



# NEWSLETTER

GREEN HUDSON PROMOTES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This month, we consider topics relevant to personal carbon footprint vs. systemic change, linking it all to local regulations and Massachusetts-based sustainable building models alongside an inspiration resource that covers the gamut. Of course, we also have announcements, committee reports and more. Enjoy!

## I Was There—The March to End Fossil Fuels, by Elisa Pearmain



On Sunday September 17th, as many as 75,000 of us came from near and far to send a message to President Biden, world leaders, and big oil companies. We must stop digging, mining, and burning fossil fuels now! The march was led by groups of Indigenous Peoples from across the country and was followed by a large and diverse group of young people. Their energy and creativity of expression was so heartening. A large contingent of NY families with children and babies in strollers followed. Older folks like myself from groups such as 350.org and 3rd Act (for those 60 and older) brought up the rear. All through the march people were carrying huge puppets of sea creatures, the earth, and a giant black oil pipe gushing monster.

The march culminated in a rally with 16-year-old Helen Mancini (one of the march organizers) providing inspirational messaging; and, Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez giving a rousing speech promising to keep pushing for a fossil free future. I came away feeling less alone in my sense of urgency and agency, but time is of the essence!

Committees continue working behind the scenes, on the streets and at town government meetings. You are invited to put your talents to work locally to help the planet globally—come, join a committee.

**Plastics Reduction**—Restaurant surveys to reduce polystyrene use are ongoing with help from GH volunteers. A meeting with the Board of Health to get their backing on this effort is scheduled for October. Committee contact: Elisa Pearmain [elisa@greenhudson.com](mailto:elisa@greenhudson.com)

**Climate and Energy**—On September 19, a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools took place. Watch for the report in the next newsletter. Committee contact: Brian White [whitebrianrobert@gmail.com](mailto:whitebrianrobert@gmail.com)

**Public Education and Outreach**—Climate Cafes are in the works slowly but surely. Have suggestions for topics or locations? Contact: Jeanette Millard [millardjeanette@gmail.com](mailto:millardjeanette@gmail.com)

**Fall Clean-up—Leave the Leaves!**

by Elisa Pearmain

According to the National Wildlife Association and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, leaving the leaves on your lawn or garden beds is good for the environment, your gardens, and for wildlife. Here are some of the reasons why:

Per the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, yard waste accounts for 12.1% of the nation's solid waste. The heavy piles of waste prevent sufficient oxygenation to break down the leaves, causing the release of methane gas. Solid-waste landfills are the leading cause of human-made methane gas. The CO<sub>2</sub> generated by gas powered blowers and trucks is also significant, and a cause of noise pollution!

Wildlife including turtles, toads, birds, and mammals rely on the leaf cover over the winter for food, shelter, and nesting material. Invertebrates, aka insects, rely on leaves and stems from plants to lay their eggs, and many moths and butterflies overwinter in them before emerging in spring. We are advised not to cut back all the long stems from flowers as they provide excellent shelter.

The leaf cover is also great for your garden because it suppresses weeds and provides good nutrients for your soil. If you like, you can grind the leaves with the mower (electric if possible) for a better mulch that breaks down more quickly. You can also add extra leaves to your compost pile with lawn clippings.

Check out The [National Wildlife Foundation](#) for more information on fall clean up. Find multiple articles on fall clean up at the [Xerces Society](#) for Invertebrate Conservation. Search "leave the leaves." You can even buy a "Leave The Leaves" sign for your yard at their web store!

**Introducing Climate Cafes!**

On Wednesday October 18th, Green Hudson is introducing a new series for the townspeople of Hudson—but everyone is welcome! This will be the first in a series of Climate Cafes where guest speakers will share informative information about our changing climate and how we, as

individuals, can best help our future generations. Our first Climate Cafe will be about Native Plant Gardens. Hudson's own native plant experts, Emilie Wilder and Alexi Dart-Padover, will present information about how we can all help support our environment by planting gardens with native plants. Native plants attract bees, butterflies and birds to promote pollination; provide places for our small animal friends to live; can act as ground cover to help prevent flooding and soil erosion; and, are beautiful! Join Green Hudson at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Avidia's Financial Center, 17 Pope St. There will be time for questions and answers. Light refreshments and juice will be served.

**Carbon Reduction News and Resources**

It was British Petroleum who first coined the phrase "Personal Carbon Footprint" back in the 1980's to deflect accountability for climate damage onto individuals and away from Big Oil. And it worked! Until recently. Now more and more of us are demanding change at governmental, industry wide, and global levels. The recent March to End Fossil Fuels is one example among many.

Here are articles and resources to help us do what needs doing and shift the tide toward all the good that is possible.

[Clean Energy Tax Credits for Consumers](#)

[Zero Carbon Home](#)

[Global Weirding](#) with Katharine Hayhoe - short videos, plain language, explaining climate carbon issues.

**JUST IN: Governor Healey Creates Commission to Accelerate Siting and Permitting of Clean Energy Infrastructure**

Governor Maura Healey today signed an Executive Order creating the Commission on Clean Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting (CEISP) and swore in Commission members. To meet the emissions limits outlined in the Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP), Massachusetts will need to site a significant amount of new energy infrastructure, including new solar and wind generation, storage, transmission, and distribution infrastructure. The CEISP brings together stakeholders to swiftly remove barriers to responsible clean energy infrastructure development. Click [here](#) to read more.

**Massachusetts Leads the Way with Passive Housing**

A massive 800 apartment complex, in Newton, would be the largest so-called passive house residential project in the country. The project will be a 13-building, all-electric housing project built under the "passive house" building standard — using construction methods to maximize energy efficiency to the point where tenants pay no heating or cooling bills.

