

ENHANCED AND EXPANDED RECYCLING AND REUSE CENTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

Recycling and ReUse Center
Winter 2012

Sustainable New Paltz "Zero Waste Initiative"



New Paltz is an EPA zero waste partner community; one of only 13 communities selected in the nation for the EPA Zero Waste initiative pilot program. The Reuse Center plays a main role in New Paltz's mission to be a zero waste community and, will provide a public market place for reusable materials also, a means to keep these valuable commodities out of the waste stream. It will dramatically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions

and costs associated with their disposal.

The first Zero Waste interactive work group met on Wednesday, January 18th at the Town Hall to network, share ideas, and plan the next steps for the Zero Waste Initiative Action Plan. More than thirty attendees voiced concerns, shared ideas and discussed ways to make changes in day to day practices that would impact our economic, social, and environmental life styles.

On March 29th, 2012 New Paltz partnered with CREEO, SUNY Recycling Club, Catskill Mountainkeeper, New Paltz Chamber of Commerce, League of Women Voters, NYSDEC, EPA and many

other environmental organizations to receive input from the public on the next step towards its Zero Waste goals. More than a hundred people attended which resulted in the creation of six committees focusing on: Gardening, Composting and Biofuels; Alternative Energy; Sub-Urban Planning and Financing; Recycling Education and Compliance; Zero Waste Government; and, Green Businesses.

A Draft Zero Waste Action Plan has been drafted and is anticipated to be available for public comment early 2013. The Plan will establish written guidelines and goals for the creation of a sustainable community which will be shared with other communities across the nation.

Inside this issue:

Reuse Center "Con't"	2
Think Spring 2013	3
Green Your Holiday I	3
Fun Craft Ideas	3

Upcoming Workshops:

- January 26th, 2013 10am to 1pm - "Tool Fix It" workshop with Wolf Bravo, Ulster County Tool Share
- February 23rd, 2013 10am to 1pm "Container Gardening"
- March 9th, 2013 10am to 1pm "Vertical Gardening and Window Farming"
- April 13 2013 "Compost 101" 9am to 10:30am—\$10 per person and you receive a compost bin at the end of the class. Limited availability.

Grand Opening Held for New Paltz ReUse Center

The New Paltz ReUse Center was inspired by the Hudson Valley Materials Exchange (HVME) as a way to divert reusable materials out of the waste stream such as; discontinued tile, last year's fabric, and left-over building materials. The ReUse center affirms New

Paltz's commitment to sustainability and is a critical element in New Paltz Zero Waste Action Plan. Which is located on 3 Clearwater Road in the Town of New Paltz. Critical funding for construction of a permanent ReUse

Center building has been provided by NYSDEC with additional support from the US EPA.

These materials have been used by schools, artists, contractors, and handy-people at a fraction of the original

GRAND OPENING OF THE REUSE CENTER

cost, and aided the ReUse Center in its main waste initiative.

On October 24th the town of New Paltz staged a grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the grand opening of the New Paltz ReUse Building located at the New Paltz Recycling Center on Clearwater Road.

The 2,000-square-foot steel building is filled with materials rescued from manufacturers and homeowners that can be repurposed. Which are located inside the big green building are shelves filled with everything from old picture frames, phone cords, gift wrapping tubes, old lamps, windows, kitchen tiles and, large spools. All the items listed above are located on the shelves and, are potentially things that could have been placed in the landfill.

There are many ways the community will benefit from The Reuse Center, including providing a sustainable and low cost alternative for the purchase of building materials, art supplies, furniture for dorms, home decor and so much more. Another benefit is the community building that the Center will provide, including workshops on composting, creative repurposing, tool repair, etc. The Recycling and ReUse Center complexes also house New Paltz's food waste composting program that began with SUNY New Paltz as a pilot program and, has also grown to include local supermarkets in the region. The ReUse Center will be available for art shows, birthday parties, craft fairs, and other events.

The ReUse Center will be the key-feature of the future eco-village that we hope to build at this site which will include; permaculture demonstration gardens, rain-water harvesting, and a solar panel farm to provide renewable municipal electricity needed for our mission to be off the grid.

