

Town of Pleasant Valley  
Climate Smart Task Force  
Community Education and  
Engagement Plan Revised  
June 2022



# INTRODUCTION

## Background and Objectives of Climate Smart Communities

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and adapt to the effects of climate change. The CSC program began in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State; the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) acts as the main administrator of the program.

By taking the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, a community expresses its commitment to taking action on climate change and is designated a Registered Climate Smart Community. Becoming a member of the CSC program is free and voluntary; there are no fees or legal requirements. Registered communities have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge which Pleasant Valley did in 2016.

The Climate Smart Communities Certification Program is a set of actions wherein a community strives to complete, through a Climate Smart Community Task Force, actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change on a local level. Each community defines its own best strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resiliency to the impacts of climate change, save taxpayer dollars, improve community public health and safety, support a green innovation economy, and demonstrate leadership, cutting energy use, reducing emissions and adapting and mitigating climate change.

Certified Communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting these actions. They benefit their communities through pursuit of the following CSC resources:

- Funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation programs via the DEC CSC Grant program.
- Reduction of the cost of clean vehicles and associated charging/fueling stations via the DEC Municipal Zero-emissions Vehicle Rebate program.
- Free technical assistance for clean energy and climate change initiatives from regional coordinators.
- Online guidance and decision-support tools via web pages.
- Exploration of best practices through CSC webinars.
- Networking with like-minded community leaders at CSC events and workshops.

By implementing certification actions, communities experience the following local benefits:

- Cost savings through greater efficiency
- Greater energy independence and energy security
- Improved air quality from switching to clean energy
- Healthier, more walkable urban centers 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

## PE9 Action: Climate Change Education & Engagement

### Why is this action important?

Public education, outreach, and engagement are critical to preparing communities for the effects of climate change and to enlist the public in taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of preventing further climate change. Engagement initiatives are often most effective when local governments partner with regional planning organizations and/or outreach specialists who can help them reach a wide range of community stakeholders. Outreach efforts provide opportunities to collaborate with nontraditional stakeholder groups, start conversations about the community's future, deepen a sense of identity and social cohesion, and identify innovative ways to reduce GHG emissions and build community resilience to climate change.

For more information about this CSC Action, please visit:

<https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/#open/action/122>

How to obtain points for this action:

Points for this action are tiered based on whether the focus of the education and engagement program is on reducing GHG emissions in the community (i.e., climate change mitigation) or on community adaptation to climate change, or both.

Possible Points for this action

- Engagement strategy/activities for climate change mitigation: 4
- Engagement strategy/activities for climate change adaptation: 4

## Goals

There are five goals Climate Smart Pleasant Valley wishes to accomplish through community engagement and education:

- Helping the community better understand and prepare for the impact of climate change on their natural resources, businesses, schools, and agricultural resources; and understand pathways for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in their households.
- Reducing waste to landfill with a key focus on minimizing food waste through composting. Exploring ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Improving water efficiency. Securing our water resources.
- Generating local renewable energy and improving energy efficiency by enabling renewable energy projects for residents and community assets and improving building efficiency and access to energy efficient products.
- Lowering emissions from transportation through supporting community access to sustainable transportation options including public transport, cycling, walking and energy efficient vehicles.
- Help the community adapt to climate change through education on:
  - a. Reduction of heat risk by conducting education on available cooling centers.
  - b. Flood risks and natural methods of risk reduction such as Trees for Tribs <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/43668.html>, where greenery is planted around tributaries to provide natural flood barriers.
  - c. Composting methods for soil regeneration and to reduce stormwater runoff.

In order to complete the above goals we need to take a look at Pleasant Valley's demographics, assets and vulnerabilities.

## What Does Pleasant Valley Look Like?

Pleasant Valley is a rural–suburban community distinguished by its three main hamlet areas: Pleasant Valley, Salt Point, and Washington Hollow. The town is centrally located in the county, northeast of the city of Poughkeepsie. According to the United States Census Bureau, the town has a total area of 33.1 square miles, of which 32.6 square miles is land and 0.58 square miles, or 1.7%, is water. A section of U.S. Route 44 goes through the town in a southwestern-northeastern direction. It intersects with the Taconic State Parkway, a north–south highway, in the northeast part of the town.



The Town has an array of natural, agricultural and cultural systems that shape the Town and provide residents with clean air, clean drinking water and food production assets.

The Wappinger Creek bisects the Town and is the largest stream and watershed in Dutchess County. The Wappinger Creek Valley is the distinctive topographic feature within Pleasant Valley, forming a swath approximately one-mile wide through the Town from northeast to southwest. This valley is bordered by a ridgeline to the east and gently rolling farmland to the west.

The creek flows in a north–south direction on the eastern side of the Hudson River. The creek's source is Thompson Pond near Pine Plains, and it heads southwestward towards its mouth in the Hudson River near New Hamburg. Along the way, it goes through fluctuations in width and follows an erratic path. It also has sandbars, mudflats and marshes. The creek is also home to numerous species, and is an important spawning area for anadromous fish, which thrive in the creek between April and June. Largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed, red-breasted sunfish, and brown bullhead, however, are resident species. Also, the creek is annually stocked with various species of trout for the purpose of recreational fishing.

The Creek is one of Pleasant Valley's greatest assets but it is also one of the most vulnerable and due to climate change, it now threatens the town with flooding.

According to census.gov; in 2020, Pleasant Valley, NY had a population of 9,799 people and a median household income in 2019 of \$84,645. The race breakdown groups in Pleasant Valley, NY are White (Non-Hispanic) (83.9%), Black or African American alone (3.3%), Hispanic or Latino (7.1%), Asian alone (1.3%), Two or more races (4.1%). The mean travel time to work for works age 16+ was 31.2 minutes.

The Census also states that that in 2019, 94% of persons aged 25 years + were high school graduates or higher and that 30.4% held a bachelor's degree or higher. Another finding from the Census is that 92.7% households have a computer and 86.4% have a broadband Internet subscription.

The demographic data needs to be considered in setting the content, tone, locations, scheduling, and direction of our action plan. For example, knowing that 86% of residents have a computer and internet is good support for online campaigns but we need to consider that there is at least 15% of the community that we will not be reaching. Therefore, we would clearly need to also consider physical methods and possibly collaboration with other groups.

Although not broken down above the community is a mix of ages with about 20% under the age of 18 and 15% over the age of 65. Therefore, when engaging with the community we not only have to offer an adult action, but we need to consider an action that would keep the younger individuals occupied and engaged. Handouts would need to be factual and straightforward for the adults while we also need to have handouts that offer education information in a fun entertaining way in simpler language.

We also must consider the median income and poverty level of the community and be sure that we are offering affordable ideas to help stop climate change or at the least cost saving actions, if not free.

The town is also compromised of collaborative entities that CS may find helpful in reaching and engaging the entirety of the local community:

Education - The local schools, we have 2 primary schools Traver Rd and West Rd.

Religion – The town has multiple churches of different disciplines.

Library – The library has just extended their presence and offer an inviting space for public events.

Industries – Peckham Industries works closely with the DEC and other entities.

Scouting – There are multiple troops in the area.

Agriculture – There are many farms and agricultural minded residents such as horse ranchers in the Town.

4H – Many residents belong to the local 4H.

Neighbors – Cornell Cooperative is right outside of the Town and many neighboring towns a Climate Smart Communities and have other environmental groups.

The strategies, principles, and goals highlighted in this plan will be used to inform, empower, and motivate community residents of all ages, socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities, races, genders, sexualities, abilities, etc. From residents, local merchants, elected officials, emergency responders, and more, this plan will educate about future impacts of climate change, adaptations, risk management, and reducing the Town's contribution to the global carbon footprint.

## Set a Path from Goals to Actions

Before we even begin to act on public education, outreach and engagement we need to prepare a pathway.

1. Engage the community in developing the plan through:
  - a. Identifying vulnerabilities, challenges, and priorities in relation to climate change in concert with community members and stakeholders and
  - b. Focusing on Participation, Diversity and Inclusion through advertising across multiple platforms (including posting flyers on bulletin boards), encouraging anyone and everyone to participate in identifying climate challenges by reaching out to as many groups as possible so that all voices are represented, and increase accessibility by scheduling events at varying times.
2. Outline goals for community engagement and education.
3. Identify strategies to achieve these goals.
4. Consider working with regional planning organizations and outreach specialists to develop the scope and strategies, to the extent possible. Updates to our Comprehensive Plan are in the development stage and Climate Smart Pleasant Valley will be a part of the process.
5. Conduct focus groups, interviews, or surveys to gain a baseline understanding of the issues, perceptions, and beliefs about the causes and effects of a changing climate in our community.
6. Form collaborative partnerships with local groups, businesses, agencies, organizations, non-profits, schools, government officials and offices, etc. where appropriate and effective.
7. Leverage existing programs: build on existing programs, initiatives, and resources, and engage people where they are, allowing them to take action in line with their interests, expertise, or responsibilities.
8. Train community emergency response teams of volunteer residents to help vulnerable neighbors during disasters.
9. Develop disaster risk preparedness plans.
10. Integrate community education about climate impacts, adaptations, and mitigation strategies by hosting ongoing events and utilizing forms of media.
11. Build deepened understanding of climate issues such as passing a shade structure policy to deal with heat issues.
12. Be forward looking: continue to expand and re-calibrate strategy and take a forward looking, anticipatory approach.
13. Recognize and celebrate efforts publicly

## Action Plan

We as a Climate Smart Task Force will be completing actions as a group but we also need to engage and educate residents so we can create a sustainable community. We cannot do or see all the ways our town can prepare for climate change and the reduction of greenhouse emissions therefore we must also let the community educate us. Even the smallest of actions is one step closer to achieving our goals, but a community cannot succeed unless they have the education and resources.

The following is our action plan:

- **Informational materials:** gather specific materials that relate to our community and design our own and distribute them at various public events. These will include tips and ideas, games, resources guide etc.  
Some of these handouts include advantages to DIY composting, stop car idling, adapting to heat, adapting to flooding, what you can do at home, DIY rain barrels, DIY container gardening, improving the air we breathe, pollinator pathways.
- **Partnering with community-based organizations:** coordinate, educate and collaborate with various community organizations such as but not limited to: Camp Sunny Days, Arlington Central School District, PV Scouts Troop 55, Pleasant Valley Library, Cary Institute, Land Conservancies, and the like.  
Activities to include but not limited to; deposit can and bottle collection with Troop 55, single use plastic and composting (to name a few) demonstrations at the Recreation departments camp, demonstrations and discussions at the library, advertising CS events in the Recreation flyers distributed at local schools, inviting Earth2Table to our events, including Habitat4Humanity in our events.
- **Hands on Activities:** to not only present but to engage such as create a composting jar, DIY rain barrel evening offering the beginning of the supplies, repurposing items normally discarded such as Trash to Treasure on Earth Day, taking a group walk, creating a Repair Café the first one to be held June 4 2022.
- **Movie Nights:** show movies that explain climate change and the effects along with what we can do to help; we have created a list and reached an agreement with the Library for a Monthly Climate Smart Movie Night and have already shown David Attenborough's A Life on our Planet and Wasted the Story of Food Waste along with a discussion
- **Events:** have a presence at large public events with take-aways and hand on activities such as PV Weekend, Earth Day Clean Up, Festival of Lights and other community events. We have created storyboards about Single Use Plastic and Native Plants, we have giveaways such as tire pressure gauges, reusable bags, seeds and plants and will expand. We have already attended Pleasant Valley Weekend '21 and Earth Day Cleanup '21 and '22. We are currently working on a Green Fair hopefully for '22.
- **Social Media:** created a Facebook page and Instagram account to promote events, give ideas, present facts and interact with the community. Social media has been used to promote our events, identify when cooling stations are open, share events of neighboring towns, offer ways to adapt and mitigate climate change. Using multiple social media platforms will engage with different audiences within the community.
- **Website:** create website; let the public know who we are and what is a Climate Smart Community, include total transparency on what the Task Force is doing by discussing completed actions, promote events including registration for events, list resources, give



examples of how residents can adapt and mitigate climate change, interact with community through blog postings, inform the residents how to deal with emergency such as temperature changes ongoing addition of information. Link for website appears on the Town's website which is currently being upgraded.

