# Climate Action Through Zero Waste

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020 4:00PM - 5:00 PM SUNY NEW PALTZ

Supported by: The Benjamin Center, Hudson Valley Regional Council, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Mid-Hudson League of Women Voters, New Paltz Climate Action Committee, New Paltz Climate Smart Task Force, Repair Cafe, Hudson Valley, SUNY New Paltz Office of Campus Sustainability, Sustainable Hudson Valley, Ulster County Climate Smart Committee, and the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency

### ULSTER COUNTY: ZERO WASTE LAWS & POLICY





SUNY/NEW PALTZ ZERO WASTE FORUM TUES., MARCH 3, 2020

County Executive

#### **Ulster County Zero Carbon Initiatives**

- Ulster County Carbon Footprint Reduction Program
- Ulster County Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2012)
- Green Fleet Policy & Electric Vehicle Charging
  Stations
- Ulster County Climate Smart Communities Certification Bronze Sept. 2016; Silver 2018
- National Geographic Recognition -- Dec. 2016
- Green Infrastructure and
  Green Stormwater Management
- Food Service Waste Reduction and Commercial Composting
- Solar at Ulster Landfill, Hwy Garage and other locations; purchase renewable energy credits







#### Ulster County Zero Waste Laws, Policy & Climate Emergency Declaration

"Trifecta"

- Ulster County Food Service Waste Reduction Act Styrofoam Ban (2014)
- Ulster County BYO Bag Law (plastic bag ban) went into effect July 15, 2019. NYS Bag Waste Reduction Law goes into effect in March, 2020.
- Ulster County Straw & Other Single-Use Law (2019) -- Customer must request straw or other single use items.
- Ulster County Declares A Climate Emergency (Res. 409, Oct. 2019) Gov. Cuomo also declared Climate Emergency Dec. 2019
- Established A Policy That Ulster County Shall Be A Zero Waste Community (Res. 451, Nov. 2019)
- Ulster County Food Waste Prevention & Recovery Act (Dec. 2019)
  - NYS Law goes into effect in Jan. 2022.



Regulating the Use of Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Ware By Food Service Establishments in Ulster County

#### Ulster County Local Law No. 5 of 2019

Comparison of Ulster County's Law Mandating Food Scrap Diversion By Large Generators to the NY State Law

Amount Generated

2.0 or more tons per week from 2022 on

#### **Ulster County**

2.0 or more tpw in July 2020 1.0 – 1.9 tpw in Jan. 2021 0.75 – 0.9 tpw in Jan. 2022 0.50 – 0.7 tpw in Jan. 2023

(Will divert 10,000 tons of food waste per year in Ulster County when fully implemented.)

Distance from Compostin Facility or Digester	ng 25 miles	Includes all of Ulster County regardless of distance
Exemptions	Exempts Schools and Health Care Facilities	Includes Schools and Health Care Facilities (they are <u>not</u> exempt)
Pre- vs. Post-Consumer	Doesn't distinguish	Business or institution can request a waiver for post- consumer food scraps
<b>Education &amp; Enforcemen</b>	t NYS DEC and Ag & Mark	ets ~ TBD ~

#### **DRAWDOWN Climate Solutions – Materials Management**

**<u>Reduced Food Waste (#3)</u>**: Uneaten food squanders resources and generates 8% of GHG emissions. We can greatly reduce waste as food moves from farm to fork.

Household Recycling (#55): Paper, plastic, glass, and metal comprise more than 50% of the waste stream.

**Industrial Recycling (#56)**: At least half of waste is industrial and commercial. Emissions are reduced when new products are made from recovered materials; also addresses resource scarcity.

**Bioplastics (#47)**: The big challenge: separation from other waste and appropriate processing.

**<u>Refrigerant Management (#1)</u>**: The primary chemical refrigerant, HFCs, is a potent greenhouse gas – can be up to 1,000 to 4,000 times more potent than  $CO_2$ . Avoid emissions by managing leaks

and by ultimately phasing out the use of HFCs withless harmful alternatives. Capturing the refrigerant from5 window AC units is the GHG equivalent of taking 1 caroff the road for a year.









Thank you!



