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## MINUTES Climate Smart Committee Meeting 5/5/26

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**Attendance:** Vicki Michela, Michele Gorda, Peggy Kurtz, Marcy Denker, Harry Vetter, Paul Henjes, Frankie Lede

### Announcements

**Transportation Working Group Leaders** Vicki, Michele, and Paul have agreed to take the lead on transportation initiatives. They will meet with Steve and Marcy soon to review actions taken so far and set priorities. Maegan is not able to devote time to this right now, although she'll remain part of the working group.

### Updates

**Solar and Village Hall HVAC Projects** Three new solar projects will go out to bid shortly. Nyack Village Hall, Nyack DPW, and Head Start. Renovations are underway at Village Hall including a new heat pump HVAC system for the second floor, and new windows. The Village received substantial funding for these projects from the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program.

### **Leaf Blowers**

There are still residents and landscapers violating the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, and it appears the process for reporting violations is unclear and needs improvement. Some violations are reported to the building department and others to the village administrators, but if code enforcement officers follow up, they often arrive too late. Upper Nyack contacts the property owner. It was noted that EcoLandscaping, a large company that services a large apartment building on Gedney, is operating leaf blowers illegally.

**Food waste** – Rockland Green has obtained a grant to conduct a pilot curbside food waste program for single and small multifamily households in Nyack and Upper Nyack. Details are being worked out now, and the program is expected to start in September. The committee discussed how to enhance any outreach Rockland Green plans, including going door to door, placing mini signs in the green strip along the sidewalks, and text messaging.

### Battery Storage Webinar

Several members highly recommended the webinar that Sustainable Hudson Valley organized called *Solar, Batteries, the Grid, and Your Electric Bill*. [Here is the link](#) to the recording. Sierra Club will present a webinar on battery storage on June 15.

### Beyond Plastics

Susan Barclay from the Rockland Chapter of Beyond Plastics made a presentation to the Sierra Club and recommended contacting Speaker Heastie to urge passage of the *Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act*. [Here is a link to more info.](#) Peggy will share the recording.

### **Climate Law Challenges**

Governor Hochul has proposed delaying and weakening New York's Climate Law, as we discussed in March. If you are opposed to her proposal and or want to thank legislators who are resisting her on this, here is some basic language Peggy provided and contact info.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zmbCvRycxq0obgPLWt-hloOCdZ3P8SZ1QH2Nh12oVOU/edit?gid=36104239#gid=36104239>

### **Memorial Park Planting and Tree Stewardship**

Marcy has put out a call for volunteers to help create a new native plant garden at Memorial Park and plans to use the opportunity to promote the idea of the Park Commission, Climate Smart Committee, Nyack Pollinator Pathway and Nyack Tree Project working together to promote a strong community vision of natural resource protection. Saturday, May 9 from 9-11.

### **Tree Stewardship**

Nyack Tree Project is organizing volunteers to help with tree care tasks, including mulching, adding trunk yards, and some light pruning of young trees. Contact Marcy if you are interested in doing this from time to time. Peggy suggested organizing a workshop on pruning. Fall would be a good time for this. Marcy will contact the DEC forester.