- **Google:** create a google email account to enable direct communication with residents and to share ideas and events, publicize the address, become familiar with other google apps that can be used to register residents for events, improve communication within the group and explore new ways to engage the public.
- **Surveys:** to understand where education and engagement is needed and to understand the thoughts and concerns of the community, create a survey via social media, website, events and/or mail. Keep a tally of the responses received. Analyze the responses to see what the public wants to learn more about and what they need to learn more about and how they want to learn more. Use this information to plan future events.
- **Workshops:** to disseminate information, tools and techniques and to build participant networks of support and practice. We have reached an agreement with the library to host some of our workshops and are looking at using our natural resources in warm months to be the location for future events. The workshops will be on subjects the public have requested through survey answers and on what we have discovered that may be lacking in information and awareness.
- **Continuing Education:** Those within the task force will continue to educate themselves through programs such as the Cornell Climate Change Stewards, receiving email alerts from the DEC and other organizations and staying on top of current programs and news. We will also suggest workshops for Town employees and first responders in the Town.

This plan will evolve in response to participation and mutual learning as we learn the direction our path needs to take.

## Looking for the Right Direction for the Plan

### Strategies for Identifying Vulnerabilities, Challenges and Priorities

Our plan encompasses many tools to discover our vulnerabilities, challenges, and priorities but we also need to have strategies to make the tools effective.

Two useful strategies are:

- Public consultation, where efforts typically offer opportunities for individual opinions or feedback on climate issues, plans or decisions, such a strategy would be used with our surveys that we are continually update and analyzing to identify or prioritize specific climate issues and challenges.
- Public deliberation, which occurs when community members participate together in give and take discussions that provide the local agency with their collective ideas and recommendations which is accomplished through discussion at movie nights and workshops.

Involving community and stakeholder representatives early in the process of climate action will allow diverse perspectives to be considered so that all people's concerns are accounted for,

making the process more personal for community members. In addition, when the public feels their voices are heard, they will trust the process, support it, and feel empowered to be involved in future local climate action.

However, it is also important that the right questions are being asked of community stakeholders. Therefore, we should consider some of these strategies in our surveys and discussions regarding vulnerabilities, challenges and priorities;

- How have variations in the community's population size affected our community? (e.g. events after a public health crisis, humanitarian crisis, immigration influx, building surge, etc.)
- Our community is bisected by the Wappingers Creek. How many feet above sea level is the community? How far will the risk of flooding reach?
- Have drought or heat waves been an issue in the community? (e.g. does the public know about cooling centers? Has does flooding effect the community?)
- Has poor air quality affected our community? (there is always talk about the quarry what are the facts and what is fictions?)
- How sustainable is the energy infrastructure in our community? How many residents have installed renewable energy? (e.g. Community Solar is coming to Pleasant Valley and we are working on a campaign?)
- How has our agricultural sector been affected by climate change?
- Which community members are not engaged in climate change actions? ○ Identifying where to increase outreach
- What are the climate change actions that will affect residents economically (e.g. streetlight renovation, electric vehicle incentives, etc.)

## **Strategies for Communicating Climate Change Impacts**

A public meeting for communicating risk is designed to help community members and stakeholders better understand the natural hazard risks and solutions while motivating people to take action. Participants should learn how to respond to climate impacts with more confidence. The goal is to communicate facts and information; furthermore, climate change communication is shaped by our different experiences, mental and cultural models, and underlying values and worldviews. We must keep in mind that talking about climate change can bring up sensitive topics and be aware of how people react to and are affected by the conversation.

### *Communicating strategies:*

- Audience expectations: whenever we are trying to communicate information, we need to consider what the audience is expecting and how to act.
- Audience knowledge: never overestimate our audience's knowledge of the topic. Try to determine their prior knowledge so that they are able to follow and do not lose interest.
- Attitude topic: how does the audience feel about the topic? Speaking to a group that vehemently disagrees with the speaker is very different from a room full of people that embrace or agree with the stance.

- Audience size: In general, the larger the audience, the more formal we should be.
- Egocentrism: Most audiences are interested in things that affect them, their families, and their communities. Try to connect our topic to them and their lives. Why does it matter to them? How does it affect them?

*Principles to incorporate in discussion:*

- It is important when discussing risk, that the tone is not one of doom and gloom, but rather optimism and envisioning a brighter future based on tangible actions and participation.
- Decreasing the time horizon of the effects of climate change so that the need for action feels more urgent. Speak of climate change as an issue of now, not an issue of later. Frame climate change action now as crucial to ensuring a safe, sustainable future for all
- Emphasize the failure of international agreements to take action and explain that this is why local action is so critical - bottom-up approaches to climate action are most effective
- Focus on empowering individuals and ensuring them that their actions will make a big difference in the community and support greater global climate action.

*Questions to Initiate Discussion of Risk with Community Members and Stakeholders:*

- What are the most hazardous climate threats in this community? What are the impacts?
- Connect the dots on issues community residents care about such as clean water, parks, measures that save money, etc.
- Communicate data through storytelling, as it is much more relatable. i.e. What are the key barriers to communicating the risks our community is facing? (inadequate funding, lack of capacity due to everyone being busy, a bureaucratic system that is slow or unwilling to try new things)

## **Strategies for Education**

Climate Change has so many impacts on our everyday life and having a plan in place will achieve minimal impact if there is no strategy as what we are going to educate the public on. These strategies are a good starting off point;

### **Climate Change Mitigation Engagement & Education**

- Energy Efficiency: discuss in public meetings or hold a public outreach event to educate community members on the importance of energy reduction in reducing greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change wherein an explanation of where the town's energy comes from and how these institutions emit carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Further explain how carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions contribute to climate change which can lead into a discussion about how community members can reduce energy consumption in their own lives as well as support their community's energy reduction and transition to green energy. You can start with something as simple as a coloring book.
- Sustainable Materials Management: volunteers should conduct an inventory of existing material management programs within the community and speak with trash, recycling,

and compost program leaders about what issues with material management should be addressed within the community. Then, volunteers can discuss these issues in public meetings or a public outreach event and educate community members on how to solve them. We are currently working a Transfer Station Brochure to be distributed with refuse passes. Educating could lead to actual ways to improve the community's material management and reduce waste production. Such as the recent change to our construction debris policy.

### Climate Change Adaptation Engagement & Education

Water particularly in Pleasant Valley is a very hot and current issue considering the Town Center does not have public water. Having a town of mostly wells people are concerned about the quality and quantity of their personal water. Therefore there are certain factors and strategies to be considered.

#### *Water and Land Use*

Discuss in public meetings or hold a public outreach event to educate community members on the importance of reducing consumption and sustainably sourcing and managing water and land (residential and agricultural) at an individual and community level. Information presented to community members to indicate the importance of these actions should emphasize;

- Where our water is sourced
- How much of the community's water goes toward agriculture, residential, and industrial sectors
  - How sustainable the water systems are
  - How vulnerable the water system is to climate change including what are the threats to the water system?
- What the most common pollutants to the water sources are
- Whether there are any inequities in access to clean water and land

In educating and engaging the community on water, it is important to remind community members of the many functions in which water is used, such as in the household and in agriculture to produce food. Remind community members that water is an irreplaceable resource. Try to paint a picture of what life looks like with a community's limited access to or supply of water. This will engage them in protecting the water supply.

#### *Disaster Risk Preparedness*

We have stepped a bit ahead of these strategies by enabling an entire page on our website devoted to Disaster Risk Preparedness but feel because of the importance of being prepared that it requires repetition.

Encourage community members to develop a family preparedness plan that includes Contact information for family members, Predetermined meeting places, Home evacuation procedures, Emergency pet care, Safe storage of food and water, Make a disaster supply kit.

Encourage community members to use the assigned cooling centers in the community when temperatures rise.

Work with the town government to remind residents during public meetings when there is a disaster looming to visit [pvclimatesmartny.org](http://pvclimatesmartny.org) for more information and inform the community of the risks climate change poses.

Engagement and Education that falls under both Mitigation and Adaptation

### *Climate Smart Agriculture - Helping Farmers in the Community*

According to the Cornell Climate Smart Farming Program Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) is an approach to agriculture that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development, profitability, and ensure food security in a changing climate.

1. Sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes
2. Adapting and building resilience to climate change
3. Reducing and/or removing greenhouse gases emissions where possible for mitigation

General climate threats to Agriculture include increases in pest, disease, and weed pressures, changing growing seasons, drought, increased rainfall events/flooding, extreme heat, and soil erosion.

In public meetings or outreach events, community members and volunteers should be educated on the barriers to enacting Climate-Smart Agriculture, so they work to minimize these barriers and support farmers in their transition to Climate-Smart Agriculture.

Barriers for Enacting Climate-Smart Agriculture:

1. Lack of knowledge about climate adaptations and mitigation applied to agriculture
2. Financial Resources (Access to grants, loans, and other forms of funding for CSA)
3. Financial Literacy (Expertise in finance economics)
4. Lack of regionally specific information regarding climate change impacts to agriculture, possible adaptations, and climate, seasonal, and weather predictions

## **Never Stop Educating and Engaging the Community**

Knowing your community, setting goals for your community, creating a pathway to your plan, enacting a plan, using strategies with the tools of your and getting it done is a never-ending process.

Therefore, as a last step in our plan we will enact a review process of the Education and Engagement Plan.

At least yearly climate smart will gather project teams, volunteers, government officials, and stakeholders and ask the following questions:

- What successes have we experienced?
- What goals from our outreach plan did we achieve? What goals did we not achieve?
- What areas need improvement?
- How can we adapt the plan for the following year?
- Develop and create a timeline for future goals

## Events focused on Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The Climate Smart PV website (<https://www.pvclimatesmartny.org/>) lists all the recent and upcoming events hosted by the Climate Smart Task Force. The below section pulls a selection of recent events with a description of how they were focused on climate mitigation or adaptation. The text in italics is the description from the website. A full list of events can be found below this shorter list.

1. The Committee hosted an event about Composting at the Library on May 4, 2022. Composting assists with reducing stormwater runoff, as well as sequestering carbon, making it applicable to climate adaptation and mitigation.

*In honor of Composting Awareness Week May 1 - 7 2022. Climate Smart PV is sponsoring a Composting Workshop with Master Gardeners at the PV Library please see the website for details <https://pleasantvalleylibrary.org/>*

2. The committee hosted an Earth Day Town Cleanup and Info Fair on Saturday, April 23, 2022. The event featured information, attached here, on the need to adapt to climate change realities such as flooding and increased heat. The event also featured information on renewable energy to mitigate climate change.

*Earth Day is April 22nd and on Saturday April 23rd you can join your neighbors to help clean up the Town. Registration start at 8:30 AM come to Town Hall to sign up and receive you gloves and bags. Go out and clean up your neighborhood and return your trash to Town Hall and visit the Info Fair where there will be Can and Bottle Collections by Troop 55, Furniture and Kitchen Item collection by Habitat for Humanity, Kids Crafts, Giveaways, Learn about Composting, DIY Rain Barrels, Plastic Alternatives, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Farm2Table, Solar and more.*

3. The committee had a booth at the Pleasant Valley Centennial Weekend on September 17, 2021 - September 19, 2021. At the CSC booth, task force members handed out information and had hands-on activities on the topics of plastic alternatives, recycling, composting, invasive species, and energy efficiency. See the Pleasant Valley Weekend report for more details. The Centennial weekend was also the launch of a climate change survey to gather more information about residents' opinions of climate change and what they would like to learn more about. The survey and the initial results are also included in the Pleasant Valley Weekend report document.

