

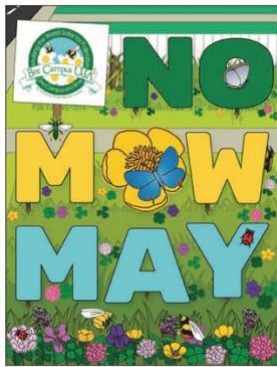
Volume 4 Issue 5
May 2022



Climate Smart
Communities
Certified Bronze

New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter

New Paltz Resolution Supports “No-Mow May”



When it comes to spring yard work, what if you could actually do more by doing less? The resolution below was passed at the April 7th New Paltz Town Council meeting supporting “no-mow May” as a way to reduce the harm humans cause through the way they control their environment. **By participating in No Mow May, you’ll spend less time, money, and energy on your lawn while helping to improve the planet.**

First popularized in 2019 in the United Kingdom, No Mow May has taken root here in the United States. In 2020, Appleton, Wisconsin, became the first city in the country to adopt the practice in which you allow your lawn to grow throughout the month of May without mowing,

watering, or fertilizing. Now, many communities are taking part in the effort.

No Mow May began as a way to help bees and other pollinators, but there’s more to it than that. Part of the awareness campaign is to get residents who are avoiding mowing to put up “pollinator garden” or “No Mow May” signs. There are sample signs that can be downloaded for printing at beecityusa.org/no-mow-may, and town officials have paid for weatherproof ones to be produced at PDQ for the first 24 residents who sign up. Information on how to get one of those free signs will be posted on the Town website. Here is the resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz wishes to expand pollinator-friendly habitat on public and private land, encouraging the community to adopt sustainable pollinator-friendly land management practices, and;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz is in a unique position to significantly increase pollinator-friendly habitat by encouraging pollinator-friendly lawn-care practices and by asking its citizens to take direct and meaningful action on their own properties, and

WHEREAS, ideal pollinator-friendly habitat is comprised of mostly native wildflowers, grasses, vines, shrubs, and trees blooming in succession throughout the growing season, is free or nearly free of pesticides, is comprised of undisturbed spaces including leaf and brush piles, un-mown fields or field margins; and provides connectivity between habitat areas to support pollinator movement and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the formative period for establishment of pollinator and other insect species, and the many songbirds and other urban wildlife species which depend upon them, occurs in late spring and early summer when they emerge from dormancy and require flowering plants as crucial foraging habitat; and these opportunities are dramatically reduced with early spring leaf-litter removal and grass-mowing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of New Paltz recognizes No-Mow May to actively promote and educate the community about the critical period of pollinator emergence, generation of crucial pollinator-supporting habitat and early spring foraging opportunities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the duration of the month of May, the Town of New Paltz shall voluntarily delay lawn-care practices until June, allowing pollinator species to emerge and early flowering grasses and flowers to establish, and encourages homeowners to do the same and; that during the month of May, the Town of New Paltz shall not issue citations for excessive weed growth.

***Monthly Meetup:* 12 Ways Your Backyard Garden Can Combat Climate Change**

Janelle Peotter, New Paltz Climate Smart Coordinator, will lead a presentation and group discussion focused on the many ways we can affect climate and climate resiliency in our own back yards. Topics will include growing your food, composting, shrinking your lawn, planting trees, water conservation, and more. All are welcome.



Tuesday, May 3, 2022

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Online event

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83625655923?pwd=M2R0eXJQOEN4U09ScWIURDZPa0s5Zz09>

Climate Optimists Podcast

We discovered this podcast series a few months ago - Climate Optimists. We really like the series but found that they hadn't yet done a podcast on the really important topic of refrigerants. So Janelle contacted them, explained why it was an important issue and offered to connect them to a knowledgeable person they could interview. They agreed and we were able to facilitate the connection! The podcast was just released April 26th and is titled **Refrigerants – Carbon Emissions on Steroids**. You are encouraged to listen to this episode and check out others in the series. [Link to Climate Optimist Podcast](#)

Climate Smart Book Club:

Speed & Scale: An Action Plan for Solving Our Climate Crisis Now

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Online event [Zoom Link](#)