Green Hudson (GH) members take note of the following: This project was never planned as passive housing. It is because of individuals from Green Newton approaching the developer that this is happening. Dan Ruben, chair of Green Newton and a member of the Building Standards Committee recalls proposing the passive house standard to the developers. "I didn't imagine that developers would listen," Ruben said. "It's to the credit of Northland that we made a proposal to them in a way they've never built before."

GH members—did you know that Hudson's Green Community certification came about because GH members worked to gain this

certification? Now, as a result of being a Green Community, all new building in the town is required to meet the more stringent "stretchcode" in all new commercial and residential building development. The 'stretch code' also now applies to small projects and renovations that were previously exempt. It sets significantly higher requirements for heating and cooling loads, which can be responsible for 60% of a building's energy use. Some of the new regulations are already in effect. Others will go into effect July 2024. Therefore, GH members, take the famous quote from Margaret Mead to heart, and, "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

Another project, Winthrop Center Offices, is a Boston development designed in collaboration with MIT professors. It will be the largest Passive House office building in the world. [Newton Passive Housing Development](#) (we hope you can open this Globe article) [Winthrop Passive Office Development](#)

**Inspiration Resource**

Each issue of the GH Newsletter will feature at least one Inspiration Resource. Your ideas are welcome. Send to [editor@greenhudson.org](mailto:editor@greenhudson.org) with subject line GH Newsletter.

This month's inspiration comes in the form of a website and a book. The goal of *Not Too Late*—both the book and website—is to "invite newcomers to the climate movement, as well as provide climate facts and encouragement for people who are already engaged but weary." Both book and website provide useful perspectives and information to guide people from despair to possibilities. A collaboration of two writer/activists, Rebecca Solnit and Thelma Young Lutunatabua, *Not Too Late* brings together global activists, science, philosophy and spirit to show us the way forward. The stories and data give hope while presenting an eyes-wide-open reality of global climate conditions. From the introduction—"The main job is not to convince climate deniers, and the indifferent ... It's to engage and inspire those who care, but who don't see that they can and should have an active role in this movement ..." There's much to explore here. [Not Too Late](#).

**Announcements/Save the Dates:**

**October 14** (rain date Oct. 15)—Green Hudson Town Clean Up Day, announcement to follow

**November 20, 7:30 PM**—Special Town Meeting

**September 28**—Meet Your Sustainability Officers—Sponsored by [MetroWest Climate Solutions](#)

**Offshore Wind Webinars** sponsored by the League of Women Voters Massachusetts—dive deeply into the Northeast's offshore wind industry and learn about the value of critical offshore wind projects and threats to their timely deployment. More info and registration at [What's Up with Offshore Wind?](#)

The Inflation Reduction Act is at work for you and your family. Hudson Light & Power is providing a **Residential Rechargeable Electric Yard Equipment Rebate Program**.

Click [here](#) to access the form with all necessary instructions.

### RECHARGEABLE ELECTRIC YARD EQUIPMENT REBATES

Eligible Yard Equipment:

1. Rechargeable Electric Lawn Mower - \$100
2. Rechargeable Electric Hedge Trimmer - \$50
3. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Blower - \$50
4. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Vacuum - \$50
5. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Collector - \$50
6. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Blower/Vacuum - \$100
7. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Collector/Vacuum - \$100

Must Registered Users for:

1. All Applicants
2. All Applicants
3. All Applicants
4. All Applicants
5. All Applicants
6. All Applicants
7. All Applicants



Photo Above - 4 - 8 Weeks for Processing

#### Product Information

1. Select Rechargeable Lawn Equipment (See For Applicants)
2. Rechargeable Electric Lawn Mower - \$100
3. Rechargeable Electric Hedge Trimmer - \$50
4. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Blower - \$50
5. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Vacuum - \$50
6. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Collector - \$50
7. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Blower/Vacuum - \$100
8. Rechargeable Electric Leaf Collector/Vacuum - \$100

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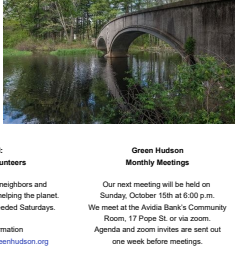
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The Assabet River flows through the town of Hudson providing a powerful reminder of why we want to protect the beauty the earth provides. Scientists are alarmed as we witness climate change happening and we need to do more to put a stop to the threat. Join [Green Hudson](#) now to learn more.



#### Needed: Recycling Volunteers

Have fun! Meet your neighbors and make new friends while helping the planet.

Recycling volunteers needed Saturdays.

For more information contact [recycling@greenhudson.org](mailto:recycling@greenhudson.org)

#### Green Hudson Monthly Meetings

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 15th at 6:00 p.m.

We meet at the Avidia Bank's Community Room, 17 Pope St. or via zoom.

Agenda and Zoom invites are sent out one week before meetings.

**You are invited**

In the midst of accelerating global warming, please send your recommended article, book, podcast and/or share your thoughts on maintaining hope/inspiration and action to [editor@greenhudson.org](mailto:editor@greenhudson.org) with subject "Green Hudson"—deadline October 14.

**Share Green Hudson's Newsletter**

If you found something of value in this newsletter, please forward it to others who might be interested. And, if you're reading someone else's copy and would like to receive your own newsletter each month, please subscribe by emailing [info@greenhudson.com](mailto:info@greenhudson.com).

**For more information on Green Hudson ...** visit our website at [www.greenhudson.org](http://www.greenhudson.org).

**Leaving you with a bit of good "news":**

New Jersey wrapped up its first school year with its first-in-the-nation climate education standards in place. (A first-grader solved the problem of Antarctic ice melt: leaving penguins to live in our fridges!)

Green Hudson is an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and any donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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