*Come Join Us at Cady Field as we help celebrate our town's anniversary.*

*There will be displays on the downside of single use plastic and smart alternatives. Composting demonstrations. A sample composter on site. Coloring books and crayons for the kids (and those still a kid at heart) with lessons on how you can reuse, reduce and recycle everything from trash to energy. A survey, so we can learn more about what you are thinking about.*

## **Full List of PV CSC Education and Engagement Events in 2022**

- April 8- Movie-A Life on our Planet/David Attenborough

David Attenborough, renowned biologist shares his concern for the current state of our planet due to humanity's impact on nature and his hopes for the future.

Environment, adaptation and mitigation

- April 19- Container Gardening at the library

Learn easy ways to start plants from seed, saving you money and easy ways to create your own large containers repurposing paper bags, boxes and containers.

Environment, mitigation

- April 23- Earth Day town cleanup and Climate Smart info Fair

Come register, grab a bag and gloves and help clean up the town roads, can and bottle collection by troop 55, donate unwanted furniture and kitchenware to Habitat for Humanity, create a pot or vase from recycled containers(kids crafts), composting demo, DIY rain barrel, plastic alternatives, farm2table, solar and more.

Environment, adaptation and mitigation

- May 4-Composting Demo

PV Climate Smart invites 2 Dutchess County master gardeners to demonstrate how easy it is to create your own compost bin and manage your composting efforts with ease. PV Library

Environment, mitigation

- May 10-Movie-Wasted! The Story of Food Waste

A documentary produced by celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain takes you around the world, showing 1.3 billion tons of food that gets thrown out each year and the people fighting hard to prevent it.

Environment, adaptation, mitigation

- May 17-The Importance of Native Plants

Join PV Climate Smart in learning about the restoration of indigenous species, the problems with invasives as well as the lack of value in endless lawns. Learn ways to increase birds, bees and butterflies by growing natives and pollinators. Find out the facts on the growing pollinator movement.

Environment, adaptation, mitigation

- May 27 – Planted Pollinator Garden at town hall
- June 4 – Repair Café
- June 8-Pollinator Pathways

Come learn about the pollinator pathways ...a growing movement to educate folks on all of the positive values of planting natives and pollinators for the benefit of insects, bees and birds. It all starts in your own backyard.

- June 14-Movie-The Plastic Problem

PBS News Hour documentary explores the scourge of plastic remnants in our oceans and lakes around the world. Plastics are considered possibly to be the largest environmental threat to our world.

Environment, mitigation

### **Upcoming**

- Composting at Camp Sunny Days
- Aug 5, Oct 1, Dec 3 Repair Cafés
- Continuing Movie Nights no movies picked yet

<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Surveys &amp; Results</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>Handouts &amp; Flyers</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Event Reports &amp; Articles</b>
<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Library Collaboration</b>





**APPENDIX A**  
**SURVEYS & RESULTS**

## Pleasant Valley Climate Task Force Questionnaire

**Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Part of our mission is to educate and engage the community.**

We want to know what you are thinking. Please circle the best answer that represents your opinion.

- What is your zip code? 12569 12538 12578 Other
- Are you concerned about Climate Change? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you want to know how to better prepare for the impact of Climate Change? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you compost food waste? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Would you like to learn more about composting and its importance? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Would you compost if it was convenient? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you recycle? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- If yes, circle all that apply. a) Trash b) Plastics c) Returnable Bottles d) Cardboard & Paper e) All
- Do you know the proper way to recycle, and what % of plastic actually gets recycled? a) YES b) maybe c) NO
- Do you make an effort to use LESS PLASTIC when shopping? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you use the Pleasant Valley Transfer Station? (DUMP) a) YES b) c) NO d) Recycling Only
- Do you think a secure water source for our Town is important? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you want to learn how to improve energy efficiency at home and business? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you drive an energy efficient car? a) YES b) NO c) use public transportation
- If YES, what type? a) Hybrid b) electric

**Would you like to do any of the following (check all that apply)**

- Learn more about the PV Climate Smart Task Force
- Get involved in some of the PV Climate Smart activities
- Join the Climate Smart Task Force

**WE NEED YOU! If interested, tell us how we can contact you:**

**Name & Contact Info** \_\_\_\_\_

*(This information will only be used as a reference for Climate Smart. Thanks for helping us.)*

## Pleasant Valley Climate Task Force Questionnaire

**Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Part of our mission is to educate and engage the community.**

We want to know what you are thinking. Please circle the best answer that represents your opinion.

- What is your zip code? 12569 12538 12578 Other
- Are you concerned about Climate Change? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you want to know how to better prepare for the impact of Climate Change? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you compost food waste? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- If no, would you compost if it was convenient? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Would you like to learn more about composting? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you recycle? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you make an effort to use LESS PLASTIC? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you use the Pleasant Valley Transfer Station? (DUMP) a) YES recycling only b) Yes trash and recycling c) NO
- Would you like the Town to offer other services, such as yard waste collection? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you think a secure water source for our Town is important? a) YES b) A little c) NO
- Do you want to learn how to improve energy efficiency at home and business? a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Would you like to learn about alternative heating sources a) YES b) Maybe c) NO
- Do you drive an energy efficient car? a) YES hybrid b) YES electric b) NO gasoline c) use public transportation

**Would you like to do any of the following (check all that apply)**

- Learn more about the PV Climate Smart Task Force
- Get involved in some of the PV Climate Smart activities
- Join the Climate Smart Task Force

**WE NEED YOU!** If interested, tell us how we can contact you:

**Name & Contact Info** \_\_\_\_\_

*(This information will only be used as a reference for Climate Smart. Thanks for helping us.)*



## Pleasant Valley Climate Task Force Questionnaire

**Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. Part of our mission is to educate and engage the community.**

*We want to know what you are thinking. Please circle the best answer.*

- |   |       |       |        |       |
|---|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| What is your zip code?  | 12569 | 12538 | 12578  | Other |
| Are you concerned about climate change?   |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Have you participated in any environmental efforts this year?<br>If so, please describe:  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| <hr/>   |       |       |        |       |
| Do you compost food waste?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| If no, would you compost if it was convenient?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you currently make efforts to reduce plastic waste?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you want to make an effort to reduce plastic waste?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you know, Pleasant Valley has a Transfer Station (dump)?   |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you know your Carbon Footprint? You can google it or<br><a href="https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/">https://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator/</a><br><a href="https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/">https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/carbon-footprint-calculator/</a> |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you want to learn how to improve energy efficiency at home?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Would you like to learn about alternative heating sources?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you know about Community Solar coming to Pleasant Valley?  |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |
| Do you know a Repair Café is coming to Pleasant Valley June 4 <sup>th</sup> ?   |       |       | a) YES | b) NO |

***Would you like us to contact you with upcoming Climate Smart events?  
If so, please include your contact information below:***

**Name & Contact Info**

---

*(This information will only be used as a reference for Climate Smart. Thanks for helping us.)*  
[pvclimatesmartny@gmail.com](mailto:pvclimatesmartny@gmail.com)      [pvclimatesmartny.org](http://pvclimatesmartny.org)



APRIL 2022 SURVEY FROM CONTAINER GARDENING

Number of Surveys	
	9
	12569
	12538
OTHER	12578
	6
	0
	0
	3
	9

	YES	NO	% of positive responses
Are you concerned about Climate Change?	8	0	89%
Have you adapted your life to prepare for the impact of climate change?	3	6	33%
Do you compost food waste?	4	3	44%
If no would you compost if convenient?	7	0	78%
Do you try to use Less plastic?	6	3	67%
Do you know, PV has a transfer station?	7	3	78%
Do you know your carbon footprint?	1	8	11%
Do you want to learn how to improve the energy efficiency at home?	9	0	100%
Would you like to learn about alternative heating sources?	8	1	89%
Do you know about Community Solar coming to PV?	2	7	22%
Do you a Repair Café is coming to PV June 4th?	4	5	44%



RESULTS SURVEY PV WEEKEND CENTENNIAL SEPT 2021

Number of Surveys

58

	12569	37
	12538	2
	12578	6
OTHER	13	58

	YES	MAYBE A LITTLE	NO	NO RESPONSE	COMMENTS	% of positive responses
--	-----	----------------	----	-------------	----------	-------------------------

Are you concerned about Climate Change?

42 12 3 1 58

72%

Do you want to know how to better prepare for the impact of Climate Change?

41 12 4 1 58 TOO POLITICAL

71%

Do you compost food waste?

23 23 11 1 58 JUMPING V

40%

Would you like to learn more about composting and its importance?

32 13 9 4 58 N/A SEE ABOVE

55%

Would you compost if it was convenient?

46 6 2 4 58

79%

Do you recycle?

57 1 0 0 58

98%

If yes, circle all that apply.

a) Trash X b) Plastics c) Returnable Bottles d) Cardboard & Paper e) All

51 2

Do you know the proper way to recycle, and what % of plastic actually gets recycled?

YES 24 MAYBE A LITTLE 16 NO 18 NO RESPONSE 0 COMMENTS

41%

Do you make an effort to use LESS PLASTIC when shopping?

47 10 1 0 58

81%

Do you use the Pleasant Valley Transfer Station? (DUMP)

YES 19 NO 35 RECYCL 4 COMMENTS

33%

Do you think a secure water source for our Town is important?

YES 54 MAYBE A LITTLE 2 NO 1 NO RESPONSE 1 COMMENTS

93%

Do you want to learn how to improve energy efficiency at home and business?

35 16 6 1 58

60%

Do you drive an energy efficient car?

15 1 42 58

26%

If YES, what type?

a) Hybrid 1 b) electric 42

6 2

APRIL 2022 SURVEY FROM EARTH DAY

Number of Surveys 9

	12569	10
	12538	1
	12578	1
OTHER		4
		16

	YES	NO	% of positive responses	NO ANSWER
Are you concerned about climate change?	15	1	88%	
Have you participated in an environmental event?	13	3	76%	1
Do you compost food waste?	8	9	47%	
If no would you compost if convenient?	7	0	88%	10
Do you currently make efforts to reduce plastic waste?	15	0	88%	
Do you want to make an effort to reduce plastic waste?	12		71%	2
Do you know, PV has a transfer station?	15	2	88%	
Do you know your carbon footprint?	3	12	18%	2
Do you want to learn how to improve the energy efficiency at home?	13	4	76%	
Would you like to learn about alternative heating sources?	11	5	65%	1
Do you know about Community Solar coming to PV?	8	8	47%	1
Do you a Repair Café is coming to PV June 4th?	9	8	53%	
Contact Info	11		65%	2

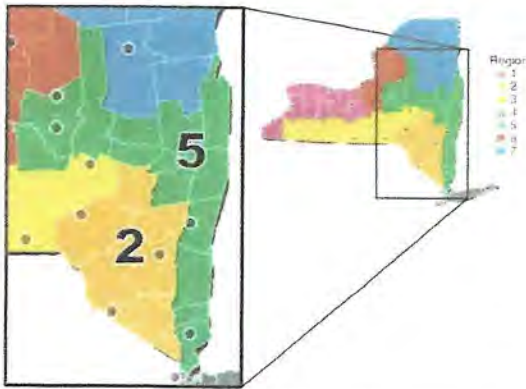
MAY 2022 NATIVE PLANTS AT LIBRARY

Number of Surveys		9
	12569	3
	12538	1
	12578	1
OTHER		4
		9

	YES	NO	% of positive r	NO ANSWER
Are you concerned about climate change?	8	1	89%	
Have you participated in an environmental event?	4	5	44%	1
Do you compost food waste?	5	4	56%	
If no would you compost if convenient?	2	1	22%	6
Do you currently make efforts to reduce plastic waste?	9	0	100%	
Do you want to make an effort to reduce plastic waste?	6	1	67%	1
Do you know, PV has a transfer station?	6	3	67%	
Do you know your carbon footprint?	9		100%	
Do you want to learn how to improve the energy efficiency at home?	8		89%	1
Would you like to learn about alternative heating sources?	5	3	56%	1
Do you know about Community Solar coming to PV?	1	8	11%	1
Do you a Repair Café is coming to PV June 4th?	4	5	44%	

**APPENDIX B**  
**HANDOUTS & FLYERS**

# Climate Adaptation: Inland Flooding



Greenhouse gas emissions trap solar radiation in the atmosphere, and the increased heat results in changes in typical temperature and precipitation. In Climate Region 5 of New York State, which includes the Town of Pleasant Valley, we can expect an increase in temperature, and an increase in total precipitation and the number of precipitation event. Below, see what precipitation event projections look like for Region 5.

