

New Paltz ReUse Center: 2016 Recap and Plans for 2017

The New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center stepped up to meet more of its zero waste goals in 2016 by involving the community. The mild winter helped start off the “volunteer season” early with a SUNY New Paltz professor and group of students working on an educational



trail that leads from a forgotten park built in the 1960's to the Reuse and Recycling Center. Included on the trail are podiums made from recovered lumber with informational signage about local wildlife and flora. Later in the year, volunteers from United Healthcare in Kingston, NY spent a day clearing brush to make room at the park for reading areas: complete with chairs made from old pallets and mini-fridges converted into pocket libraries.



February brought us a batch of chicks hatched from local eggs donated by Briar Creek Farm of New Paltz and Trudy's Egg Basket of Gardiner in an incubator rescued from the waste stream. (The chicks were given back to the farms after the public had some time to enjoy them and a pamphlet on raising chickens as part of a food security program was created.) Briar Creek Farm has been part of the livestock recovered food initiative and collects food from several local retailers to supplement what they feed their cows, pigs and chickens. They also take shredded paper collected at the New Paltz recycling center for their livestock which is later composted and participated in “Feed The Hog” – a “used” pumpkin collection that took place right after Halloween.



April has been designated as the annual textile collection month in partnership with the New Paltz Clean Sweep program. In 2015, NYSDEC Regional Director, Martin Brand, attended the first event which began as a partnership in 2014 with Region III NYSDEC and the solid waste local authority in support of the ReClothe-NY program. With the help of volunteers, the clothing collection is now ongoing and 4.39 tons was collected this year for local charities.



In May, New Paltz was selected to receive the 2016 Environmental Champion Award from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II for its commitment to protecting and enhancing environmental quality and public health. Later in the Fall New Paltz received national EPA recognition for its Food Recovery Challenge. These programs have been a success because strong partnerships with the local NYSDEC Region III office and community members have been developed. Two of our dedicated volunteers, Joan and Vincent Gallagher, were recipients of the first New York State Recycling Leadership Citizens' Award.

May was also the 14th Annual SUNY New Paltz campus dorm cleanout and Great Community Giveaway. This year seven (7) tons of clothing, food and other items were donated by students. After volunteers collected and sorted everything, the material was delivered to twelve (12) local charities with the remaining items put under tents donated by the United Methodist Church for the public to take.

Over the summer, local artists contributed their time and skills to paint a mural on the New Paltz ReUse Center. New Paltz High School students participating in the Roost Youth Group (RYG- a local gallery) spent the entire summer painting. This partnership led to the ReUse Center's second project. A ReUse Sculpture Park on Clearwater Road, using materials diverted from the waste stream to represent all aspects of society and sustainability. The first sculpture was a collaboration



between RYG and the Maya Gold Foundation. The Maya Gold Foundation was created in response to the tragic death of 15-year old Maya Gold, a New Paltz High School student who took her own life in October of 2015. Maya's parents launched the organization with help from community members and

friends, in response to the social pressures and concerns her death brought to light. This sculpture is “Community”.



New Paltz finished a very busy summer by tabling at the Ulster County Fair. With the help of a dozen volunteers, hundreds of children’s hard covers for personalized story books were given away. (Eighteen cases of educational material was brought into the New Paltz recycling center for disposal and diverted to the outreach program.) Several teachers interested in class writing projects were sent home with a case of hard covers. Fair goers also received reusable shopping bags that had been pre-packed with information on the ReUse Center, native gardens and other program literature.

New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center and New Paltz Youth Center (NPYC) volunteered at the annual Taste of New Paltz event. Sponsored by New Paltz Chamber of Commerce, this event invites local restaurants and food artisans to have the public sample their products and was promoted as a zero waste event. Young volunteers from the NPYC and SUNY New Paltz were stationed throughout the fairgrounds to guide fairgoers on how/where to place compostable items, recycling or garbage using a three-bin system. The carts were donated by local business, Solid Waste Disposal Service, Inc. Only ten 35-gallon bags of garbage were collected; mostly non-compostable #6 condiment portion cups and recycling that was contaminated with food.



SUNY New Paltz invited ReUse and Recycling Center staff to attend several sustainability events including a statewide conference in September and October. SUNY students are the largest resource of volunteers that the New Paltz Zero Waste program has, and their energy and core knowledge is inspirational. Recycling Coordinator, Laura Petit, was invited in November to attend PLANs northeastern conference at the University of New Hampshire.



