

ATTENDING:

Task Force members: Bill Mancini (Chair), Warren Applegate and Ann Birckmayer
Tara Donadio, Senior Sustainability Planner
Dorene Weir (Village Trustee)

VILLAGE BOARD REPORT:

B. Mancini reported that the Village Board of Trustees passed the resolution he presented in support of the County's Natural Resource Inventory, and agreed to recommend its use by the Planning Board and zoning Board of Appeals. He also reported that the Village is issuing an RFP for the installation of Solar Panels on the DPW Garage and the Firehouse. Bids will be accepted until September 8th. All bids received will be opened at the Trustees' September Meeting.

MEATLESS MONDAY:

A. Birckmayer updated the committee regarding the recent initiative. She has prepared a press release to be published in the Columbia Paper. (See attached)

CEC LEADERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE:

B. Mancini announced that the Solarize Kinderhook campaign will begin officially on September 4th. There are two providers working on the campaign, Solstice and Astral Power. He also noted that one of the community solar providers, Astral Power, has agreed to table at the Farmers' Market beginning August 28th and September 4th to promote the campaign. The campaign is tentatively scheduled to run into early November.

BIG GREEN BOX:

B. Mancini proposed a recycling initiative using the Big Green Box. The Big Green Box is a nationwide battery recycling program that offers companies, consumers, municipalities, government agencies and other generators a low cost and easy way to recycle their batteries and portable electronic devices. Special shipping boxes that are also for collection are purchased. When filled they are shipped back to Big Green Box for recycling. Return postage is included in the purchase price. B. Mancini stated that two boxes will be purchased and set up in the Village Hall and the Kinderhook Memorial Library.

BAT HOUSE PROJECT:

W. Applegate has been working with bat biologist Annika Lamb and the Kinderhook Memorial Library to hold a bat education and bat house building project for young people at the library. The Committee will assist in the cost of book purchases which will be used by the librarians working with the children. Materials for the houses have been donated by W. Applegate.

CCA UPDATE:

B. Mancini encouraged everyone to join the CCA video conference to be held by MEGA and Joule Assets on August 18 or 19.

Press Release to Columbia Paper sent 9-11-21**The Kinderhook Memorial Library and the Village of Kinderhook Climate Smart Task Force are pleased to report the results of their Meatless Monday campaign.**

Meatless Monday is a non-profit health initiative encouraging people to go meatless one day a week for their health and the health of the planet. In our second year of the challenge, 76 households (152 individuals) registered for the six-week joint venture campaign.

Meat can be an excellent source of protein and other nutrients. However, Americans are now eating nearly double the amount of meat that was consumed one hundred years ago, according to the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future (JHCLF). This is nearly three times the global average. Excessive meat consumption has been linked to heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, obesity, certain cancers, and earlier death.

Additionally, livestock production accounts for an estimated 14.5% of global greenhouse gas emissions. According to the JHCLF, reducing meat and dairy by just one day per week is more effective at lessening these emissions than eating locally every day. Studies have also found that when people reduce their meat consumption, they are more likely to buy locally produced meat, boosting local economies and supporting community farms.

6.2 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) is emitted for every ¼ pound of beef produced. The equivalencies calculator available on the EPA website shows that the 152 individuals who participated in our Meatless Monday campaign saved 5,654 pounds of CO₂ emissions, which is equivalent to using 289 gallons of gasoline, or burning 2,835 pounds of coal, or charging 311,988 smartphones.

Our local campaign proves that we are at our best when we work together. As a community, we have the ability to diminish destructive emissions and help to ensure a healthy planet for future generations.

The Kinderhook Memorial Library and the Village of Kinderhook Climate Smart Task Force thank everyone for their participation, with special thanks to Casey Powers at Hannaford and Samascott's Garden Market for their support in making this campaign a success!