PRECIPITATION PROJECTIONS FOR REGION 5	Baseline 1971-2000	2020s	2050s	2080s	2100
Total annual precipitation	51"	52" - 54.5"	53" - 57"	53.5" - 58.5"	53.5" to 61.5"
% Increase in annual precipitation	-	2 - 7%	4 - 12%	5 - 15%	5 - 21%
# Days with precipitation > 1"	10	14 - 15	14 - 16	15 - 17	*
# Days with precipitation > 2"	1	3 to 4	4	4 to 5	*

Source: <https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/hudson-river-estuary/climate-change-hudson-river-estuary/resources-resilience/climate-projections-nys/>

## How is the Town of Pleasant Valley adapting?



The Town conducted a climate vulnerability assessment to identify possible climate hazards, including increased frequency of high-precipitation events and the change in total annual precipitation.



The Town identified ways to protect Wappinger Creek, including shoreline restoration and conservation of nearby fields and floodplains, in its Farmland and Open Space Conservation Plan.

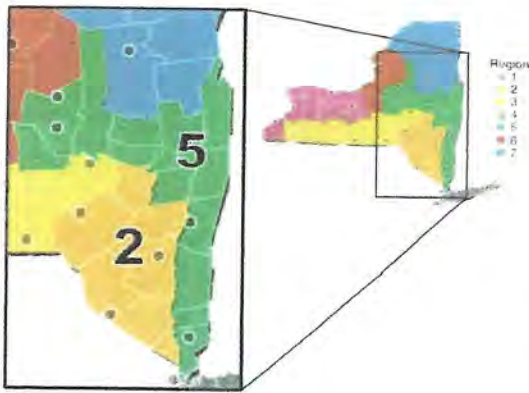


The Climate Smart Task Force is encouraging residents to amend backyard soil quality by composting, which can increase drainage.

## What you can do

Residents can adapt to increased precipitation events by raising utilities and critical systems to a higher point in their home; and buying backup generators for use in storms.

# Climate Adaptation: Heat Events



Greenhouse gas emissions trap solar radiation in the atmosphere, and the increased heat results in changes in typical temperature and precipitation. In Climate Region 5 of New York State, which includes the Town of Pleasant Valley, we can expect an increase in temperature, an increase in total precipitation and the number of precipitation events, and an increase in the number of heat waves and the number of days they last. Below, see what heat wave projections look like for the Town over the next century.

HEAT WAVE PROJECTIONS FOR REGION 5					
	Baseline 1971-2000	2020s	2050s	2080s	2100
# Days per year above 90°F	10	26 - 31	39 - 52	44 - 76	*
# Days per year above 95°F	1	2 to 4	3 to 10	6 to 25	*
# Heat waves per year	1	3 to 4	5 to 7	6 to 9	*
Average # days of each heat wave	4	5	5 to 6	5 to 7	*
# Days per year ≤ 32°F	155	127 - 136	104 - 119	84 - 109	*

Source: <https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/ HUDSON-RIVER-ESTUARY/climate-change-hudson-river-estuary/resources-resilience/climate-projections-nys/>

## How is the Town of Pleasant Valley adopting?



The Town conducted a climate vulnerability assessment to identify possible climate hazards, including increased frequency and length of heat waves, drought, and flooding.



The Town announces available cooling shelters during periods of extreme heat on Facebook and on [the town website](#).



The Town has adopted a policy to include shade structures in planning of municipal facilities to provide heat relief.

## What you can do

Residents can adapt to increased heat waves by planting trees and building shade structures over roofs and sidewalks, and sharing information about cooling centers.

# ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE



## The Air We Breathe

Actions taken to reduce air pollutants will improve air quality even as the climate changes. Actions that reduce (mitigate) greenhouse gas emissions can also yield adaptation benefits.



This article can be found at the EPA's website including links to further information, definitions, and more tips:

<https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/outdoor-and-indoor-air-adaptation-strategies-climate-change>

The reprint is compliments of the Pleasant Valley Climate Smart Taskforce

## Outdoor Air



A warming climate can worsen air quality which can aggravate lung diseases and lead to premature death.

Increases in ground level ozone (tropospheric ozone) pollution levels due to climate change may make it more difficult to attain or maintain ozone standards. This will need to be taken into account when designing effective ozone precursor emission control programs. For more on the causes of ground level ozone, and the difference between ground level ozone and the upper atmospheric ozone (stratospheric ozone) that protects us, see: [EPA's Ozone Pollution webpage](#).

Climate change may also increase particulate matter (PM) levels through changes in the frequency or intensity of wildfires. For information pertaining to regulatory requirements for NAAQS please visit the [EPA's Clean Air Act page](#).



## Indoor Air



Climate change may worsen indoor air quality through exacerbating existing problems –including from mold or exposure to contaminants- and introduce new ones from altering the frequency or severity of adverse outdoor conditions.

The following strategies represent voluntary outdoor and indoor air strategies that states, localities and consumers can pursue to help adapt to anticipated climate changes.

Actions that can improve air quality even as the climate changes include:



## Voluntary Transportation Tips

- **Reduce vehicle emissions** by encouraging smart growth development.
- **Choose a cleaner commute** — carpool, use public transportation, bike or walk when possible.
- **Combine errands** to reduce "cold starts" of your car and avoid extended idling.
- Be sure your **tires are properly inflated**.
- Keep car, boat and other **engines properly tuned**, and avoid engines that smoke.
- **Follow gasoline refueling instructions** for efficient vapor recovery. Be careful not to spill fuel and always tighten your gas cap securely.

## Household Tips



- **Use environmentally safe paints** and cleaning products whenever possible.
- Some products that you use at your home or office are made with smog-forming chemicals that can evaporate into the air when you use them. **Follow manufacturers' recommendations** for use and properly seal cleaners, paints, and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

## Simple Steps You Can Take Right Now

- **Look for the ENERGY STAR certification label on energy-efficient products, including**



appliances, lighting, heating and cooling equipment, electronics, and office equipment. Visit Product Finder to find products and where to buy them. In addition to saving you money on energy bills, many utilities offer rebates on ENERGY STAR certified products, which you can find through Rebate Finder. Some even offer federal tax credits.

- **Consider an ENERGY STAR certified house or apartment.** They are designed and built to standards well above most other homes on the market today.
- **Heat and cool your home smartly** by properly sealing and insulating your home; upgrading to ENERGY STAR certified windows, doors, and heating and cooling systems, including certified smart thermostats; and maintaining your heating and cooling equipment. For a whole-house systems approach, use the ENERGY STAR Home Advisor tool or Home Performance with ENERGY STAR. Also, consider other improvements such as rooftop gardens, cool roofs, and sustainable landscaping.
- **Conserve electricity.** Consider setting your thermostat a little higher in the summer and lower in winter. Participate in local energy conservation programs.
- **Take advantage of no-to-low cost energy-saving tips if you are on a budget or rent,** such as adjusting thermostats and turning off lights when space is unoccupied, unplugging electronics when not in use, using ENERGY STAR LED lightbulbs, adjusting window shades to reduce heating and cooling requirements, and installing programmable thermostats.
- **Switch to green power** generated from renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydropower. You can also consider rooftop solar or other self-supplied green power. Visit EPA's Power Profiler to learn about the air emissions impacts of your locally provided electricity.
- **Consider using gas logs instead of wood.** If you use a wood-burning stove or fireplace insert, make sure it meets EPA design specifications. Burn only dry, seasoned wood.

## Lawn and Garden Care Tips



**Mulch or compost leaves and yard waste.**

### Benefits of Composting

- Enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests.
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilizers.
- Encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich nutrient-filled material.
- Reduces methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint.

### Composting Basics

All composting requires three basic ingredients:

- Browns - This includes materials such as dead leaves, branches, and twigs.
- Greens - This includes materials such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds.
- Water - Having the right amount of water, greens, and browns is important for compost development.

Your compost pile should have an equal amount of browns to greens. You should also alternate layers of organic materials of different-sized particles. The brown materials provide carbon for your compost, the green materials provide nitrogen, and the water provides moisture to help break down the organic matter.

Please see our composting display for more information.



shutterstock.com - 647564230

### **Days when particle pollution is expected to be high:**

- Reduce or eliminate fireplace and wood stove use.
- Avoid using gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Avoid burning leaves, trash and other materials.

### **Days when ozone is expected to be high:**

- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Choose a cleaner commute — car pool, or use public transportation.
- Refuel cars and trucks after dusk.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.
- Limit engine idling.
- Use household, workshop, and garden chemicals in ways that keep evaporation to a minimum or try to delay using them during poor air quality days.

## Weatherization & Ventilation



It is essential to maintain proper ventilation to maintain healthy indoor environments. Proper ventilation is essential for moisture control and to dilute pollutants generated indoors.



Weatherization or retrofitting may include:

- installing storm windows
- weather stripping
- caulking
- insulating your home

It should also include an assessment of the ventilation required, and adjustment to the ventilation if needed, to accommodate weatherization changes in the home.



You can be the change. How many of these action are you doing already? What could you add tomorrow?

Plant a Tree

Visit [www.pvclimatesmartny.org](http://www.pvclimatesmartny.org)

Dry clothes without a dryer

Write or lobby elected officials

Get an Energy Audit

Install LED Lights

Insulate your water heater

Vote for candidates that support sustainable policy actions

Recycle, Reduce, Reuse

Compost

A meatless meal a week

Turn off water when brushing teeth

Wash clothes in cold water

Take Shorter showers

Transition to renewable energy

Buy energy efficient appliances

Look into energy efficient vehicles

Drive 1 less Trip per week

Combine errands to one trip

Buy Local

Install a programable thermostat

Talk about climate change with family and friends

Check your tire pressure

Use a reusable metal drink bottle

Turn off the lights

Install double glazed windows







# Building a Rain Barrel

## - as easy as 1, 2, 3! -

These instructions offer a low cost, simple method for collecting rain water. You can use your choice of materials to make a unique rain barrel suited to your home.

