



NEWSLETTER

GREEN HUDSON PROMOTES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A Successful Hudson Earth Day Clean-up

On April 20th, Green Hudson was set up at Riverside Park to hand out bags and gloves to volunteers for collecting litter along Hudson roadways and in its parks. It's amazing what got collected: a tire, an auto transmission, metal parts, nip bottles and trash!



With support from BP Trucking, New City Microcreamery, Rail Trail, Hudson Recreation, and the Hudson DPW, Hudson's Clean-up Day was extremely successful. The gray overcast day did not dampen the spirit of our volunteers.

Nip bottles collected at multiple locations:



Allegro Micro-systems team at Wood and Apsley Parks:



White Pond Road crew:



Trash collected on Reed Road and on the Intel Field:



Gearing Up for Zero Waste Hudson Fest on June 6

Green Hudson is in its third year of a 6-year project to reduce the environmental impact of our town's kick-off to summer, Hudson Fest.



What does zero waste mean? It means that all single use items are recyclable or compostable and food waste is diverted to compost rather than trash.

This year, Green Hudson volunteers are staffing four stations featuring recycling for aluminum and #1 plastic, and composting food waste. Learn more, including a guide comparing the cost of sustainable utensils and flatware, [here](#).

Hudson Fest's zero waste timeline:

2024: Green Hudson is offering all Hudson Fest food vendors a \$25 rebate for providing only compostable items.

2025: Green Hudson will expand compost and recycling to six locations.

2026: All stations will have recycle and compost receptacles (and reluctantly, trash receptacles) All single use items will be recyclable or compostable.

More information and details are available [here](#).

Composting and recycling isn't just for special events

Remember, you can help your favorite restaurant defray costs by bringing your own leftover containers or utensils.



Committee Reports

Climate & Energy Committee

Preparations are underway for Hudson Fest on June 8th. Learn more about this committee by contacting Brian White: whitebrianrobert@gmail.com.

Education & Outreach Committee

In April, the Outreach & Education committee continued our monthly Climate Cafes with a presentation and discussion focused on "Beyond Plastics." There is much compelling evidence about how plastics are already in our ecosystems and our own bodies—we need to get beyond plastic! The recording and the presentation from April is on Green Hudson's website: GreenHudson.org.

May will bring our final Climate Café for the season—we'll be starting up again in September. We have a very interesting topic for May: Green Burial. Come find out about an approach to burial that does not require toxic chemicals, costly caskets, and possibly not even a cemetery plot. It's an interesting topic. Contact Jeanette Millard: millardjeanette@gmail.com.

Plastics Reduction Committee

On April 23rd, our Climate Café featured Eileen Ryan, president of Beyond Plastics Boston. Eileen showed the animated short, "The Story of Plastic". Watch it [here](#). In addition, you'll find the video of Eileen's Climate Cafe presentation at: www.greenhudson.org.

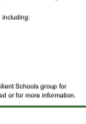
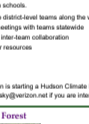
The State Ways and Means Committee is going to begin hearing from stakeholders on **An Act to Reduce Plastics: S.570/H.882** before it decides whether to send it to the House and Senate for a full vote. You can email or call the Ways and Means Chairs: **Senator Michael Rodrigues** (617-722-1114) and **Representative Aaron Michlewitz** (617-722-2990) with your support. They have until July 31 to pass this bill. If it does not pass, Green Hudson will file a petition to reduce single use plastics, including Styrofoam, in our Hudson restaurants and supermarkets to be voted on at our November Town Meeting. Please consider helping with that effort if necessary. To help with all our efforts, please email [Elsa Pearmain: green@eliaspermin.com](mailto:green@eliaspermin.com).

Legislative Update

At this point in the legislative session, bills are in either House or Senate Ways and Means. Both bodies are committed to another climate omnibus bill. Bills include transitioning off gas, modernizing the grid, municipal reforestation, and electrification of commuter and regional transportation. Other important issues such as siting and permitting that will all contribute to meeting greenhouse gas emissions will be included. The Plastic Reduction bill is also in Ways and Means and hopefully will be voted out!

The Evergreen Room Restaurant

"Where locally sourced, and seasonal ingredients become indulgent pleasures."



Walk into the Evergreen Room at 10 Main Street in Hudson, and you will instantly relax. The colorful jungle décor and friendly staff create a cozy and inviting space for lunch, afternoon tea, a dinner date, or the once-a-month jazz brunch.

Kinsey Rosene, the owner of the Evergreen Room and the adjacent Crose Nest Apothecary, is trained as an herbalist. The Crose Nest opened in 2017 with the intention of connecting people to herbs in an approachable and enjoyable way. Then in January of 2023 she opened the Evergreen Room to offer folks the opportunity to cultivate an appreciation of herbs for culinary purposes as well.

Their menu offers artfully made soups, spreads, and bites that change weekly. Their herbal tea concoctions and cocktails are creative and delicious. The Evergreen Boards feature a selection of homemade pickles, jams, spreads, seasonal cheeses and charcuterie, and are served with bread, fruit and crisps. Their fresh soups are infused with seasonal supportive herbs and ingredients. You'll love their homemade desserts.

In our survey of Hudson restaurants, the Evergreen Room topped the list for its commitment to sustainability in its many forms. Their foods are locally and seasonally sourced which reduces costs of transport and increases freshness. They use only compostable or reusable straws, cutlery, and take out containers and they compost with **Black Earth** to minimize waste. Let's support local businesses that promote sustainability! <https://www.theevergreenroom.com>

Massachusetts Climate Resilient Schools Coalition

The Massachusetts Climate Resilient Schools Coalition is a diverse network that empowers teachers, students and community members to catalyze rigorous climate education and infrastructure improvements in Massachusetts schools by passing and implementing climate action resolutions at the district level. The district resolutions will support school building retrofits and climate change curriculum in schools.

