

# Town of New Paltz, New York

Toni Hokanson, Town Supervisor

PO Box 550, 1 Veterans Drive, New Paltz NY 12561

Phone: 845/255.0604 x1 TTY: 800/622.1220 Fax: 845/255.4084

www.townofnewpaltz.org

## **Town of New Paltz Climate Smart Community Pledge**

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz (hereinafter "local government") believes that climate change poses a real and increasing threat to our local and global environments which is primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the effects of climate change will endanger our infrastructure, economy and livelihoods; harm our farms, orchards, ecological communities, including native fish and wildlife populations; spread invasive species and exotic diseases; reduce drinking water supplies and recreational opportunities; and pose health threats to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, we believe that our response to climate change provides us with an unprecedented opportunity to save money, and to build livable, energy-independent and secure communities, vibrant innovation economies, healthy and safe schools, and resilient infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, we believe the scale of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions required for climate stabilization will require sustained and substantial efforts; and

WHEREAS, we believe that even if emissions were dramatically reduced today, communities would still be required to adapt to the effects of climate change for decades to come,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that Town of New Paltz, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate will

### **1. Pledge to Combat Climate Change by Becoming a Climate Smart Community**

Set goals to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to predicted climatic changes. Establish a task force of local officials and community members to review the issues and propose a plan of action. Designate a task force who will oversee climate change initiatives and publicly report on progress. Work cooperatively with similar task forces in neighboring communities to ensure that efforts complement and reinforce one another.

### **2. Set Goals, Inventory Emissions, Move to Action**

Gather data, inventory GHG gas emissions, and establish baselines for local government operations and community sectors. Develop quantifiable interim GHG emission targets consistent with emission reduction goals and propose a schedule and financing strategy to meet them. Propose emission reduction schedule and financing strategy. Develop a local action plan for reducing emissions.

### **3. Decrease Energy Demand for Local Government Operations**

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Adopt a goal of reducing electricity use by 15 percent from projected levels no later than 2015. Take into account existing public facilities, new public buildings, community infrastructure, vehicle fleet and commuting. Improve waste management in government operations.

#### **4. Encourage Renewable Energy for Local Government Operations**

Set a goal to maximize the use of public energy generated from renewable sources

#### **5. Realize Benefits of Recycling and Other Climate Smart Solid Waste Management Practices**

Expand the "reduce, reuse and recycle" approach to waste management in local government operations and in the whole community. Reduce the amount of solid waste generated -- promote backyard composting, implement volume-based pricing and educate residents on how to prevent waste. Provide recycling receptacles in local government buildings and outdoor spaces, require duplex printing in government offices, compost food scraps and green waste, and adopt a comprehensive green purchasing program.

#### **6. Promote Climate Protection through Community Land Use Planning**

Combat climate change by encouraging low-emissions development that is resilient to climatic changes. When updating land use policies, building codes or community plans, include provisions to combat climate change; reduce sprawl; preserve and protect open space, biodiversity, and water supplies; promote compact, transit-oriented, bikeable and walkable communities; promote infill development; minimize new development in floodplains; maintain healthy community forests.

#### **7. Plan for Adaptation to Unavoidable Climate Change**

Identify risks to government facilities and functions (e.g., water supply and sewers) and factor into long term investments and decision making. Develop a climate adaptation Plan, with priority to the most vulnerable areas.

#### **8. Support a Green Innovation Economy**

Identify opportunities to incorporate climate protection, sustainability and environmental goods and service industries into economic development plans. Encourage workforce development training and school curricula that support the emerging green collar job sector, including renewable energy and energy efficiency.

#### **9. Inform and Inspire the Public**

Lead by example. Highlight local government commitment to reducing energy use, saving tax dollars, and adapting to changing conditions. Encourage citizens to follow suit.

#### **10. Commit to an Evolving Process**

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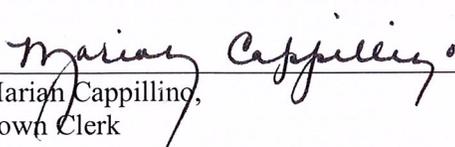
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Be willing to consider new ideas and commit to update plans and policies as needed. Compare successes, cooperate and collaborate with neighboring communities to amplify positive results.

Motion made at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of New Paltz on June 17, 2010 by Councilperson Kristin Brown and seconded by Councilperson Jeff Logan.

## VOTE

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Supervisor Toni Hokanson	X	_____	_____
Council Member Jane Ann Williams	X	_____	_____
Council Member Kristin Brown	X	_____	_____
Council Member David Lewis	X	_____	_____
Council Member Jeffrey Logan	X	_____	_____

  
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Marian Cappillino,  
Town Clerk