### Materials:

- 55 gal Food grade barrel
- 1 1/2" & 3/4" Bulkhead Fittings
- 3/4" Ball Valve Faucet
- Teflon tape
- 1 1/2" Overflow Adapter
- 1 1/2" Hose (at least 6')
- 1/8" screen(8" x 8") & 2-6" flower pots
- Downspout Connector and Screws

### Tools:

- Drill
- 5 1/2" Hole Saw (or jig saw)
- 1 3/16" Drill Bit
- 1 1/2" Hole Saw
- Rasp or round file
- Rubber mallet
- Flat Head Screw Driver



1. Clean the barrel. Use 1/4 cup of vinegar and rinse your rain barrel out thoroughly to remove previous contents. Do not use bleach as it is harmful to the environment and storm drains.

2. Use a 5 1/2" hole saw or a jigsaw to cut a hole in the top of your barrel for the downspout inlet.

3. Drill an 1 1/2" hole at least 4" from the base of the barrel, for the bulkhead fitting and faucet.

4. Drill a 3" hole, 6" from the top of the barrel, 90 degrees from the faucet for the over flow.



1. Insert the 3/4" male bulkhead fitting through the corresponding hole from the inside, thread and tightly secure the female fitting from the exterior. Use a long stick (ie. hockey stick) wrapped with tape, sticky side out, to hold the male bulkhead fitting inside the barrel.

2. Wrap faucet threads tightly with teflon tape and twist in the treaded faucet into the bulkhead fitting.

3. Insert the 1 1/2" male bulkhead fitting through the corresponding hole from the inside, thread and tightly secure the female fitting from the exterior.

Instructions provided in partnership between Element Eco-Design and the RDNO  
For more information contact the Regional District of North Okanagan-Greater Vernon Water at  
250-550-3700 or visit [www.rdno.ca/water](http://www.rdno.ca/water).



# Building a Rain Barrel

## - as easy as 1, 2, 3! -



1. Place the rain barrel on the prepared site.
2. Attach a hose to the overflow to direct water away from your home. Insert flower pot into the 5 1/2" hole in the top. Set an 8"x 8" screen into place and place 2nd flower pot inside.
3. Cut the downspout 14" above the top of the rain barrel, secure a flexible downspout attachment and make minor adjustments as necessary. Check to ensure that all fittings are secure.

### Where to put your Barrel:

- Choose a location close to a downspout
- Clear an area the size of the barrel you plan to install and level the ground
- Create an elevated structure to create more water pressure, ensuring the structure can safely hold the 200 pound weight of a full barrel. Two cinder blocks are strong enough.

### Rain Barrel Tips:

- Do not use rain barrels for drinking water
- Ensure the barrel is made from food grade materials. Used barrels are an in-expensive and environmentally-friendly choice.
- Screen or close any openings to keep out pests and mosquitoes
- Before the temperature drops below freezing disconnect and empty the rain barrel, leaving the faucet open, to prevent ice damage.

### Multiple barrels make sense:

Most rain barrels hold about 217 litres (about 55 US gallons) while a 2000 sqft roof can collect over 800 litres of rain during a heavy rainfall. On average in Vernon, over 5200 litres could be collected during the month of July. Residential outdoor water use in July is about 580 litres per day which adds up to a whopping 17,409 litres a month - rain could cover 30% of that water use!

Instructions provided in partnership between Element Eco-Design and the RDNO  
For more information contact the Regional District of North Okanagan-Greater Vernon Water at  
250-550-3700 or visit [www.rdno.ca/water](http://www.rdno.ca/water).

# Carbon Footprint Worksheet

**Instructions:** Answer the questions below, then fill in the corresponding values on the far right. Tally the values to find your carbon footprint. Only fill in one value for each question, unless otherwise stated.

Ex. Do you turn off the lights when you leave a room?		
a. Yes	a. 133	<u>133</u>
b. No	b. 268	_____

- |   |         |       |
|---|---------|-------|
| 1. How do you get to school/work?                                   |         |       |
| a. walk   | a. 0    | _____ |
| b. bike   | b. 0    | _____ |
| c. car  | c. 1115 | _____ |
| d. bus  | d. 131  | _____ |
| e. carpool  | e. 459  | _____ |
| 2. Do you eat mostly...   |         |       |
| a. fast food/takeout  | a. 4818 | _____ |
| b. home cooked food   | b. 629  | _____ |
| 3. Do you eat mostly...   |         |       |
| a. vegetables/fruits  | a. 153  | _____ |
| b. meat   | b. 644  | _____ |
| c. bread  | c. 364  | _____ |
| 4. Do you turn off lights when you leave a room?                    |         |       |
| a. yes  | a. 133  | _____ |
| b. no   | b. 268  | _____ |
| 5. Do you unplug appliances/chargers when not in use?               |         |       |
| a. yes  | a. 9    | _____ |
| b. no   | b. 18   | _____ |
| 6. How do you dry clothes?  |         |       |
| a. hang to dry  | a. 0    | _____ |
| b. dryer  | b. 750  | _____ |
| c. both   | c. 375  | _____ |
| 7. Do you turn off the water when brushing your teeth?              |         |       |
| a. yes  | a. 34   | _____ |
| b. No   | b. 274  | _____ |
| 8. Do you turn off the TV when you're not watching it?              |         |       |
| a. yes  | a. 47   | _____ |
| b. no   | b. 140  | _____ |
| 9. Do you turn off your video game system when you're not using it? |         |       |
| a. yes  | a. 29   | _____ |
| b. no   | b. 90   | _____ |
| c. don't have/use one   | c. 0    | _____ |
| 10. Do you recycle? (for this question, select all that apply)      |         |       |
| a. magazines  | a. -15  | _____ |
| b. newspaper  | b. -90  | _____ |
| c. glass  | c. -7   | _____ |
| d. plastic  | d. -19  | _____ |
| e. steel & aluminum cans  | e. -86  | _____ |

**Add together the values in the far right column and report here:**  
*Use the workspace on the next page to do your work.*

Work space:

This total is your “carbon footprint” in the number of pounds of carbon dioxide per year. The lower the number, the fewer greenhouse gasses are emitted into the atmosphere.

Review your choices in the survey. **What changes can you make in your life to reduce your carbon footprint?** Try to make some of these changes in the next week. Use the space below to engineer a plan to reduce your carbon footprint.

Things I will turn off:

How I will get to school:

What I will eat:

How much I will use electronics:

What I will recycle:

Other things I will do:



# Best Ever Compost

## Just Follow the Recipe!

Composting is like baking a cake. Simply add the ingredients, stir, "bake," and out comes—compost!



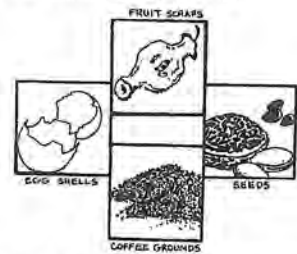
Whether you compost kitchen wastes or yard and garden wastes, there are a few basic steps to follow. Here are the necessary ingredients and general directions for composting.

## Ingredients

### Kitchen Compost

Add a mixture of some or all of the following ingredients:

- vegetable peels and seeds
- fruit peels and seeds
- coffee grounds
- egg shells
- nut shells
- any other vegetable or fruit scraps



**(Do not add meat scraps, bones, dairy products, oils, or fat. They may attract pesty animals.)**

### Yard or Garden Compost

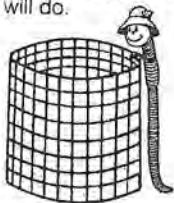
Add a mixture of some or all of the following ingredients:

- hay or straw
- grass clippings
- leaves
- ashes
- sawdust
- wood chips
- weeds and other garden waste
- manure
- shredded paper

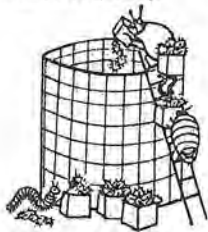


## Directions

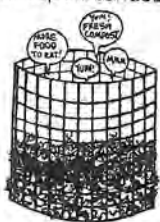
1. Choose a "pot" for baking your compost. Any type of composting bin will do.



2. Place kitchen or yard wastes into the composting bin. Chop or shred the organic materials if you want them to compost quickly.



3. Spread soil or "already done" compost over the compost pile. This layer contains the microorganisms and soil animals that do the work of making the compost. It also helps keep the surface from drying out.



4. Adjust the moisture in your compost pile. Add dry straw or sawdust to soggy materials, or add water to a pile that is too dry. The materials should be damp to the touch, but not so wet that drops come out when you squeeze.



5. Allow the pile to "bake." It should heat up quickly and reach the desired temperature (90° to 140°F, or 32° to 60°C) in four to five days.



6. Stir your compost as it bakes if you want to speed up the baking time.



7. The pile will settle down from its original height. This is a good sign that the compost is baking properly.



8. If you mix or turn your compost pile every week, it should be "done," or ready to use, in one to two months. If you don't turn it, the compost should be ready in about six to twelve months.

9. Your "best ever compost" should look like dark crumbly soil with small pieces of organic material. It should have a sweet, earthy smell.



10. Feed compost to hungry plants by mixing it with the soil.



Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Helping You Put Knowledge to Work

## RECYCLED CONTAINER GARDENING

Gardening is a great hobby, and for those of us who have been doing it for years, love it, and find it very rewarding. You can save money, lower your grocery bill, and have fresh vegetables and lettuce everyday all summer long, when you need it. There are many other benefits too. Planting from seed, allows you to grow unique varieties of plants that the big box stores or local nurseries don't necessarily offer. However, the best plants to grow should be native plants, which are plants that grow best in our area and support the birds, bees insects and butterflies in our area.

### Materials for Container Gardening

1 Cardboard box  
1 heavy duty contractor bag  
Heavy duty guerrilla tape/or duct tape  
Small spray bottle of isopropyl alcohol  
Clean rag (washcloth, old dishtowel)

**Self Wicking Garden Container.** Open up the Garbage bag. (We are now encasing the entire box in the bag). Place bottom of bag in the bottom inside of box. Leave some extra down in the bottom of the box. Then pull up the sides of the bag, push it towards the sides of the box, fold the bag over the top and down the outsides and turn the box upside down and fold the plastic on the bottom of the box like you were wrapping a gift. The box is now completely covered.

When you get the bag all folded down on the bottom, spritz the plastic on the bottom with the alcohol and wipe dry so the tape will adhere better to the plastic. Then Tape the folds in place on the bottom, and flip it over, and you are done. You now have a growing container that is completely enclosed in the plastic. You can put it outside with out any problems. The box is completely protected from the weather and should last you all season, and perhaps even the next year. With no drainage hole, this is a Self Wicking Garden Container

**Traditional Garden Container with Drainage** Now we will make the drainage hole.

Turn with box over, right side up, and you will see the extra plastic we left inside on the bottom of the box. Pull up the extra plastic and shove to one side. Turn the box on its side, and decide where to place the drainage hole. The hole should be in the middle & about 1" up from the bottom of the box. When you are sure of the placement of the hole, prepare the plastic for a piece of tape about 5" long. This will go on where the hole will be drilled and down onto the bottom. Make sure the inside liner is moved away from that side of the box when you drill. (Prepare the taped area with isopropyl alcohol. Now drill a 5/8" hole thru the tape, the outside plastic liner and the cardboard.

Turn the box right side up. Take hold of the plastic on the inside of the box, and with your finger you are going to shove some of this plastic thru the hole.. You may want to twist the plastic that you are holding to make sort of a point, then try to push the plastic thru the hole to the outside. Do not tear a hole in the plastic. When you have a little bit stuck thru the hole, pull it out gently to the outside, till it sticks out 3-4 inches. Tape the piece sticking out, in place so it stays away from the box. Then cut a tiny hole in the end of the piece sticking out. Put some water in the box and make sure it drains thru the hole away from the box.

