



## New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force

**Meeting Minutes: December 13, 2022**

**Attendees:** Janelle Peotter, Mark Varian, Joe Londa, Elinor Peck (Hudson Valley Regional Council)

**Climate Action Plan:** LULA (Land Use Law Center) has submitted a draft of the document summary of their outreach work for the New Paltz Climate Action Plan. This is the deliverable for which the Center was hired. Since we all received the report this afternoon, we will review and submit our comments to Janelle and Amanda during December and discuss it further at our next meeting.

**Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign:** Eleanor Peck, the Mid-Hudson Clean Energy Communities Manager & CEC Coordinator, discussed the *Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign*. She stated that there is an Action Grant of \$5,000 currently available to communities that promote installation of residential and commercial heat pump systems and other energy-efficient equipment and insulation. Each community's campaign must generate five energy efficiency projects including at least three heat pump installations. Both the Town and Village can have its own campaign. The Village and Town must submit a scoping document for approval to NYSERDA. Only projects initiated and completed after NYSERDA approval will meet the grant requirements. There is a limited number of grants still available so we have to move quickly. Janelle will fill out the scoping documents and submit them to NYSERDA. Eleanor also mentioned that the Town of New Paltz had recently won a CEC grant of \$10,000 for completing CEC actions resulting in 3,000 points. The funds will be used toward installation of a solar array at the Town's compost facility.

**Sustainable Hudson Group Purchasing Program:** Eleanor also stated that we can incorporate the Group Purchasing Plan (see minutes from November 29, 2022) sponsored by Sustainable Hudson Valley. The coaching, as well as the discounts, offered through the program should make the purchase of heat pumps and other energy efficient equipment even more attractive.

**Battery Energy Storage:** Joe reported on a meeting that was held today to review the edits to the B.E.S.S. (Battery Energy Storage Systems) Law. Stacy Delarede, the Town's Building Inspector, still has safety concerns that she feels are not being addressed.

**Climate Smart Schools:** Janelle spoke at a recent school board meeting on the impact of exposure to diesel fumes from school buses on students' health, learning and school attendance. The electric school bus assessment was approved by the board. No meeting of the Climate Smart Schools Task Force will be held in December. A date for the January meeting has not yet been determined.

### Action Groups:

- **7Rs - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Repair, Recycle....Refill: Beyond Plastics:** Janelle reported on her visit to the Greenway Environmental Services composting center.
- **Green Spaces:** The grant application is in. We're waiting for a response.

- **Green Business:** Second Nature Refillery is open. Check it out! There is an assortment of grains, nuts, eggs, spices, mushrooms, and vegetables as well as household soaps and cleaning agents.
- **Green Transportation:** Janelle reported that a “small but mighty” contingent of riders participated in the first annual *Bike to Shop* event on Saturday, Dec. 10. Plans are already in the works for next year.
- **Publicity & Social Media:** The January Newsletter will go out by Jan. 1. Joe will submit an update on the B.E.S.S.
- **Youth:** Janelle suggested that we should have a middle school survey run parallel with the Climate Action Plan community survey.
- **Alternative Energy:** See **Battery Energy Storage** above.
- **Lifestyle:** The next Climate Solutions Meetup will be on Jan. 3, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The topic will be the Birds and the Bees Protection Act. The presenters will be Dan Raichel and Lena Faustel. December’s Climate Smart Book Club selection is: ***Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impact You Don’t Know You Have*** by Tatiana Schlossberg. The Book Club meeting will be held on Dec. 20, at 7:00 PM. January’s book will be ***Dark Money***, by Jane Mayer.

Minutes submitted by Mark Varian