

**Aimee Gardner: KEII (Kingston Equitable Internet Initiative)** update. Free pilot **Digital Steward Training Program, Tuesday & Thursday 4-6pm starting March 8th-April 11th.** Only requirements are that you can commit to the whole training time, are interested in new technologies and have a commitment to creating positive change in the community. No prior tech experience required. KEII brings together community residents to create their own community built wireless network. More information at <https://keii.network/> and FB <https://www.facebook.com/KingstonEquitableInternetInitiative> Link to Training Program <https://keii.network/opportunities> Community Coordinators are available for presentations to groups regarding KEII and opportunities <https://keii.network/the-team>

**Jem Maverick: Kingston Repair Cafe** - still on hiatus because of the pandemic, but go to <http://www.repaircafehv.org/> to learn more and sign up to help or as a coach. More to come as the organization forms following the untimely passing of John Wackman, founder of Repair Cafes in the Hudson Valley and beyond, now around 40.

**Creek Iverson: Seed Song Farm** (just outside Kingston, accessible by public transportation) <https://www.seedsonfarm.org/> Current Maple Project for youth groups. **Maple Moon Fest** February 27th (foul weather date February 28th) **Maple Tree Tapping** every weekend from end of February through March, small groups two hours each. RSVP needed for Fest and Tree Tapping and sliding scale fees available. Go to <https://www.seedsonfarm.org/maple.html> **Year round Youth Group** expected to resume mid to late March (free and low income fees available) We will also be fundraising for **Farm Feed Your Neighbor**, CSA membership for low income families, please nominate a family who could use fresh organic vegetables. **Community Tree Nursery** with saplings, mostly naturalizing trees, available free to local nonprofits and communities. Contact <https://www.seedsonfarm.org/>

**Jessica Clegg: Citizens for Local Power** <https://citizensforlocalpower.org/> Working with City of Kingston on **Climate Action Plan**, <https://engagekingston.com/climate-action-plan> for 2030. Please encourage friends and neighbors to take the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BZM7DS2>, community involvement is essential.

**Green Jobs Internship Program** with several local contractors allow young people to explore opportunities supported by local educational institutions, still looking for funding.

**Susan Gillespie:** CLP is about to negotiate with **Central Hudson and the Public Service Commission to stop the planned rate hike and initiate debt forgiveness** for those affected by Covid19 and unable to pay. Today, without the current moratorium 11% (tens of thousands of CH customers) would have their electricity cut off. Yet CH plans an increase in shareholder dividend in this time of crisis. In 2018 CLP and others managed to stop the basic rate increase for the first time, but they had a lot of community support. Tell your community, friends and colleagues to tell the Public Service Commission their stories, why they cannot pay their bills, why a rate hike is impossible and why bill forgiveness is necessary and why shareholders do not need an increase in dividends. **Click here to write directly to the Public Service Commission** <https://citizensforlocalpower.org/utilities>

**Kristina Zill: NYSERDA(The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority)** offers HEAP (Heating and Cooling Assistance Program) to low income families/individuals in danger of having heating cut off, funds are made available in November until the funding runs out.

The new round of the **Clean Energy Communities Program** has launched, offering incentives for installing community thermal systems for heat pumps. Municipalities can earn \$5000 for investment in green projects if 10 households form a group to use ground or air sourced heat pumps. Contact Nick Hvozda at the Ulster County Dept of the Environment for information for developers and local coordination.

**Rennie Scott Childress: City of Kingston** has a byzantine zoning system that many are looking to change to a Form Based Code that will help to maximize our current resources. Also increase density in a positive way and diversify neighborhoods. It is a long process that was stopped in its tracks when Covid hit last year, but it is hoped it will restart and will need a lot of community involvement. [Click here](#) to see recent conversation Chuck Mahron of Strong Towns with representatives from Kingston. See also the website and book <https://www.strongtowns.org/>

**Diane Dintruff: GoZero Boating Initiative** - looking for a sponsor to list this initiative on the US Transition website. Also possible (Covid willing) **Lighthouse Challenge Regatta** on September 18th sponsored by the HVMaritime Museum. Kingston has so many Climate Smart gozero water initiatives: Solaris, the Wooden Boat School, and events like the Kayak Festival, Boat Building Challenge, Vets on the Water and more. Contact Diane: [ddintruff@yahoo.com](mailto:ddintruff@yahoo.com)

**Chris Hewitt: Local Champions - new funding initiative through New World Foundation** to promote local Climate Smart Communities. Recently Kerhonksen received \$8000 grant to help them move towards a bronze certification.

**Tilda's Kitchen** new **Pay It Forward** program, averaging 50 meals a week, donating to local blue refrigerators or to local groups. But we need to get the word out to those who need the meals. New **5 meal punch card** (\$/HVCcurrent50.00) or **3 course meal card** (\$/HVCcurrent75.00) Please tell friends and colleagues who can to buy and give to someone who needs it - or make it a personal, maybe Valentine treat? Visit Tilda's Kitchen, 630 Broadway.

**Guy Kempe RUPCO** is submitting a response to Ulster County's RFP to partner with **Solstice** in a county sponsored program **to bring low and moderate income residents sustainably generated electricity**. RUPCO would provide access and marketing information connecting the residents they work with to the opportunity to subscribe to local solar farms and decrease their electricity bill up to 20% This is part of a NYSERDA program but Ulster County is the first county to initiate such a partnership. The Green Deal has real momentum in Ulster County.

**Daniel Helmer: 350.org** partners with several organizations supporting Green New Deal initiatives state wide, as well as supporting the CCIA (Climate & Community Investment Act) and interested in local initiatives.