Town of New Paltz ReUse Center Sustainability Film Series

New Paltz Community Ctr
The Cafeteria Coffee House
The Cafeteria Coffee House

November 9 from 1-4pm
November 1 from 7-9pm
December 6 from 7-9pm
(*Just Eat It* sponsored by
Feed the Hudson Valley)

Recycling is only a small piece of the puzzle for waste reduction- learn about how people are choosing to reuse in creative ways all around the country. The Town of New Paltz ReUse and Recycling Center will be hosting a showing of the documentary *Reuse, Because You Can't Recycle the Planet* for their Sustainability Film Series. Free and open to the public! Please visit our website www.newpaltzreuse.org call (845)235-8456 or e-mail recycling@townofnewpaltz.org for more information.

Town of New Paltz Sustainability Film Series - Several screenings of a series of sustainable films are planned in the New Paltz area of documentaries created by people who were inspired to change their lives and the environment by changing their habits by plugging leaks in local economy, local currencies while appropriately using natural resources, urban agriculture and food resilience. Sustainability is a transformation

These films motivated New Paltz ReUse and Recycling staff to draft a plan for 2017 that includes: Spare Share (a program for teachers to take FREE supplies recovered from the waste stream to use in their classrooms – August 2017); Bike Share (a program that leases bikes recovered from the waste stream); Scrapped Kitchen (a program of workshops including seed harvesting, gardening, composting, perennials, cooking seasonal produce and canning); Extreme Recycling (a program of select recycling center users willing to break down their

recycling beyond four containers and to recover additional materials such as coffee grinds from K-cups and Box Tops for education); Edible Trail and Scavenger Hunt Trail (a program that ties ecology in with the arts and gardening).

New Paltz closed the 2016 year by joining Rescuing Leftover Cuisine to pick up food donations from local businesses for drop off at local charities. This will be an incredible step to feed our hungry and jump into the long term goals of our zero waste plan. The goals can only be achieved with community volunteers. New Paltz has also partnered with Food Insecurity Collaborative (Rondout Valley Growers Association, Family of Woodstock and Ulstercorp) as part of the food recovery hub for gleaned and/or overproduced fresh produce. Plans for building a Cool Bot® in the ReUse Center to store produce until food pantries can pick up items are being drafted for February 2017.

Staff helped SUNY Sustainable Agriculture students prepare a banquet on Sunday November 20th entirely out of rescued and gleaned produce. Students and New Paltz staff prepared the feast at Huguenot Farm which was transported to the SUNY campus that fed eighty (80) students.



OXFAM and Sustainable Agriculture Club Present:

Rescued Food Banquet

Monday November 21st, 6pm

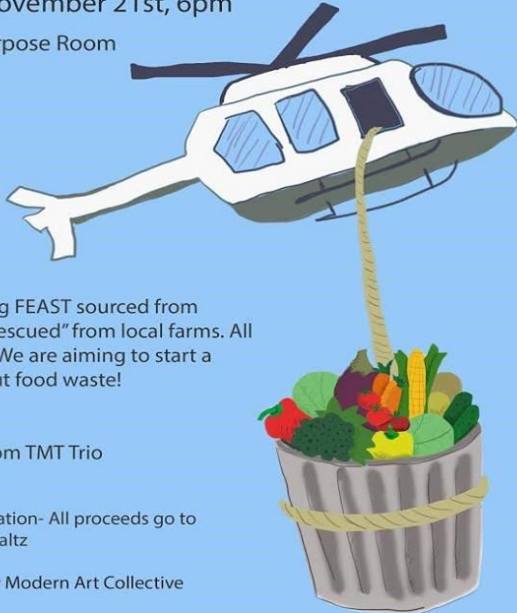
The Multipurpose Room

A Thanksgiving FEAST sourced from produce we "rescued" from local farms. All are welcome. We are aiming to start a dialogue about food waste!

There will be
-Live music from TMT Trio
-Rescued art

Suggested Donation- All proceeds go to
Family of New Paltz

Cosponsored by Modern Art Collective



poster art by Leah Monsour
SA Approved

The last event of 2016 was during the first major snowstorm of the season at a Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast event. A full table of materials from the ReUse Center was set out for the next generation of creative minds to use. That and a hot glue gun (supervised by an adult of course) resulted in some really cool snow globes!