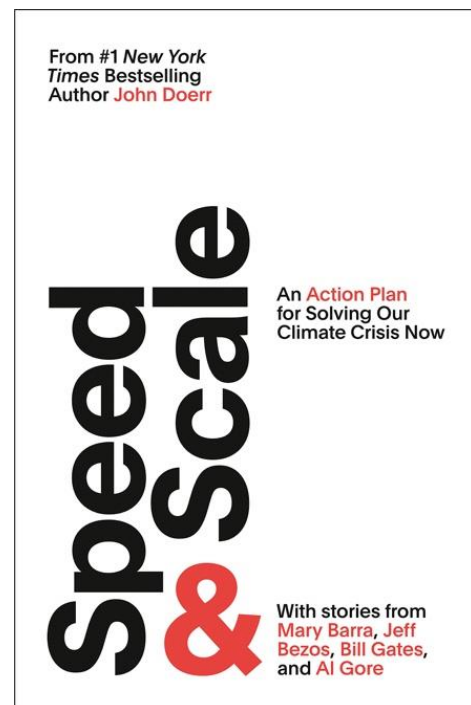
Our May Climate Smart Book Club will be discussing the book *Speed & Scale* by #1 bestselling author and acclaimed venture capitalist John Doerr. His book reveals a sweeping action plan to conquer humanity's greatest challenge: climate change.

In 2006, John Doerr was moved by Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and a challenge from his teenage daughter: "Dad, your generation created this problem. You better fix it." Since then, Doerr has searched for solutions to this existential problem—as an investor, an advocate, and a philanthropist.

Fifteen years later, despite breakthroughs in batteries, electric vehicles, plant-based proteins, and solar and wind power, global warming continues to get worse. Its impact is all around us: droughts, floods, wildfires, the melting of the polar ice caps. Our world is squarely in a climate crisis and on the brink of a climate disaster. Yet despite our state of emergency, climate change has yet to be tackled with the urgency and ambition it demands. More than ever, we need a clear course of action.

What if the goal-setting techniques that powered the rise of today's most innovative organizations were brought to bear on humanity's greatest challenge? Fueled by a powerful tool called Objectives and Key Results (OKRs), *SPEED & SCALE* offers an unprecedented global plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions before it's too late. Used by Google, Bono's ONE foundation, and thousands of startups the world over, OKRs have scaled ideas into achievements that changed the world. With clear-eyed realism and an engineer's precision, Doerr identifies the measurable OKRs we need to reduce emissions across the board and to arrive by 2050 at net zero—the point where we are no longer adding to the heat-trapping carbon in the atmosphere.

A launchpad for those who are ready to act now, this book is geared to leaders in every walk of life. With a definitive action plan, the latest science, and a rising climate movement on our side, we can still reach net zero before it is too late. But as Doerr reminds us, there is no more time to waste.



Village and Town Boards Approve Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory

On April 7th 2022 the Village and Town Boards approved the New Paltz 2017 Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Reduction Targets, and Frequency of Inventory. Joseph Londa, member of the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force, was the lead on this project. Here is the resolution:

WHEREAS, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which is a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change, has published the “Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability”. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The report clearly states Climate Resilient Development is already challenging at current warming levels. It will become more limited if global warming exceeds 1.5°C (2.7°F). In some regions it will be impossible if global warming exceeds 2°C (3.6°F). This key finding underlines the urgency for climate action, focusing on equity and justice. Adequate funding, technology transfer, political commitment and partnership lead to more effective climate change adaptation and emissions reductions.

WHEREAS, The IPCC states that climate change is a threat to human well-being and the health of the planet. According to the new report, it requires urgent and far-reaching actions and fundamental changes in all aspects of human life to increase people’s and nature’s ability to cope with, and respond to, climate change. IPCC recommends strategies that can increase the resilience of people and nature. One key to success is acknowledging climate, biodiversity, and human society as a coupled system, meaning that all components are interlinked. If we change one of them, it will affect the other two as well. Based on this recognition, conservation and climate change responses would be planned and implemented hand in hand – not only locally, but across landscapes, in cities as well as in rural areas, across sectors, state and country borders.

WHEREAS, The IPCC states that we also know that impacts will continue to increase if drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are further delayed – affecting the lives of today’s children tomorrow and those of their children much more than ours. But science is also clear: with immediate action now, drastic impacts can still be prevented.

WHEREAS, The Shawangunk Ridge is one of New York’s most iconic landscape features and one of the highest priority areas for biodiversity conservation in the northeastern United States according to the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. The Nature Conservancy has designated the Shawangunk ridge as one of the Earth’s “Last Great Places.” It is also identified as a top priority in the Town of New Paltz Open Space Plan, noted for its unique geology and ecological Significance and will be impacted by Climate Change.

WHEREAS, On July 18, 2019, the New York State Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) was signed into law. New York State’s Climate Act is among the most ambitious climate laws in the world and requires New York to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and no less than 85 percent by 2050 from 1990 levels. The law creates a Climate Action Council charged with developing a scoping plan of recommendations to meet these targets and place New York on a path toward carbon neutrality and on September 17th, 2019, Ulster County approved Resolution No. 315 “Establishing A Policy Regarding Ulster County’s Use Of Renewable Energy” resolved to decrease greenhouse

gas emissions associated with its operations by 25% by the year 2025 and 80% by the year 2050 using the County's 2012 greenhouse gas emission inventory as a baseline.

