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Rhinebeck Sustainability Activities Hit the Streets

Rhinebeck, NY, September 17, 2019 —We know the actions that need to be taken to stop climate change. But getting them out there, circulating amongst the public and changing people's habits, and making it fun—that's the challenge.

And that's the concept behind Rhinebeck's Clean Power Expo, happening Sunday, October 6, from 10am to 3pm. Organizer Vanessa Bertozzi says, "We have so many inspiring projects and resources already happening in Rhinebeck. We thought, why not literally bring those to the street and put a neighborly face on it?"

Here's how it works: Participants start at Town Hall where they'll get an action checklist and scavenger-hunt-esque village map. Visit each point on the map, which corresponds to a sidewalk table, where, say, a gardener will break down how to compost, or a Repair Cafe volunteer will show you how to fix a lamp rather than toss it in the trash. Moving from point to point—ticking actions off your list—participants learn how to green their lives. A full list of action stations can be found on the Facebook event: https://tinyurl.com/RBKcleanpower

All the while, participants can meet neighbors and experts, who are volunteering their time to share tips, answer questions, and demonstrate that being sustainable in your everyday life is really quite do-able. Check off all your action items, post a photo on social media with #RBKcleanpower, and you may be chosen at random to receive a copy of the book *Drawdown*, a free composter and other goodies.

The family-friendly, free event springs from a partnership between <u>Sustainable Hudson Valley</u> and <u>New Yorkers for</u> <u>Clean Power</u>, who along with Luminary Media (publishers of the popular Chronogram), published a <u>Clean Power Guide</u>.

"I'm thrilled that so many local Rhinebeck businesses have agreed to 'host' volunteers tabling in front of their stores," says Dorna Schroeter, co-organizer of the event with Bertozzi. Dorna is setting up a table outside Willow Wood Boutique so people can learn about Biomimicry and meet the winners of the Biomimicry Youth Design Challenge. Some businesses—like Cinnamon, a local Indian restaurant—are participating themselves. The owner, Shiwanti Widyarathna, paired up with a recent Rhinebeck High School graduate and former president of the school's Environmental Club, Kellianne Ticcony. The two will be talking about restaurants' responsibility to switch to eco-friendly containers—and a youth movement's role in pushing them to go strawless. They also plan to demonstrate kitchen waste-reducing products like beeswax wraps and silicon sandwich bags.

Some activities will be available 10am-3pm, such as at Town Hall itself, where visitors can learn about solar options like neighboring Red Hook's new subscription CSA option through SunCommon; how geothermal and heat pumps work from Dandelion, and test drive an EV. Certain talks and workshops will be available at appointed times: at 11am, Terrapin Chef Kroner will do a kids talk at the Farmers Market about healthy food. Bread Alone VP, Nels Leader, will be doing a short talk at 12pm about making the bakery's operations more sustainable, including donating part of their stale bread to beer-makers Toast Ale. The Starr Library is offering a free Recycle a T-shirt into a Bag or Dog Toy workshop from 1-3pm.

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