The Coalition provides support to district-level teams along the way, including:

- Monthly Organizing Network meetings with teams statewide
- Slack workspace for intra- and inter-team collaboration
- Resolution templates and other resources
- Live office hours
- Technical support
- Networking opportunities

Tina Grosowsky of Green Hudson is starting a Hudson Climate Resilient Schools group for Hudson. Please contact tgrosowsky@verizon.net if you are interested or for more information.

The Joy of a Miyawaki Forest



The tiny forest lives atop an old landfill in the city of Cambridge, Mass. Though it is still a baby, it's already acting quite a bit older than its actual age, which is just shy of 2.

Its aspens are growing at twice the speed normally expected, with fragrant sumac and tulip trees racing to catch up. It has absorbed storm water without washing out, suppressed many weeds and stayed lush throughout last year's drought. The little forest managed all this because of its enriched soil and density, and despite its diminutive size: 1,400 native shrubs and saplings, thriving in an area roughly the size of a basketball court.

It is part of a sweeping movement that is transforming dusty highway shoulders, parking lots, school yards and junkyards worldwide. Tiny forests have been planted across Europe, in Africa, throughout Asia and in South America, Russia and the Middle East. India has hundreds, and Japan, where it all began, has thousands.

Native plants crowded onto postage-stamp-size plots have been delivering environmental benefits around the world—and, increasingly, in the U.S. To learn more about bringing one to our local area, [click here](#).

Thanks to [Paula Sommer](#) of our ECA Mass chapter for her information on the beginnings of [Worcester's Miyawaki Forest](#).

My EV Purchase

Submitted by [Jeanette Millard](#)

I recently purchased an Electric Vehicle (EV) and had a really good experience making it happen. I've also learned a lot. Here are a few lines about my experience:

My beloved Honda FIT had 175,000 miles on it and promised a few more years. But along the way I have been learning a lot about EV's and knew that would be my next car. My research (plus three friends' purchases) led me to the Chevy Bolt. But Chevy stopped making the smaller version in favor of a much larger SUV-type, which I didn't want.

While watching the EV market, some used Bolts turned up and I went to test drive one. I have driven a stick-shift car my whole life and was hesitant about an automatic—but this car was zippy and fun to drive! And "so quiet."

Then came the hard part—or what I expected to be hard. I needed to figure out all the federal and state incentives available. Lucky for me, I knew about the Drive Green program that is part of Green Energy Consumer Alliance, a wonderful non-profit. I called and spoke with Ezra Messinger. He laid out all the rebate information and what I needed to do to qualify. And as it turns out, as of 2024, the rebates happen at the dealership, at the time of purchase, so it was easier still. There's an online application that makes it doable.

For a used 2020 Bolt, I got \$4,000 from the federal government (thanks to Biden's Inflation Reduction Act) and \$3,500 from Massachusetts (MOR-EV for a used car.) That plus a modest amount for trading in my FIT made this purchase possible. I got a charger installed at my house and learned how to find charging stations when I travel (which has been pretty easy). There was some anxiety but it all worked out, and that "range anxiety" is gone now. The best thing is, I have this sweet, quiet car that burns no fossil fuel and produces no emissions. If you have questions, you can watch our Climate Cafe on EV's, on our website (GreenHudson.org). You will love having an EV!



Green Burial for Ecological Soundness

Green Hudson's May Climate Cafe will focus on green burial. Green burial is a way of returning bodies to the earth after death. Called "green" burial for its ecological soundness, it is also commonly known as natural burial. Our speaker, Joan Pillsbury, is a Board member of Green Burial Massachusetts. It is a statewide, all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is twofold: to start a conservation green cemetery open to all in Massachusetts, and to educate the public about green burial. Joan will present some information about the process of green burial, as well as how residents of Massachusetts may find green burial options nearby.

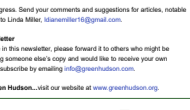
Tuesday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m.
Avidia Bank Financial Center's Community Room
17 Pope St., Hudson

There will be time for questions and answers. Light refreshments and quenchers will be served.

This is part of an ongoing series of Climate Cafes brought to you by Green Hudson, a non-profit dedicated to improving our town's impact on the environment.

Our next scheduled Climate Cafe will be in September. Enjoy your summer!

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. We need to do more to put a stop to the threat.



Join [Green Hudson](#) now to learn more.

You are invited

This newsletter is a work in progress. Send your comments and suggestions for articles, notable resources, relevant books, etc. to Linda Miller, ldanemiller16@gmail.com.

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For more information on Green Hudson...visit our website at www.greenhudson.org.

Green Hudson's next meeting
will be at 6:00 p.m.
on Sunday, May 19th,
at the Avidia Bank's Community Room,
located at 17 Pope St.
Hudson
(rear parking lot, side of building near the drive thru)
or via zoom.
Agenda and zoom invites are sent out one week before meetings.



Recycling Volunteers Needed!
Have fun! Meet your neighbors and make new friends while helping the planet. Recycling volunteers needed Saturdays.
For more information:
contact recycling@greenhudson.org

The Green Hudson Newsletter team needs your help! Low commitment and lots of fun! Contact Linda Miller at editor@greenhudson.org.