

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 leftover building materials. The ReUse center affirms New Paltz's commitment to sustainability and is a critical element in New Paltz Zero Waste Action Plan. It 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.

New Paltz was recruited by the Environmental Protection Agency to represent EPA Region 2's pilot zero waste partner community; one of only 13 communities selected in the nation. The Reuse Center plays a central role in New Paltz's mission to be a zero waste community and will provide a public market place for reusable materials and 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 ReUse Center will benefit the community in many ways 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 re-purposing, tool repair, etc. The Recycling and ReUse Center complex also houses New Paltz's food waste composting program that began with SUNY New Paltz as a pilot program and has 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 centerpiece of the future eco-village that we hope to build at this site, which will include permaculture demonstration gardens, rainwater 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.

Susan Zimet, Town Supervisor said "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."