Manna Jo Greene, Ulster County Legislator Chair, Energy & Environment Committee Chair, Ulster County Climate Smart Committee Chair, Solid Waste Planning Commission mannajo@aol.com 845-687-9253 or 845-807-1270

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**Approaching Zero Waste** in Ulster County Dr. Katherine Beinkafner Member, Board of Directors, Ulster County **Resource Recovery Agency** www.UCRRA.org



# WHERE DOES OUR WASTE GO?





#### 250 Miles from New Paltz to Seneca Meadows Landfill, What a GIGANTIC CARBON FOOTPRINT!!!







## RECYCLE BOXES and PARTS

the art

AMENA

#### DIVERT FLUORESCENT TUBES AND WIRE

# HAZARDOUS PROPANE TANKS



# CARDBOARD / RECYCLING

# APPED ELECTRONIC WASTE

# Areas set off with blocks for COMPOST BATCHES



# Food waste into compost area

#### Aerating BLOWER inside DOG HOUSE With Pipes to move AIR into Compost

#### Proudly serving Ulster County for 30+ years

Recycling

UCRRA is a solid waste authority, public benefit corporation, and operates permitted solid waste facilities in Kingston and New Paltz.

**Our Mission** *is to protect public health and the environment and to promote sustainable materials management practices in Ulster County by efficiently managing solid waste materials with a focus on resource conservation.* 





Waste

### ON CAMPUS, IN OUR TOWN, IN ULSTER COUNTY

GIVE AWAY EXTRA ITEMS and CLOTHING, RECYCLE, and TRY NOT TO WASTE MATERIALS

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### ZERO WASTE: MOVING CLOSER TO THE DREAM

February 2020 SUNY New Paltz

#### MJ WILSON

Zero Waste Co-coordinator, Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival Master Composter / Recycler Wqestchester County

#### Points To Consider...

- Do more good
  - Rethink

- Plan your event with sustainability in mind
- Know what support / infrastructure options are accessible
- Define your Sustainability Standards based on aspirational goals and pragmatic realities
  - Choose wisely perfection is great and attainable results move things forward
- Refuse
  - Decline materials or practices that violate your Sustainability Standards
- Reduce
  - Support Sufficiency superseding excess (aka "abundance")
- Reuse
  - Identify where, how and what support is needed to do this
- Repair
  - Longer functionality is retained, less is discarded and the less to buy

#### Points To Consider...

- Do less harm
  - Recycle

- Play by "The Rules of The House"
  - Follow the Rules and materials are managed well with waste reduced
  - Violate the rules and sorted materials get wasted
- Know what Houses are available
  - Organics processing facilities?
    - What will they accept and how will they accept it?
  - Recycling facilities & what will they accept?
  - Best waste stream options

#### Overall

- Signage people need to be informed
  - Simple, easy to understand, good graphics
- Find champions & ambassadors

#### Points To Consider...

- Model the behavior
  - "Children of Clearwater"
  - Network efforts launched by using my containers at the San Juan Farmers' Market
- Be generous and gracious with your knowledge
- Always, to the best of your ability, factor in the resources of others (internal, information, financuial, infrastructure support) and respect it
- Show your enthusiasm for supporting environmentally responsible behavior
  - (and being cheerful about something others are squimish about has value and beneficial impact)
- Words MATTER

#### Clearwater Festival



#### Clearwater: Progress Toward Zero Waste

- 1978: Festival #1
  - Waste reduction was important from Festival #1
  - Toshi Seeger led Litterpickers an original committee
- 1978 2007

- Many mythic tales abound of heroic efforts done to reduce what was wasted from the Festival
- Used County's recycling program once it was implemented (Rules of the House)
- 2008, 2009
  - Pilot organics collection Volunteer food area, then Vendor Food
- 2010 (My Year 1)
  - Expanded compost collection to entire Festival grounds
- 2011 Same program and vendor as 2010
- 2012 Changed organics vendor and collection practice
- 2013 Added post Festival food harvesting
- 2014 Added preFestvial food prep organics collection
- 2015, 17, 18 Continued to refine practices

#### Clearwater: Progress Toward Zero Waste

- 2019
  - MAJOR ISSUE ENCOUNTERED:
    - A vendor known for compostable service ware produced utensils that were a mix of plant based and petroleum based materials without a distinctive visual marking.
    - A food vendor erroneously brought this product in
    - Our organics were contaminated
    - A lot of extra work and worry before determining the contamination level was just below the rejection threshold and our 3 rolloffs of organics did not need to be redirected to the Trash stream
  - EPIPHANY:
    - Eliminate single use service ware and drinkware for hospitality provided to volunteers.
  - Metrics became complicated and are still not final.

