

Volume 5 Issue 3
March 2023



New Paltz Climate Smart Newsletter



March 7th Climate Smart *Meetup*: Eliminate Plastic Pollution – Let's Create a Wave of Change!

Our monthly New Paltz Climate Smart Solutions Meetup seeks to offer ideas to individuals as to how they can be part of the solution through lifestyle changes that help mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. This month we are again focusing on the plastic problem because plastic production and disposal is a climate issue on every level.

We have invited Suzette Munley from Beyond Plastics to bring us up to date on what we as individuals can do. It will take changes at every level of our economy and civil life to stem the tide of plastic pollution. Individuals need to be moved to act in their personal lives and take action as part of a growing movement; corporations need to feel the pressure to initiate changes in their purchasing and packaging habits; governments need to impose bans and adopt laws that require extended producer responsibility; and new manufacturing of plastic must be prevented from spreading. Beyond Plastics seeks to educate the media, policymakers, and the public on the plastic pollution crisis; encourage businesses to eliminate single-use plastics; train people to become leaders in the anti-plastics movement; and help block new plastic manufacturing and plastic burning facilities.



Suzette Munley has been a restaurateur for 20+ years in Philadelphia, where she had a front-row view of the growing presence of plastic in the hospitality industry. As Chief Operating Officer, she was able to steer her own business away from this path and onto more sustainable methods. She developed a Waste Reduction Program centered on reuse and collaborated with suppliers to reduce plastic packaging. Currently, Suzette serves as Board President of the Center City Business Association. She also serves on the Board of PennFuture working to transition Pennsylvania to a clean energy economy and is a certified Climate Reality Leader. In 2022, Suzette completed Beyond Plastics' Plastic Pollution course, after which she activated her township Environmental Advisory Council to introduce a single-use plastic bag ban and joined forces with a coalition of 30+ townships driving bans across Pennsylvania. She became a part of the Volunteer Speakers' Bureau as a next step in education and outreach.

Join us online Tuesday, March 7th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM EST. [Here is the link to register!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

March 21st Climate Smart Book Club

Climate Restoration - The Only Future That Will Sustain the Human Race

People around the world recognize the dire threat posed by climate change. Governments, businesses, and individuals are making commitments to shift to renewable energy sources, trim consumption, and otherwise reduce their carbon footprints. But what if these steps are woefully inadequate to ensure future health, or even the survival of the human race? What if the most popular goal being pursued by today's climate activists -net zero carbon emissions- is actually a recipe for human disaster?

That's the warning being sounded by scientist, engineer, and entrepreneur Peter Fiekowsky . . . along with an urgent call to refocus our rescue efforts on a much bigger, bolder, yet fully achievable goal-the goal of *restoring the climate* to a healthy state that will allow human beings to thrive.

Scientific data show that humans evolved and thrived in a world where atmospheric CO2 levels were below 300 parts per million (ppm). Meeting the goal of net zero emissions will leave us with a dangerous level of about 460 ppm. We need to do much better to return the world to climate conditions that we *know* are healthy for humans.

As Fiekowsky explains in *Climate Restoration*, this will require removing a trillion tons of excess CO2 from the atmosphere. The good news is that this task, while enormous and technically challenging, is eminently feasible. Scientists and engineers have developed four major technologies for greenhouse gas removal and storage: *Ocean iron fertilization; synthetic limestone manufacture; seaweed permaculture; and methane oxidation.*

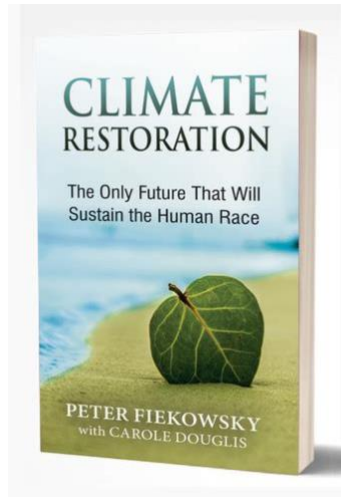
Fiekowsky argues that these technologies are safe and practical and, even more remarkable, that they require little if any government funding since they can be financed largely through existing markets. For these reasons, they have enormous promise as vehicles for achieving climate restoration.

With the global climate crisis continuing to spiral out of control, the time for tough conversations about what it will *really* take to create a healthy future for humanity is here. *Climate Restoration* will surely inspire a lively book club conversation!

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM Here is the link to register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfuCoqTkvG9PAXX7LCa03e6qUAjy2xiw2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Task Force

On Thursday, March 2nd at the New Paltz Town Board Meeting, Joe Londa (New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force member) will be presenting "Introduction of Battery Energy Storage Systems to the Town of New Paltz" which will give a quick overview of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and the proposed laws and process to regulate them in the Town of New Paltz. These proposed law changes and processes for Battery Energy Storage System installations have been reviewed by the Building Inspector and revised per her input. If passed, the Town of New Paltz will now have a consolidated Permit Application for Solar PV and/or Batteries (Tier 1 only) for Single Family, Multi-Family, and Commercial structures, updates to the New Paltz Code 140 which defines the criteria the Building Inspector will use to waive the need for a Site Plan Review, and updates to the Code accounting for word usage and definitions for BESS and the Permitted Uses by Tier 1 and 2.

