

The first meeting since the beginning of the pandemic started with a moment's silence and remembrance of John Wackman, long time supporter of Kingston Transition, founder of the Repair Cafes in the Hudson Valley, co-author of Repair Revolution, and continuing presence, despite his untimely death, in our community. A generous soul who will be greatly missed.

The city of Kingston is revising its **Climate Action Plan** - today (1/14/21) at 5:30 is the virtual kickoff - Rennie Scott-Childress: "we want to get residents' input, compared to the previous plan which was very top down, more government initiatives. We want people to come with their priorities and suggestions. We are looking for proactive folks. <https://engagekingston.com/climate-action-plan> and hope everyone will take ten minutes to fill in a survey outlining their preferences/priorities" <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BZM7DS2>

One of our community's reaction to the pandemic is the **Kingston Mutual Aid** <https://www.kingstonmutualaid.org/> for information and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195204068593679/> Building relationships and exchanges that come from the relationships. Currently has a very active storage facility for bulky items as well as direct exchanges and a fund. Developing also **Neighborhood Pods** and an **Urban Garden Collective** that focuses on growing food - part of Live Well initiative. **Future Fruits** Project: Short Videos & Discussion on 1/25/21 <https://www.facebook.com/events/3579664878815201> in collaboration with Transition Woodstock, bringing fruit trees to the city of Kingston.

Find forms for volunteering and for requests for aid at <https://www.kingstonmutualaid.org/> or contact Erica Brown for more information.

Dumped Stray Animal Rescue <https://dumpedstrayanimalrescueinc.org/> Middletown based rescue working with stray animals, especially increasingly large colonies of stray, feral and abandoned cats. Working to mitigate their situation by trapping, neutering and releasing them and where possible re-homing non feral animals. Contact Mia at miazangl23@gmail.com

Susan Gillespie: Energy efficiency comes before buying heat pumps or solar panels, first we need to tighten up buildings. **Citizens for Local Power** <https://citizensforlocalpower.org/> runs interns program to help create energy efficiency job opportunities. Energy efficiency should be part of Climate Action Plans. We need programs to help fund making buildings and homes more energy efficient, (second highest cause of emissions) we need zero interest rates and reduced credit checks.

Chris Hewitt: Wearing another hat - Kerhonksen voted to be a Climate Smart Community. Regarding the HV Current as a local currency can connect makers and the community. Our shop **Tilda's at 630 Broadway** is an important part of that. tildaskitchenandmarket.com

Marbletown focus on helping **individuals, families and businesses reduce and even move from fossil fuels**. Sustainable Hudson Valley has a Ten Step approach to get off fossil fuels <https://sustainhv.org/100-renewable-marbletown/learn-10-cost-effective-steps/> Iris Marie Bloom (Marbletown Environment Conservation Commission Chair) has pledged to provide coaches/buddies to help those trying to reduce fossil fuel use, open to individuals and businesses who want to take the pledge. Contact Iris by text at 215 840 6489. They will be having monthly meetings.

NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program is about to launch its Phase Two program focussed on **ground source heat pumps**. Similar to the previous Solarize program, this will provide real benefits to participating communities. Contact Nick Hvozda at Ulster County Department of the Environment for information on this program rollout.

See **High Impact Action Items for Municipalities** in the same program - for example Community Choice Aggregation chosen by Marbletown, which has chosen 100% renewable electricity

Dan Helmer has returned to Kingston, where he grew up, to start a local grass roots **350.org** chapter, the worldwide movement for a just transition to 100% renewable energy. Contact: Daniel.james.helmer@gmail.com

Central Hudson is trying to raise electricity rates again at a time when there should be a moratorium. Contact Susan Gillespie at **Citizens for Local Power** if you are interested in working to stop the rate hike. CH is also continuing to budget \$43m/year to replace/renew their gas infrastructure, without justification and when investment is needed in renewable energy source.

Warm Up For Winter program from **New Paltz Climate Action Coalition and others**. A practical guide for energy efficiency in the cold winter. Short presentations by experts, DIY tips (eg making thermal curtains). Open to anyone in the community. This evening 1/14/21 at 6-7:30pm <http://bit.ly/warmuptowinter2021> Bi-lingual English/ Spanish

Project Resilience started in Spring by Ulster County, initial focus on providing meal deliveries, using volunteers and restaurants to get food to county residents, worked in Kingston with the Emergency Food Collaborative. Currently focussed on Food Pantries and has also developed a child care initiative. <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/project-resilience/>

Bruno, TeamLogic IT following his last conversation with John Wackman, will be contacting local computer repair shops to see how they can put together resources to repair/maintain computers and devices needed by financially strained community members - especially those needed for education. Will report back.

Erica is looking to form a group that can filter and make accessible the information that is exchanged in these meetings. The wider community could use information about programs and opportunities developed by participants and organizations, but the content is too dense to easily extract what could be useful. It needs to be sorted and then passed on to the rest of the community. She suggested maybe using PSAs. Contact Erica at Radio Kingston.

Hudson Valley Environmental Justice Coalition <https://www.facebook.com/Hudson-Valley-Environmental-Justice-Forum-183406542274435> sponsors monthly conversations. They bring nationally recognized figures to local audiences to speak about environmental justice and the environmental-crisis. **Aaron Mair**, first African American president of the Sierra Club will join Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson for a moderated conversation on Monday 1/18 6-7pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aaron-mair-hudson-valley-environmental-justice-coalition-tickets-134284920813> for free registration. See Radio Kingston Facebook page for conversations with Dr Simpson and others.