#### **Clearwater:** By the Numbers (Tons)

	Trash (% of all materials collected)	Recycling (% of all materials collected)	Compost (% of all materials collected)	Diverted Material	% of Diverted Material
2010	Not Available	Not Available	4.50	4.50	n/a
2011	Not Available	Not Available	4.95	4.95	n/a
2012	Not Available	Not Available	5.07	5.07	n/a
2013	2.78 (26%)	2.42 (22%)	5.68 (52%)	8.10	74%
2014	3.08 (20%)	5.85 (39%)	6.15 (41%)	12.00	80%
2015	2.97 (19%)	5.91 (37%)	6.97 (44%)	12.88	81%
2017	2.40 (20%)	4.13 (34%)	5.50 (46%)	9.63	80%
2018	1.67 (16%)	2.94 (28%)	5.97 (56%)	8.91	84%
Totals	16.6 (6yr)	21.25 (6yr)	44.79 (8yr)	66.04 (8yr)	

#### Note:

2014 had record attendance

2015 had rain events during the weekend

2019 had rain events during and after the weekend the rolloffs were exposed to and the numbers are still being rectified
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### Repair Café Hudson Valley John Wackman



# Repairs with experts...who are also your neighbors



# repairability \ ri- per-a- bi-la-te



"If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production."

- Pete Seeger



# **REPAIR MANIFESTO**

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT

#### IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT, YOU DON'T OWN IT.

#### **REPAIR** IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING

Making our things last longer is both more efficient and more cost-effective than mining them for raw materials.

#### REPAIR SAVES YOU MONEY

Fixing things is often free, and usually cheaper than replacing them. Doing the repair yourself saves you money.

#### REPAIR TEACHES ENGINEERING

The best way to find out how something works is to take it apart.

#### REPAIR SAVES THE PLANET

Earth has limited resources. Eventually we will run out. The best way to be efficient is to reuse what we already have.





REPAIR IS INDEPENDENCE REQUIRES CONSUMERS INTO INSPIRES



### repair is/can

repair

matters

mend a broken heart. responsible. give an object more character and spunk. make it better than before. give it a second chance. prolong and save an object's life. make you self-sufficient. a cool challenge. promote longevity. be a hobby. problem solving. the future. cost effective. bring people together. turn trash into treasure. teach you something new. meditative. sexy. tell stories. sustainable. resourceful. rewarding. create resilient community. save you money. connect you to people. inspire your creativity.

Be part of the

repair community

Find us on 🖾 🖬

#repairmatters



### Repair Scale-Up: Designing a Fixing City

Join us during Circular City Week to help define the pathway to repair and make New York City a "Fixing City." Thursday, March 19, 2020 9am – 12pm

> Barnard College 3009 Broadway New York, NY 10027

**Register here** 





#### Free repairs with experts... who are also your neighbors

March 7	Esopus Library 128 Canal Street Port Ewen	11-3
March 8	Montgomery Wallkill River School of Art 232 Ward St/ Rt 17K	12-3
March 13	Castleton-on-Hudson Castleton-on-Hudson Fire Dept. 11 Green Avenue	4:30- 7:30
March 14	Rhinebeck Rhinebeck Town Hall 80 East Market Street	10-2
	Pound Ridge Conant Hall 257 Westchester Avenue	11-3
	Kingston Redeemer Lutheran Church 104 Wurts Street	11-3
	Ossining Ossining Community Center 95 Broadway	11-3
	Mamaroneck Mamaroneck Senior Center 1288 Boston Post Road, Larchmont	12-5
March 21	New Paltz United Methodist Church Main & Grove	10-2
	Warwick Senior Center behind Town Hall 132 Kings Highway	10-2
	Middletown Middletown Thrall Library 11 Depot Street	10-1

John Wackman Repair Cafe Hudson Valley jwackman@gmail.com

Websites: repaircafe.org repaircafehv.org repair.org

facebook & Instagram Repair Cafe Hudson Valley

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