If you would like to see the presentation, you can access the Town Board meeting on March 2nd by going in person at 7:00 pm at the Town Courthouse at 59 N. Putt Corners Road (all meetings are open to the public) or by watching on YouTube. Town Board meetings are live-streamed and available for later viewing at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCx_gKI1M_G1YAumRIihs_Q

Introducing Our Social Media Volunteer: Izzy Defino

Hello! My name is Izzy Defino and I'm fairly new to New Paltz. My husband and I are originally from Albany, NY and moved here almost two years ago for work. We were already familiar with this town (he is a SUNY alumni) and have only continued to enjoy living here. Based on a recent realization of my passion for environmental conservation and sustainability, I'm in a career transition out of design and marketing. However, thankfully after networking with wonderful people with similar passions, I was able to meet Janelle and now can put those old skills to use!



My goal is to grow awareness for the New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force so our community can learn how the task force is improving the Town and Village of New Paltz through Climate Smart Actions, ask questions, share ideas, and support local, green businesses. I'll do all I can to promote the work of the task force but honestly, sharing the info with friends, family, and colleagues goes a long way! If anyone you know is interested, please direct them to our Facebook Page and Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/newpaltzclimatesmart>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/climatesmartnewpaltz>

So glad to have you on board Izzy!

Next New Paltz Repair Café is March 18th



New Paltz Methodist Church - Main Street

Bring your *BELOVED BUT BROKEN* item,
and together with our Repair Coaches,
FIX it.....for FREE!

- Mechanical & Electrical
- Things made of Wood
- Clothing/Textiles/Zipppers
 - Jewelry
 - Welding
- Electronic & Digital Devices

PLUS: BRING A FOOD ITEM FOR THE FAMILY OF
NEW PALTZ

Fb: [RepairCafeHudsonValley](#)

[RepairCafeHV.org](#)

Masks optional

What Climate Smart Actions Will You Work On?

Did you know there are 115 possible actions in the Climate Smart Communities Program totaling 1097 points? We need 300 points to achieve our next level of certification, Silver.

Do you want New Paltz to be a leader in the state proactively addressing our climate impact? We can do it with your help!

Scroll through the actions found on the link below to the Climate Smart Communities website and consider all the possibilities:

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/>

Is there one that you have a particular interest in or would like to help spearhead? If so send an email to newpaltzclimatesmart@gmail.com with your thoughts. Consider joining the Climate Smart Task Force. We need more active participation from many people in both the Town and Village of New Paltz.

By implementing these certification actions, New Paltz can experience the following benefits:

- Cost savings through greater efficiency
- Greater energy independence and energy security
- Improved air quality from switching to clean energy
- Healthier, more walkable community center through smart growth
- Conservation of green spaces for recreation and biodiversity
- Reduction of future flood risk through climate change adaptation strategies
- Investment in an economy that supports sustainability and green businesses
- Greater engagement with residents who care about the future of their hometown

Earth Day 2023

Plans are underway for an Earth Day celebration here in New Paltz. It will be Saturday April 22nd and it will be the 20th Anniversary of the Earth Day Fair here in New Paltz!

Jim O'Dowd, also a member of our Climate Smart Task Force, is one of the organizers. "We're looking forward to a full scale 20th Anniversary Earth Day Fair this year and we would like to cordially invite the Town and Village of New Paltz to be a part of it. We're working on the theme of the *Ten Commitments* for a greener and more sustainable community and world. In the coming days and weeks we can explore together ways you could possibly participate in our program."

Jim asks us to contact him with any questions or ideas at 845-416-4185.



New Paltz Climate Smart March Calendar

Tuesday March 7th at 6:00 – 7:30 pm Climate Solutions Meetup – Eliminate Plastic Pollution – Let's Create a Wave of Change!
Meeting is on Zoom. [Here is the link to register!](#)

Tuesday March 14th at 7:00 – 8:30 pm monthly Climate Smart Task Force meeting. We meet online. Send an email to the address below if you are interested in participating.

Saturday March 18th from 10 am – 2:00 pm New Paltz Repair Café at the New Paltz United Methodist Church at 1 Grove Street in New Paltz.

Tuesday March 21st at 7:00 – 8:30 pm Climate Smart Book Club: Climate Restoration - The Only Future That Will Sustain the Human Race Here is the link to register:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEfuCoqTkvG9PAXX7LCa03e6qUAjy2xiw2>

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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Reduce your use of single use!

Bring your own container, such as this tiffin, to restaurants for take out or left overs. We have tiffins for sale through New Paltz Climate Smart or the Climate Action Coalition at the wholesale cost of only \$15

BYOC:

Bring Your Own Container!