Below is the utube video to watch for more info.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ff3803qInY>

## DIY Seed Starter Containers

### Toilet paper or paper towel rolls or egg carton

- Cut the toilet paper roll in half
- Make four cuts in the roll, 1/3 of the way up
- Fold in the bottom like you would close a box
- Fill them with a light potting soil, pack it down with your thumbs.
- Add your choice of seed, planting to their proper depth.
- Place the planted pots in a watertight container and give them a good watering. You want to completely soak the paper roll and keep it wet the entire time they are growing. I recommend a plastic lettuce container with a lid. It acts like a HOT HOUSE, keeps the seeds moist and warm.
- Once they germinate, open the lid slightly so they get air and don't rot. . They will need air circulation, otherwise, the toilet paper seed pots may mold.

### Plastic containers from store (lettuce, muffin, rotis.chicken etc.)

- Wash container. (Top & bottom)
- Poke small holes in bottom for drainage. (glue gun, soldering iron, melts plastic, doesn't crack or break it)
- Place bottom in a tray so water doesn't leak out. (Styrofoam, aluminum, glass etc)
- Fill ¾ full with dirt (seed starter, potting soil, etc)
- Drop seed into container and push down ¼" into soil, (follow seed packet instructions, cover seed. (put 2 -4 seeds in each pot depending on how big the container is, not every seed will germinate.)
- Spritz with a spray bottle of water until soil is saturated (don't drown the seeds)
- Cover the container with a clear plastic lid, or a plastic bag and place in a warm room. (They don't need sun until they germinate)
- Check on the seeds every day and watch to see if seeds are sprouting.
- If you think they are too wet, lift the top and let them get some air. You may need to take the lid off completely. But put back on until they sprout.
- You can use tooth picks to keep the lid up, but not off.
- Once the growth is touching the lid, remove the lid, and put the containers in a sunny window. (Keep then watered, you can continue to spritz with spray bottle)
- Turn the container every 2 days so the plants don't bend toward the sun.

When it is warm outside, you should start hardening your seedlings. Put them outside in indirect light, not direct sun, & not in the heat of the day. They are not used to direct sunlight, and they will burn. Put them outside each day, early in the morning, or late afternoon, for an hour or so, then bring them back in. Repeat this every day, but leave them out a little longer each day. Make sure you water them. When they are big enough, you can transplant them into your garden containers.

However, the birds, squirrels, & chippys, like to eat new seedlings, you may want to put your containers up on a table, or near the house until they are big enough and don't look so inviting to the critters.



# Pollinator Pathway

For

## PLEASANT VALLEY

Establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies and birds.

# JOIN THE PATHWAY

The smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway. It is FREE.

For more information and receive their newsletter, [info@pollinator-pathway.org](mailto:info@pollinator-pathway.org) or visit [pollinator-pathway.org](http://pollinator-pathway.org)



**NEW YORK**  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

**Climate Smart  
Communities**

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) is a New York State program that supports local governments in leading their communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and adapt to the effects of climate change. The CSC program began in 2009 as an interagency initiative of New York State; the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) acts as the main administrator of the program.

By taking the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, a community expresses its commitment to taking action on climate change and is designated a Registered Climate Smart Community. Becoming a member of the CSC program is free and voluntary; there are no fees or legal requirements. Registered communities have made a commitment to act by passing the CSC pledge which Pleasant Valley did in 2016.

The Climate Smart Communities Certification Program is a set of actions wherein a community strives to complete, through a Climate Smart Community Task Force, actions that mitigate and adapt to climate change on a local level. Each community defines its own best strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resiliency to the impacts of climate change, save taxpayer dollars, improve community public health and safety, support a green innovation economy, and demonstrate leadership, cutting energy use, reducing emissions and adapting and mitigating climate change.

Certified Communities are the foremost leaders in the state; they have gone beyond the CSC pledge by completing and documenting these actions. They benefit their communities through the following CSC resources:

- Receive funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation programs via the DEC CSC Grant program.
- Reduce the cost of clean vehicles and associated charging/fueling stations via the DEC Municipal Zero-emissions Vehicle Rebate program.
- Receive free technical assistance for clean energy and climate change initiatives from regional coordinators.
- Discover online guidance and decision-support tools via web pages.
- Learn about best practices through CSC webinars.
- Network with like-minded community leaders at CSC events and workshop.

By implementing certification actions, communities experience the following local benefits:

- Cost savings through greater efficiency
- Greater energy independence and energy security
- Improved air quality from switching to clean energy
- Healthier, more walkable urban centers 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 hometowns

# JOIN ME IN GOING IDLE-FREE

**\$11 MILLION DOLLARS**  
IS WASTED BY UNNECESSARY IDLING  
IN THE U.S. EVERY DAY



## 4 REASONS TO STOP IDLING

### IT SAVES YOU MONEY

Due to advances in technology, letting a vehicle idle for more than 10 seconds burns more fuel than turning it off and restarting. This means we each buy two to five tanks of gasoline per year that we never use to get to our destinations. You waste money when you sit idle.

### IT MAY SAVE YOU A TICKET

Anti-idling regulations are being passed at a furious pace around the country. If it's not illegal to idle in your area yet, it may be soon. Fines can be as high as \$15,000.

### IT HELPS THE PLANET

Breathing exhaust fumes is linked to increases in asthma, allergies, heart and lung disease, cancer, and autism. Kids are especially vulnerable because they inhale more air per pound of body weight.

### IT'S BETTER FOR YOUR CAR

Idling can damage engine components. When idling, a car's fuel is only partially combusted because the engine isn't at peak temperature. This causes fuel residue to build up on cylinder walls, which can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.

**10 SECONDS OF  
IDLING WASTES  
MORE FUEL THAN  
RESTARTING**



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**TURN IT OFF**

**WWW.ITURNITOFF.COM**



**SUSTAINABLE**  
— AMERICA —



Sticker Give Away

**APPENDIX C**  
**EVENT REPORTS & ARTICLES**

## Sandra Larkin

---

**From:** Jean Curlee <jfcurlee@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 26, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin; Meta Plotnik; Mary Albrecht; Ellen Kutner; Kay Saderholm; Pamela Lovinger; Deborah Glynn; Pat Smith; Alan Berkowitz; Dan Degan; Marsmuse74@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Jean Curlee  
**Subject:** Composting at Summer Camp

On July 22, 2021, I presented A Composting activity with ten third and fourth graders at Pleasant Valley Camp Sunny Days.

The first thing I did was put two large tin dishes in the middle of the table, one with Compost and one with dirt and asked them to feel the texture. There was a huge difference, and they were amazed. The dirt was hard, had big lumps, stuck to your fingers and was *yucky*. The compost was soft, crumbly and didn't stick to your hands. Next we talked about **COMPOST CRITTERS** that helped the dirt become compost. I showed a picture of the critters, many kids were excited to tell me they had seen them or had held them in their hands. They loved talking about them.

The next step was having each child make their own compost layers in a small jar. I passed bins with the following ingredients around the table. and the kids filled their jar with them.

Layer 1 - Base - Twigs & sticks broken into small pieces

Layer 2 - BROWN - Shredded newspaper & brown paper bags

Layer 3 - GREEN - Dried grass clippings mixed with dried crushed leaves

Layer 4 - BROWN - DIRT

Layer 5 - WORMS - They each picked one with their fingers and wanted to name it. They loved the wiggly worms.

Layer 6 - GREEN - Kitchen Scraps (cut into small pieces for use in small jar)

Layer 7 - BROWN - Dirt

Layer 8 - GREEN - Grass clippings and a small drop/spritz of water.

A piece of netting was put on top of the jar, held in place with a rubber band. They were each given a lid to put on for taking the jar home, but were told to take the lid off at home, place the jar in a cool place, not in the sun, and observe. I also gave out a Best Ever Compost sheet, from

the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and on the back were the Compost Layers (brown,green) and a list of types of Green and Brown items and what NOT to compost.

They each got a label to write their name on and put on their jar so they could take it home. The counselors also participated in the activity.

The Climate Smart Task Force plans to repeat this at the 200th Anniversary of Pleasant Valley in September.

Jean Curlee

Pleasant Valley Climate Smart Task Force

--

Pleasant Valley Bicentennial Weekend  
September 17, 18, 19, 2021

The Pleasant Valley Climate Smart Task Force held an Informational Event at the Town's Bicentennial Weekend. Our goal was to educate everyone on our mission and a few of our current projects.

In our Climate Smart booth we had a large display on Plastic Alternatives; an oversized World Map showing the Great Pacific Garbage Patch; the map was surrounded by many significant pictures of plastic trash and garbage on beaches & vacant lots, fish & turtles caught in ocean plastic. We also created our own very large pile of single use plastics with signs stating the dire statistics on plastics production, how much plastic was actually recycled and plastic packaging use. The plastic alternatives displayed actual items that could be used instead of plastic. Some of the alternatives were: for the lunch box, compostable picnic goods, bamboo tooth brush and utensils, up-cycled bags to use for buying loose produce and suggested uses for cereal bags.

We had a Climate Smart Questionnaire. We asked many questions about Climate Change, Recycling, Composting, Plastic use, Energy efficiency for the home & business and the importance of a secure water source for our Town. We had 58 responses to the questionnaire, and the results are attached along with the questionnaire.

We posted a sign "Ask about A Repair Café" and a "Repair Café Interest" signup sheet. We were delighted at the response, 22 people signed up for more information. Due to the response, we have scheduled an Information and Interest meeting at the local library on November 8, from 6-8 PM.

There was a table set up to do Composting, people could learn how, do it themselves or just pick up informational sheets explaining what compost is, how it's done, what to compost and what NOT to compost and the various types of compost bins. The local Pleasant Valley Hardware Store gave us a display Tumbler Compost Bin to show how easy composting can be. We explained this tumbler was available to order at the hardware store, which resulted in 4 being ordered. We had plenty of composting supplies, so we did some samples in clear containers so people could see the different layers of the compost in the containers.

We also had a container of the invasive Asian Jumping Worms, and an information sheet on the worms. Most people had never heard of them, and had no idea of the damage they do, and could not believe they were found in yards here in Pleasant Valley.

There was a kids table that offered FREE coloring books and crayons for kids. The coloring books were educational and explained Energy Use and Recycling in a fun way so children could understand the importance of the subjects.



During the 3 days of the Bicentennial event, the Climate Smart members talked to many people, most of them Pleasant Valley residents, but some from neighboring towns. We learned many things:

1. Many people did not know about our Climate Smart group, were interested and some actually wanted to become a member or help as a volunteer.
2. Apartment dwellers would like to do composting, but don't because they don't have anywhere to do it. There is no Community Composting in Pleasant Valley. However, we are working on that initiative.
3. A Repair Café is wanted and needed in Pleasant Valley.
4. Community Composting is needed in Pleasant Valley.
5. The Plastic Problem is everywhere, people are aware, most want to help, but don't know what to do about it.
6. People are concerned about Climate Change, want more information, want to help, but don't think they can do much.

## Pleasant Valley Earth Day 2022 Report

It was a beautiful sunny Saturday, April 23 for the Earth Day Cleanup and Climate Smart Celebration held the front parking lot of the Pleasant Valley Town Hall.

Registration began at 8:30 with bags, brightly colored vests, gloves & pickers for everyone who wanted to clean-up the town. The event officially started at 9 am, with information booths, demonstrations, plant give-a-ways and community organizations.

The Climate Smart Task Force worked with the Town Clerk, Recreation, Highway Superintendent to organize the event, notify the schools, businesses and organizations and promote the event.