All students are encouraged to visit the ReUse Center and explore the treasures and possibilities that this exciting new community resource provides.

Town Supervisor, Susan Zimet stated "I have been a strong advocate and supporter of the ReUse Center and am thrilled to be involved in this critical effort to make New Paltz a model of sustainability for the whole country."

For Laura Petit, New Paltz's town recycling coordinator, having saved those items so people can reuse them means a lot but, the ReUse Center also didn't get built in a day. Students from SUNY New Paltz volunteered to help organize the materials as part of their "Make a Difference Day" and volunteers from the Ulster County Community Service Program moved the recycled items from trailers into the new center.

"This would not have happened if it wasn't for the volunteers, and EPA and DEC funding," Petit said. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation paid for 50 percent of the building's cost, while the town picked up the other half. The feds put down money for educational programming and staff at the ReUse Center in 2011.

Kimiko Link, Region II EPA Representative, was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. New Paltz is unique because it's one of only 13 communities participating in the EPA's Zero Waste initiative. "EPA is thrilled about the opening of this center," Link said. "We hope this serves as a model for all the other surrounding communities."

Kelly Drummond, the recycling coordinator for SUNY New Paltz, noted that the ReUse Center has some implications for cash-strapped students too. "I think this could be a really great asset to the campus

and the community," Drummond said. "With different art majors this could be really great. They could use the tiles for a mosaic or make a cool sculpture out of the items in there."

Supervisor Susan Zimet said opening the center showed a lot of "If that's not a change in thought process or a change in how we do business on a government level, I don't know what is," she added. "This building's amazing. What's in here's amazing." commitment on the community's part. "This is living proof of New Paltz's dedication to sustainability. This is it — right here, right now," the supervisor said.

The ReUse Center has already been a sort of unexpected boon for the town. Department heads have used the center like a department store, scavenging for useful items they would have otherwise had to purchase brand-new with taxpayer money. For instance, the New Paltz Police Department recently took three book-cases from Clearwater Road to use at the station, Zimet said.



GREEN HOLIDAYS

Rather than shopping the malls in your area for holiday gift ideas; why not take a peek at what your community has to offer? One individual's waste could be your goldmine! Why not check out the ReUse Center for materials that can be recreated into a unique gift. Your landfill will thank you! Clever crafters often find new ways to recycle old worn items, giving them a second life and purpose.

Also, remember that the ReUse Center has many materials available that will get your creativity flowing with options of hand-made, one-of-a-kind creations. You can also give a "coupon" for baby-sitting, mowing the lawn or, cooking dinner. The green options are limitless and will make the season special; Happy Holidays!



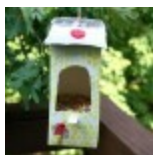
FUN CRAFTS FOR THE SEASON

House our feathered friends for the winter!

A very simple and easy craft for friends and family to do together!

Supplies needed:

Milk carton, used aluminum foil, box cutter/scissors, popsicle stick (for perch), paint, crayons and, most importantly your imagination!



Why not get a kick start on Christmas decorating?

Why spend the money on Christmas ornaments when what all the trees bare us are falling to the floor for our scavenger! Handmade ornaments aren't as hard as most individuals think. It's as easy going outside and finding acorns, pinecones, fresh leaves or which ever suits your fancy. Not only can you hand make your ornaments, you can also gather more supplies at your local recycling center to make centerpieces, garland and tinsel to help put you in the holiday spirit.



Fall Craft Project: Acorn Wreath

Apply fallen oak leaves to the wreath base using floral wire. Try to include some red, brown and green leaves if possible. Attach acorns in a random patterns, using hot glue. Use berries, pinecones, crab apples, chestnuts, walnuts, pecans or other small ornaments to work some color and texture into your design.



THINK SPRING 2013

Save your garlic?