WHEREAS, The Local Government for Sustainability (ICLEI) prescribed in the Global Protocol for Community-scale GHG Emissions (GPC) and Local Government Operations (LGO) Protocol the standards and tools we need to measure our emissions, build more effective emissions reduction strategies, set measurable and more ambitious emission reduction goals, and to track their progress more accurately and comprehensively.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town and Village of New Paltz approves the presentation and document of the "New Paltz NY 2017 Inventory of Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions" as our baseline and will utilize it as a reference for ongoing decision making and efforts to reduce our Greenhouse Gas emissions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution, shall update Town and Village websites with the approved document and presentation of the "New Paltz NY 2017 Inventory of Community-wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions" for raising the awareness of the New Paltz Residents, Businesses, and Organizations within our community

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town and Village of New Paltz is committed to decrease greenhouse gas emissions associated with its operations (Community and Government) by 40% by the year 2030 and 80% by the year 2050 using the 2017 baseline greenhouse gas emission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Climate Smart Community Task Force, in collaboration with the resources and staff of the Town and Village, shall reinventory the Community and Government of New Paltz on a frequency of no less than every 5 years to assess our progress of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions against the targets.

New York Cycling Census



Good news - if you haven't already completed the NY Cycling Census you still can as the deadline has been extended through May 31st. Please take the time to complete this survey as we need representation from communities like New Paltz! Transportation is our largest contributor to greenhouse gases. Click on the link here and pass it on to your cycling friends: [Cycling Census](#)

This is an exciting and unprecedented opportunity to help shape the future of cycling and document where, why and how New Yorkers are riding bikes! With this survey information, we can help shape public policy that will foster safer streets, and more equitable transportation options across the state. Administered by Urban Cycling Solutions (UCS), the Cycling Census will collect a statewide dataset on bicycle integration with mass transit. The purpose of this short survey is to collect insights from cyclists and transit customers from all over New York State to better understand opportunities and barriers for active first/last mile transportation. This survey is supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Please help direct the future of more and safer bicycling in New York, by completing and submitting to the New York Bike Census! Each participant will be entered to win one of three \$150 Planet Bike gift cards offered by UCS. The data gleaned from this survey will be used to help shape the future of bicycling in New York, and assist decision makers in developing a more inclusive and equitable multimodal transportation system. Please be assured your email addresses and other personal information will not be saved or shared!

Hudson Valley Public Hearing Just Added!

There's still time to weigh in on the NYS Draft Climate Plan, with a new Hudson Valley Public Hearing just added. We are at a critical moment for climate policy in New York State: The Draft Scoping Plan to implement the Climate Act is now open for public comment, and your input can help ensure that our state has an effective and realistic plan in place to meet its climate goals. There are just five hearings remaining in the State, two of which are virtual and one of which was just added for the Hudson Valley on Thursday, May 12th from 4-7 pm at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater. There's much to be done in a short period of time, but NYCP has made it easy to participate!



To speak at a public hearing, [pre-register here](#).

Click here to check out the [Public Comment Guide](#), featuring sector-specific guides from NYCP's Senior Policy Advisor, Jen Metzger. It includes tips for speaking at a public hearing, tips for submitting a written comment, upcoming informational events on the scoping plan, and more!

Hudson Valley - Prep for Public Comment with Jen Metzger and Ulster Activists!



Learn about the State's proposed Climate Plan in this presentation and Q&A with Jen Metzger, Senior Policy Advisor to New Yorkers for Clean Power and former State Senator on **Wednesday, May 4th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm**. We'll talk about what's in the plan, why it matters to the Hudson Valley, and how you can participate in the public

comment process happening now. Sponsored by Ulster Activists and New Yorkers for Clean Power. [Register here](#).

New Paltz Climate Smart May Calendar

Tuesday May 3rd at 6:00 – 7:30 pm Climate Solutions Meetup –12 Ways Your Backyard Garden Can Combat Climate Change

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83625655923?pwd=M2R0eXJQOFN4U09ScWIURDZPa0s5Zz09>

Wednesday, May 4th from 7:00 - 8:00 pm Prep for Scoping Plan Public Hearing
[Register here.](#)

Thursday, May 12th from 4-7 pm Scoping Plan Hudson Valley Public Hearing at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater [pre-register here](#)

Monday May 16th at 7:00 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting
[Link to Zoom Meeting of Task Force](#)

Tuesday May 17th at 7:00 pm Climate Smart Book Club: Speed & Scale
[Link to Climate Smart Book Club](#)

Tuesday May 24th Deadline to complete NY Cycling Census [Cycling Census](#)

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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