Climate Smart had many booths with information about the following:

- composting and 2 sample composting bins
- the importance of native pollinator plants and samples to give-a-way
- Info about rain barrels and how to make your own
- solar information - roof top and community solar
- the problem with plastics everywhere, oceans, lakes, landfills, fish, wildlife, cosmetics and our bodies
- how to adapt and mitigate changes in temperature and air
- what you as an individual can do to mitigate and adapt to climate change
- how to reduce your energy consumption
- activity book giveaway on energy usage
- Tire pressure gauge giveaway
- Earth to Table – natural food alternatives
- Kids DIY craft table making recycled trash into treasure

Scout Troop 55 was also there to collect recycled bottles, as well as cleanup. Habitat for Humanity – Restore was on hand for their annual Donation Drive collecting furniture and kitchen stuff for the homes they recently built or renovated. Both were very pleased with what they collected and hope to be back next year.

The Debris collected is as follows:

62 Garbage Bags – many were taken directly to the dump and are not included in the final count.

Miscellaneous not in bags: 1 soccer ball, 3 tires, 1 large piece of metal, 1 broken Pine Hill Sign, 1 shopping cart.

28 families signed up, 1 came from Poughkeepsie and one from Hyde Park.

In case you missed the article that appeared in the Northern Dutchess News, April 27, 2022, the article is included as is a copy of the flyer/poster.

There has been one follow-up /assessment meeting to discuss how to make Cleanup better next year, and it was decided to hold the event one week earlier (April 15, 2023) because most kids opening day sports events are held that same day.

# Pleasant Valley shows its 'climate smarts' in Earth Day celebration, clean-up

by Jean Curlee  
Pleasant Valley Climate Smart  
Task Force member

It was a beautiful, sunny day on Saturday, April 23, and the sun kept shining on the 52nd Annual Earth Day Cleanup and Climate Smart Earth Day Celebration in Pleasant Valley.

Groups and individuals arrived early for the 8:30 a.m. clean-up registration. They kept streaming in to register their clean up location and collect a vest, gloves, bag and picker. There was also coffee, snacks, and a large multi-use shopping bag compliments of Royal Carting filled with delights for the whole family.

The bag contained a folder filled with Climate Smart information on how families can do their part to adapt and mitigate climate change, adapt to the extreme heat, flooding and the air we breathe. A description of what a Climate Smart Community is and a list of upcoming climate smart events including information on creating a Pollinator Pathway in Pleasant Valley.

Also tucked inside the folder were seed packets donated by Adams Farms and a tire pressure gauge (keep those tires properly inflated to improve fuel efficiency) compliments of Climate Smart.

The cleanup crews (parents with kids in tow) arrived back after gathering their trash to report where they left their bags for the Town to pick up later that day. They reported lots of liter, plastic drink cups & bottles, coffee cups, masks, and

tires.

Attendees perused the Climate Smart information booths, which included information about composting; two different types of compost bins, one from Dutchess County Solid Waste Management, and a tumbler type that is available from the local hardware store. Another booth had the dangers of plastic in water, lakes, oceans and our own blood, and ways to mitigate the use of plastic. There was a native and pollinator plant table with info why it is important to use native plants and the importance of pollinators to save the bees, insects and butterflies, that have seen a huge decline in their population in the past 10 years. Without bees, means life without food for us. Bees are responsible for one in every three bites of food we eat.

A solar table, with a representative from Sun Common Solar, had information for residential solar and a sign up for a Community Solar project coming soon to Pleasant Valley. There was a rain barrel on display and information on how to make your own; information about the Pollinator Pathway, and how to create a friendly habitat for the pollinators in your own yard; there was info on the upcoming Repair Café on June 4, where you can bring broken items to the Repair Café and get them fixed for free. There was also a survey with simple questions so Climate Smart can bring info the community needs about adapting to climate change and Climate Smart future events.

There was also a very busy craft table



The Climate Smart booths featured information about composting as well as displays of different types of composting containers. Left: Alison Jolicoeur, owner and founder Beacon of Light Wellness, visits with Joe Baldwin of Earth to Table. Courtesy photos



## Celestino is new coordinator at ND Community Coalition

Expanding its community leadership and impact, the Northern Dutchess Community Coalition (NDCC) recently appointed Dora Celestino as coalition coordinator. In this role, she will be responsible for the management of program goals, objectives and activities, and will work collaboratively with volunteer coalition members and community partners to maximize participation in programs and activities that promote a substance-free lifestyle for local youth.

"We could not have chosen a better person for this role," said Crissy Groenewegen, agency director at the Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE), which oversees NDCC's activities. "Dora first started as a volunteer with CAPE's 'Teen Driving - A Family Affair program,' and quickly became engaged with the organization's prevention-focused mission and work with youth. This lends well with her strong love for our community and dedication to making it better for all who

call it home. Plus, her extensive management experience makes her the ideal choice to continue running NDCC at the highest level."

Prior to joining NDCC, Celestino honed her skills as an operations manager at a Level 1 Trauma Hospital in Westchester County. Outside of the office, Dora volunteers with several different organizations including as an ambassador for St. Jude's Children's Hospital and as a coach for a Special Olympics team.

Celestino holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Human Services and Business Administration from Palm Beach State College in Lake Worth, Florida. She has received numerous awards across her field including the CARE Award for Compassion and Outstanding Character and Cross Country's Best of the Best in Healthcare Presidents Award. She currently resides in Poughkeepsie with her husband of 31 years and three children.

where busy artists were taking trash and making them into treasure with Mama Bear and Debby, to take home, and some included more plants.

Earth to Table demonstrated natural food alternatives and information on food to grow that would make your body and soul feel good with samples galore. Joe Baldwin donates lots of farm fresh food to food pantries and believes good food is good health and wealth.

Scout Troop 55 was there to collect

recycled bottles, and also do clean-up, including Cady Field behind Town Hall.

Restore -Habitat for Humanity, was collecting furniture and kitchen wares to furnish the homes they build.

All in all it was a good day in Pleasant Valley. Roads were cleaned and the community came together to celebrate the Earth and learn how to keep it going for many years to come. Hope to see everyone at our Earth Day Celebration next year.

**ROOSEVELT CINEMAS**  
Rte. 9 Hyde Park 229-2000

**LYCEUM CINEMAS**  
Rte. 9 Red Hook 758-3311

**--STARTS FRIDAY--**

<p><b>--HELD OVER--</b></p> <p>The Bad Guys (PG) The Northman (R) The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent (R) Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (PG13) Father Stu (R) Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)</p>	<p><b>--HELD OVER--</b></p> <p>The Bad Guys (PG) The Northman (R) The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent (R) Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (PG13) The Lost City (PG13) Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (PG)</p>
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## Pleasant Valley Welcomes its First Repair Cafe

The sun was shining once again in Pleasant Valley on Saturday June 4th, this time over the inaugural Repair Café held at Town Hall on Main Street.

Repair Café is a local meeting place that brings together people with broken items and pairs them with repair coaches, also known as fixers, who have the expertise to make them work again.

The Repair Cafe idea was born in Amsterdam in 2009 and was brought to the Hudson Valley in New Paltz by volunteer organizer John Wackman in 2013. His dedication enthusiasm and success inspired others to launch Repair Cafe events in their local communities.

The mission of a Repair Café is to transform our throw-away economy one beloved item at a time. Reduce how much "stuff" goes into the waste stream, and to preserve traditional repair know-how and skills and pass them on to others. It is important to let the people who have this repair knowledge that they are valued. Repair Café's feed our curiosity about "the way things work" while having fun and creating community sustainability and resilience, [www.repaircafehv.org](http://www.repaircafehv.org)

Pleasant Valley's event was organized by local resident Jean Curlee. Jean was driven by the idea that, "If you repair a lamp, a CD player or a pair of trousers together with a previously unfamiliar neighbor, you look at that person in a different way the next time you run into them at the store. Jointly making repairs can lead to pleasant contacts in the neighborhood and sharing the repair knowledge." On Saturday she achieved just that.

The Repair Café brought together 13 fixers and over 30 broken treasures. Not bad for a first effort.

At 10 AM the registration table was set up outside the town hall doors and those in need of a repair were greeted by a friendly welcome from volunteers. Here the volunteers gathered information and directed visitors to the correct fixers.

Those in need of having their mower blades sharpened and balanced, garden tools, scissors, knives and even axes sharpened, or an old but beloved metal watering can needing mending, were directed to the fixers outside, Vince from Hopewell, Dave all the way from Schenectady and Bill, a local resident. If you needed a bicycle repair, you were also directed outside to Alexander, from Schenectady.

The lamps, toasters, mixers, vacuums, laptop, VCR, sound bar, fans and even a ceramic statue and a vintage umbrella were directed inside to fixers Milo, Chris, Fred, Dan, Tim, Frank, and Dave. Visitors came from near and far and yes, even the ceramic statue and vintage umbrella that needed some TLC, were given new life by fixers who can do more than just electronics.

Meanwhile a coat that needed a torn lining hand sewn, crochet bag that required some mending and a zipper that needed fixing were sent to local fixers Darlene and Barbara.

Standing in the big room and looking at the fixers busily tinkering, chatting about the treasures with their owners, asking each other for spare parts and advice, truly brought home the idea of community and sustainability.

Standing back outside happy faces were seen leaving the town hall with their fixed treasures as they stopped to grab a coffee and treat from the café all the while making small talk and sharing their Repair Café experience.

As 2 PM rolled around organizer Jean Curlee reflected on the day, "Above all, Repair Café just wants to show how much fun repairing things can be, and how easy it often is."

In case you missed Saturday's event and need a repair have no fear. The next Repair Café is scheduled for Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> and every other month on the first Saturday; October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jean and all the volunteers hope to see you there.

APPENDIX D  
LIBRARY COLLABORATION

**Sandra Larkin**

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**From:** Pleasant Valley Free Library <daniela@pleasantvalleylibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Pleasant Valley Free Library <danielapulice+gmail.com@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 1:20 PM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin  
**Subject:** Leaf it to us to provide awesome programs!!





We will provide all needed materials - blank cards and stationery, mailing envelopes with addresses and stamps, pens, pencils, markers, and more. Just bring your thoughts of thanks for your favorite helpers in our area!

\* This Great Give Back program is for all ages and abilities.

Join Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and the PV Climate Smart Task Force in collaboration with Sustainable Hudson Valley for Composting 101!



Learn about compost basics, the most successful techniques, selection and building of compost units, and uses for the compost you produce. Participants will also work together to make a small composting unit that will be raffled at the end of the program!

This program will be held on  
Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to reserve your space.



Join Holly Shelowitz, Culinary Nutrition Educator and Nutrition Counselor for Quick Bread Bake-Along Class on via Zoom! Together, we will prepare Firecracker Cornbread and Rosemary Savory Scones.

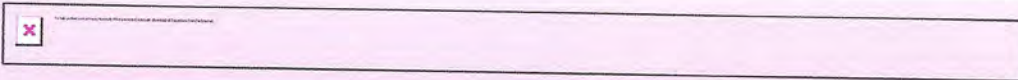
This class takes place on Zoom with live video so Holly is in her kitchen and you are in yours, cooking along together. Cook along or kick back and watch as Holly guides you step by step to create these delicious dishes. There will be some preparation prior to class to shop and have all ingredients ready so we can bake together. Simply set up your phone/ipad/computer in the kitchen so you can cook along.

Registration is required - space is limited to 10 people.. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

**Sandra Larkin**

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**From:** Pleasant Valley Free Library <daniela@pleasantvalleylibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Pleasant Valley Free Library <danielapulice@gmail.com@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin  
**Subject:** Rakin' in the fun at the library!!!



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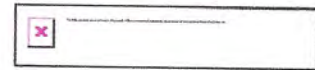
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## Disguise a Turkey Contest - the Ultimate Family Challenge!!

Calling all families!! The turkey needs a disguise to hide!! Help by dressing it up as a favorite book character. You can use any materials you like. Be creative!!