With the cold slowly approaching everything green is now turning shades of orange and brown, including your flowers and vegetables! But you can begin planting for next Spring Take for example garlic. Before the ground freezes plant your garlic cloves root end (blunt end) down in rows 18" apart. Plant cloves 4" to 6" apart down the rows. Cover cloves with about 3-4" of soil. After you have planted, it is a good idea to mulch with up to 6" of leaves. Remove the mulch in the spring once frost danger is over. Water well and then only water again when the soil is dry. Remember, garlic loves water and food, but it must have good drainage or it will rot. If your garlic sends up a flower stalk in spring, snip it off, making the cut as close as feasible, or it might grow back. These flower stocks, called scapes (the curled tops of the garlic plant), are delicious in stir fry. They have a mild garlic taste and the texture of green beans. If you let the garlic go to seed, you will end up harvesting smaller bulbs. You can store your garlic in mesh bags (reuse onion sacks) in a cool dry area. The optimum storage temperature is 50°F, and the relative humidity should be below 60%. If some of your bulbs turn out onion-like (do not divide into cloves) you can eat them or use them as seed for next year.

Going green: Save yourselves gas this winter!

Winter Weight Loss-Lighten the load to increase your vehicle's gas mileage, and always remove snow and ice from the outside of your car before driving. Save the sand bags for the snow storms ahead.

Parking It-Parking your car in a garage during winter months keeps it warmer while it's not in use, so you can bring the engine to the optimal temperature more quickly. Proceed slowly for the first three miles of your tip; your entire car will reach peak temperature, but you won't waste fuel in the process.

Idle Pursuits-Running your car for 30 seconds sufficiently warms the engine enough to drive, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; anything beyond that simply wastes fuel! Allow the rest of your vehicle to warm up by driving it.

Plan Ahead-Maximize mileage by planning ahead for fuel-efficient driving. Try to schedule a car pool and use the most efficient route. Unless you expect to stay at one of your stops for an extended period of time, your vehicle's engine will stay warm enough for you to restart it and head to your next destination without interruption.

CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR OUR COMMUNITY

3 Clearwater Road
New Paltz, NY 12561
Phone: (845) 255-8456

E-mail: recycling@townofnewpaltz.org

*“RRReUse” Reduce, ReUse and Recycle
Everything and Use Green Products for
Sustaining the Environment.*

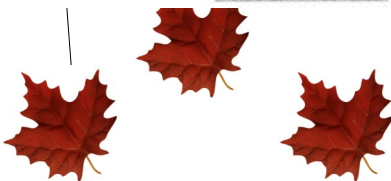
www.townofnewpaltz.org



FROM THE DESK OF SUSAN ZIMET



PHOTO CREDIT: MARLUS MEMBER



“New Paltz ReUse Center is designed to collect and store rescued materials. The objective is to create a “Zero Waste” program by setting up a model of a sustainability for future “green” community and Town projects.”

The goal is to reduce waste by connecting individuals who are throwing away goods with others who are seeking them. If you are remodeling your home consider donating your unused home improvement and construction materials so that another person can improve their home before disposing of them. Newer models of gently used doors and windows are also accepted. The idea is to help others improve their standard of living, while keeping usable materials out of the trash.



The three “R”s “RRReUSE”



Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Everything Else and
Use Green Products to
Sustain the
Environment

Susan Zimet was elected as New Paltz town supervisor, a position she held previously from 1996 to 1999. Susan served her fourth term as Ulster County Legislator and is now serving as New Paltz Town Supervisor.

“I have been a strong advocate and supporter of the ReUse Center and am thrilled to be involved in this critical effort to make New Paltz a model of sustainability for the whole country. For us, it should be a matter of doing the right thing for the environment. With that there is a more definite economic benefit: it can result in lower solid waste disposal costs, lower costs for supplies through materials collected at the ReUse center, and, as programs expand, offer green job opportunities. Recycling saves energy, fuel and reduces green-house gases.”

New Paltz was offered the opportunity to become part of the EPA Waste Wise Pilot Recruitment team and with their assistance has become a leader in waste reduction and reuse. The key to our success is using the systems we already have in place to their full extent. If we all pitch in, we can make a difference .