the chart below many of the communities that are part of the Hudson Valley Community Power are promoting Community Solar and accruing fairly large Sustainability Funds and choosing their projects. Perhaps this is something we may want to consider in New Paltz.

(data as of March 25, 2020)			
PARTICIPATING COMMUNITY	ENROLLED	FUND	CHOSEN PROJECT
City of Beacon	203	\$10,150	Local Schools
Town of Clinton	5	\$250	TBD
Village of Cold Spring*	47	\$2,350	Refrigerant Management Program
Town of Fishkill	4	\$200	TBD
Town of Marbletown	166	\$8,300	Local Walk & Bike Project
Town of New Paltz	16	\$800	TBD
Village of New Paltz	8	\$400	TBD
Town of Philipstown*	144	\$7,200	Refrigerant Management Program
City of Poughkeepsie	22	\$1,100	TBD
Town of Red Hook	0	\$0	TBD

\* The Village of Cold Spring and the Town of Philipstown have chosen to combine Funds.

We also learned that there will be upcoming “Open House” courses and topics will be based on customer interactions/questions:

- “Understanding your Central Hudson utility bill” (with Central Hudson)
- “Where does my electricity come from?”
  - What (clean energy) am I paying for?
  - The New York electricity grid
- Multiple delivery dates, multiple locations – in Partner Communities
- Recordings on websites

# New Paltz Police Carbon Footprint To Be Reduced With Hybrid Vehicles

The New Paltz Town Board approved the purchase and lease of two hybrid Ford SUV's at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is good news as it will decrease the carbon footprint of the police vehicle fleet.

From the New Paltz Times:

*New Paltz town police hope to be purchasing the department's first hybrid vehicle in the near future. According to Lieutenant Robert Lucchesi, a request to order a Ford hybrid sports utility vehicle as a replacement for an older, solely gas-guzzling car will be made during the April 16 town council meeting. The money will come from SUNY impact aid, a relatively new source of funding intended to offset local government costs in host communities for state colleges. In the case of New Paltz, \$150,000 is going to the village fire department, and \$50,000 to the town police department.*

*The police department is one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gases within the town's government, as disclosed in an inventory of carbon-equivalent emissions performed as part of the effort to get New Paltz certified as a "climate smart" community. It's not just that there are a number of police vehicles, but that they tend to be left idling much of the time that they are in service. That's because of how they are used.*

*"Our officers are using their vehicles as an office more and more, and do as much as possible in the police car," said Lucchesi. The computers and other equipment draw a lot of power, enough that the battery would be quickly drained if the gas engine wasn't left running as they did their work. "This car is designed to expand the idling time we normally have in a patrol vehicle battery to handle that," he said. "It's a more environmentally sound vehicle [that] falls in line with climate-smart initiatives."*

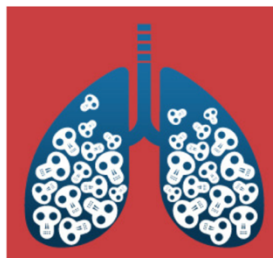
*The lieutenant said that there's "excitement" in the department about this prospect, because the anecdotal evidence that's been gathered suggest that the technology is now up to the task of supporting modern police work while using less gasoline. "We hope to purchase and lease more hybrid vehicles" in the future, he added.*

## Webinar on Danskammer & Public Health

WEBINAR / MAY 6TH / 5:30-6:30PM

### DANSKAMMER & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Air quality
- Respiratory Diseases
- Environmental Justice
- Community Concerns



REGISTER AT: [bit.ly/may6thwebinar](http://bit.ly/may6thwebinar)

[Danskammer & Public Health](#) featuring internationally renowned health expert Dr. David O. Carpenter, MD.

Wednesday, May 6th at 5:30pm for an informative online event about Danskammer, a fracked gas plant proposing expansion on the Hudson River in Newburgh, NY. Dr. Carpenter is the director of SUNY's Institute for Health and the Environment, a Collaborating Center of the World Health Organization. He



will discuss the impacts of gas plants on air quality and public health, with a special focus on respiratory illness.

Additionally, elected official Anthony Grice will speak about the risks to community health and welfare posed by the plant. Anthony is an educator with over 19 years of experience, and is a Councilman for the City of Newburgh. Scenic Hudson Director of Advocacy Hayley Carlock will moderate. Q&A will follow.

With respiratory health at the forefront of the COVID crisis, Danskammer, Dr. Carpenter will have vital information for public health concerns!

**\*Registration Link:** [bit.ly/may6thwebinar](https://bit.ly/may6thwebinar)

## Online May Meeting Schedule

Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm Complete Streets Ad Hoc Committee <https://zoom.us/j/615764750>

Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm Climate Smart Solutions Meetup: Climate Smart Investing  
<https://zoom.us/j/481075139?pwd=bHQzTFVkbSEVZdzZkdW9ab1lFZkxydz09>

Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm Danskammer Webinar [bit.ly/may6thwebinar](https://bit.ly/may6thwebinar)

Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Pollinators, Native Plants & Habitats  
Webinar <https://www.newpaltzclimateaction.org/>

Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Monthly meeting of Climate Smart Task Force  
<https://zoom.us/j/290898202?pwd=Ynk1TnJXWXNCbEtFTFBjW03WEs0UT09>

Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club:  
Drawdown <https://zoom.us/j/96203680295?pwd=T3prZTNHdXNmNlh0ZXk2d0ZaeUI2QT09>

**For more information about New Paltz Climate Smart or any content in this newsletter, please contact:**

**Janelle Peotter**

**New Paltz Climate Smart Coordinator**

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