Contest rules: 1 turkey/household  
Families encouraged to work together  
Entries must be received at the library by  
**8:00pm on Wednesday, November 24th**

1st place: \$50 gift certificate to a local restaurant of your choice

2nd place: \$25 gift certificate to a local restaurant of your choice

Pick up your turkey and instructions at the library & have fun!!

## Coat Drive



In conjunction with the PV Rotary Club, the library will be collecting new or gently used clean coats from **November 1st until November 12th**. We

welcome all sizes/gender coats and they can be dropped off at the library during our operating hours.

elderberry syrup and discuss different ways to boost our immune systems and stay healthy this winter.

Each attendee will get a sample of elderberry syrup along with recipes and handouts to take home.

Registration is required. Please click the [here](#) to sign up.

## Repair Cafe Interest Meeting

The library is partnering with the PV Climate Smart Committee to assess community interest in a repair cafe. If you would be interested in volunteering your time and skill to help this effort, we will be meeting on **Monday, November 8th @ 6:00pm.**



Repairing in a Community is Powerful. People pooling their resources, sharing information and learning how to be more than just consumers. Learn to be a fixer and start to fix your town and the world.

Please click [here](#) to register.

## Friday Night Flicks

Join us on **Friday, November 12th at 6:00 pm** for a special edition of Friday Night Flicks for The Big Read as we watch **Daughter From Danang** - a documentary from 2002.



In 1975, as the Vietnam War was ending, thousands of orphans and Amerasian children were brought to the United States as part of Operation Babylift. "Daughter from Danang" tells the dramatic story of one of these children, Heidi Bub (aka Mai Thi Hiep), and her Vietnamese mother, Mai Thi Kim, separated at the war's end and reunited 22 years later.

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to sign up!

## How To Tell Your Story In Words and Pictures

In the spirit of the 2021 Big Read book, **The Best We Could Do**, a graphic novel written and illustrated by Tui Bui, we will create a short (6 – 8 pages) graphic narrative telling our own stories. Local writer and illustrator Michelle M. Mead will assist and help discuss and give examples of graphic storytelling on **Saturday, November 13th @ 12:00 pm.**



**Sandra Larkin**

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**From:** Pleasant Valley Free Library <daniela@pleasantvalleylibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Pleasant Valley Free Library <danielapulice+gmail.com@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2022 11:46 AM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin  
**Subject:** Spring into our library and enjoy some programs!!



# Pleasant Va Library



The Friends of the PV Library will continue to have an ongoing sale in our new building. It will be in the front reading room. They will be accepting donations again starting April 2nd. Please note that there will designated donation hours ONLY on

Please bring a water bottle, yoga mat and face lotion to class.

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

Fun make and take crafts for homeschool kids during the day and for kids after school!

Miss Julie will have an array of craft projects for school aged children, 5 and up, on



will be for preschoolers and homeschoolers ages 3 and up.

No registration is necessary, just stop by and have fun!!

One man has seen more of the natural world than any other. In this unique documentary, David Attenborough - the renowned biologist, natural historian, broadcaster, and author - shares his concern for the current state of our planet due to humanity's impact on nature, and his hopes for the future.



Join us on [Friday, April 15th, 7:00pm](#) as we partner with Pleasant Valley Climate Smart to launch their new monthly Pleasant Valley Climate Smart Movie Night with this acclaimed and timely film. Learn about Pleasant Valley Climate Smart's Task Force and their work to support our community in building a sustainable and balanced climate action program, one step at a time - and how you may be able to help!

Registration required. Please click [here](#) to register.



Join the PV Climate Smart Committee for this special container gardening program on

You will learn an easy way to start your plants from seeds, so you can save money on buying plants at the nursery. You will also learn how to make larger containers to grow your own tomatoes, lettuce, or your favorite flowers.

These planters can be used on your deck, patio or front yard, wherever you have 5-6 hours of sun. The plants you start from seed can then be transplanted into your larger containers and you can just enjoy your garden and the benefit of fresh vegetables or flowers.

What you need to bring to class:

1 - medium size cardboard box (liquor /wine box)

1 - Scissors

This program, brought to you by the Pleasant Valley Climate Smart Task Force, illustrates an easy way to help mitigate Climate Change.

Registration is required; space is limited. Please click [here](#) to register.

Join local resident Terry Champlin and Kati Garcia-Renart for a special after-hours Flamenco Guitar and Dance Performance on



Kati Garcia-Renart, Choreographer and Dancer, trained in Madrid, Spain, there she pursued research-based studies in Flamenco dance and pedagogy. She has performed in various venues in Spain and throughout the United States. She was the director of the Kaatsbaan Academy of Dance in Tivoli, NY, and was a long-time faculty member of Kaatsbaan's Extreme Ballet (summer

**Sandra Larkin**

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**From:** Pleasant Valley Free Library <daniela@pleasantvalleylibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Pleasant Valley Free Library <danielapulice+gmail.com@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 26, 2022 10:15 AM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin  
**Subject:** MAY your month be full of wonderful books and amazing library programs!!



## Recipe for Regeneration: Compost

Join us during International Compost Awareness Week, as we welcome Dutchess County Master Gardeners Cathy Lane and Kathy Smith to teach all the basics for backyard composting and so much more.

This program will take place on  
**Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30 pm.**





Yoga for your whole body.

Friday, May 6th from  
1:30 - 2:30 pm

OR

Monday, May 9th from  
6:30 - 7:30 pm

Learn how to engage the muscles in the face and neck to help firm and tone.

Remove toxins from your face and body by activating your natural immune support system.

Please note that the entire body will be engaged during class.

Please bring a water bottle, yoga mat and face lotion to class.

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

## Movie Night with PV Climate Smart

Join Pleasant Valley Climate Smart on **Tuesday, May 10th at 6:00 pm** to watch this informative and entertaining 2017 documentary, produced by Anthony Bourdain.



"Wasted" takes you around the world, showing the 1.3 billion tons of food that gets thrown out each year and the people fighting hardest to prevent it. Famous chefs will show how they make the most of every kind of food, transforming what most people consider scraps into incredible dishes that create a more secure food system.

Afterwards, members of Pleasant Valley Climate Smart's Task Force will lead a brief discussion of the movie, and will also talk about their work to support our community in building a sustainable and balanced climate action programs, one step at a time - and how you may be able to help!

Registration required. Please click [here](#) to register.

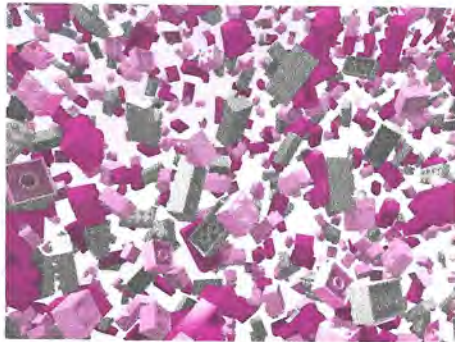


For the past 40 years, David and his wife Jean have lived in the Hudson Valley - where they can often be spotted working and dancing at the Jeanie Bean & Family Deli and Cafe in Clinton Corners, NY.

Copies of his book will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to Pleasant Valley Library.

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

## LEGO Days



No school? No problem!! Sign up to make a LEGO creation to be displayed within the library!

The theme is "Magnificent Month of May".

Sign up for either **Friday, May 20th from 1:00 - 2:30 pm** or **Friday May 27th from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.**

This program is for school-aged children 6 years and up.

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register for the day that works best for you.

## The Importance of Native Plants



PV Climate Smart will be at the library on **Tuesday, May 17th at 6:00 pm** to discuss the importance of native plants.

Native plants are essential if native birds, bees and butterflies are to survive and thrive. Learn about the problems with imported and invasive plant species and endless lawns, and how to make your

garden come alive with the many native plant species in our area.

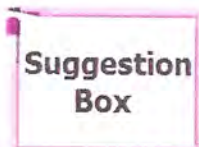
Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

Don't forget about our treasured monthly programs at the library!!!

- \*Book Discussion Group
- \*Brain Games
- \*Chair Yoga
- \*Chess Club
- \*D&D Night
- \*Flash Fiction
- \*Gentle Flow Yoga
- \*Mah Jongg
- \*Meditation
- \*Online Book Discussion Group
- \*Senior Exercise



Check our online calendar [here](#) for monthly dates and times for these popular programs.



## **Pleasant Valley Free Library**

1584 Main Street  
PO Box 633  
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
[pleasantvalleylibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasantvalleylibrary@yahoo.com)  
Phone: 845-635-8460  
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Pleasant Valley Library | 1584 Main Street, P.O. Box 633, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

[Unsubscribe.larkin@levyforecast.com](mailto:Unsubscribe.larkin@levyforecast.com)

**Sandra Larkin**

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**From:** Pleasant Valley Free Library <daniela@pleasantvalleylibrary.ccsend.com> on behalf of Pleasant Valley Free Library <danielapulice+gmail.com@ccsend.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:12 AM  
**To:** Sandra Larkin  
**Subject:** Enrich your life with our library programs!!!



Pleasant Valley  
Library

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## Crafterday

It's Crafterday! Join us on **Saturday, June 4th at 11:00 am** for a Rock Painting event!

Each attendee will paint two rocks - one for the Library's Community Rock Garden, and one to take home! All supplies will be provided - just bring your creativity.



This program is for ages 13 - 103!! Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.

## Kickoff Pizza Party!!

Wednesday, June 22nd from 5:00 - 7:00pm.



This year's summer reading theme is "Oceans of Possibilities"!! Kids, teens, and their families are welcome to join us for our Summer Reading Kickoff Pizza Party!!

Sign up for our reading program either on paper or online using READSquared, enjoy some delicious pizza from Madison's Pizza Cafe and Amore Pizzeria, and register for our events, classes and programs taking place this summer!!

## Museum Passes

We now offer a variety of free museum passes for library patrons!!!

Choose from: American Museum of Natural History, Boscobel, FDR Library & Museum, Guggenheim, Hancock Shaker Village, Mystic Seaport, Springfield Museums and Storm King.



Museum passes are by reservation and can be checked out for 1 week. Each pass has it's own rules so call the library or go to our website for more information.

## The Pollinator Pathway

Come to the Library on **Wednesday, June 8th at 6:30pm** to welcome Pleasant Valley Climate Smart for a presentation about Pollinator Pathway Northeast, a grassroots movement focused on establishing pollinator-friendly habitats and food sources for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinating insects and wildlife along a series of continuous corridors.





Stop by the Library every **second Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm** to enjoy acoustic guitar music performed by local resident Andrew Baffi.

Andrew currently lives in Clinton Corners and has been playing the guitar for most of his life. His passion is for the classical guitar.

In 2021 Andrew created a YouTube channel that contains a video playlist of classical guitar compositions that he recorded initially in an effort to reach out to those in his local community who were homebound but the channel has grown and now includes subscribers from all around the world. He calls the playlist "Welcome to my Living Room" and he posts a new video each day.

Andrew mostly plays at his church Calvary Chapel of the Hudson Valley in Lagrange, in local libraries, in nursing homes, and at the senior friendship centers throughout the county.

## Movie Night With PV Climate Smart

Join Pleasant Valley Climate Smart on **Tuesday, June 14th at 6:00 pm** to watch the PBS NewsHour special 'The Plastic Problem'.

Amna Nawaz and her PBS NewsHour colleagues look at this now ubiquitous material and how it's impacting the world, why it's become so prevalent, what's being done to mitigate its use, and what potential alternatives or solutions are out there.



Afterwards, members of Pleasant Valley Climate Smart's Task Force will lead a brief discussion of the movie, and will also talk about their work to support our community in building a sustainable and balanced climate action programs, one step at a time - and how you may be able to help!

Registration is required. Please click [here](#) to register.