



Climate Smart  
Communities  
Certified Bronze



North Salem | Climate Smart Community

Volume 3, Spring 2023

## Message from the Committee...

Greetings Neighbors,

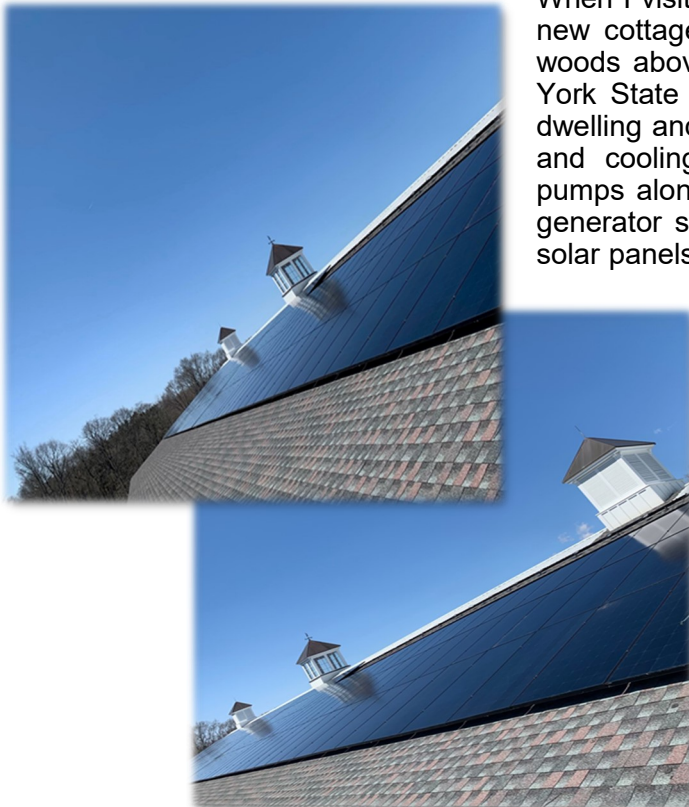
We are pleased to be able to share with you the article below and other news...



### **COMFORTSIDE FARM: A Case Study for Solar-Powered Horse Farms**

"I love the way the solar panels look," says Vicky Lunt, owner (with her husband Larry) of Comfortside Farm on Baxter Road. "I am overjoyed that the entire Farm is now completely energy independent. Every time I look up to the roof, I feel a great sense of pride knowing that we are using the sun to power our needs, taking advantage of what nature provides us freely without causing any further damage to the planet."

Aside from the horses who reside there, the crown jewel of Comfortside Farm is the solar panel array installed last March by SunPower on the large indoor riding arena built in 2020. The solar array already supplies 100% of the electricity for the entire operation – riding arena plus the original farmhouse built by Thaddeus Crane in 1760, three barns stabling 21 horses, other farm-related outbuildings, a new cottage, and two chargers for electric vehicles. For now, propane generators in the barns will stay as back up.



When I visited Comfortside last May, work was underway on a new cottage on the Southern side of the property along the woods above Titicus Road. In keeping with prospective New York State building codes, the cottage will be 100% electric: dwelling and windows, insulated to the highest standards; heat and cooling, provided exclusively by electric air exchange pumps along with an electric hot water heater and an electric generator system, manufactured by Tesla all powered by the solar panels on the roof of the indoor arena just 50 yards away.

Ecologically minded from the start, stones for the foundation were salvaged from a local project on Bogtown Road and a rain garden, designed by Mary Beth Murphy, with Vicky's favorite native plants, was installed to capture and absorb water run-off while attracting ducks, frogs and occasionally the heron from across the way.

According to their neighbor, designer Rick O'Leary, who is a member of North Salem's Climate Smart Leadership Committee, "Vicky and Larry have created a test case for sustainable, energy independent horse farms. We hope others will follow their lead."

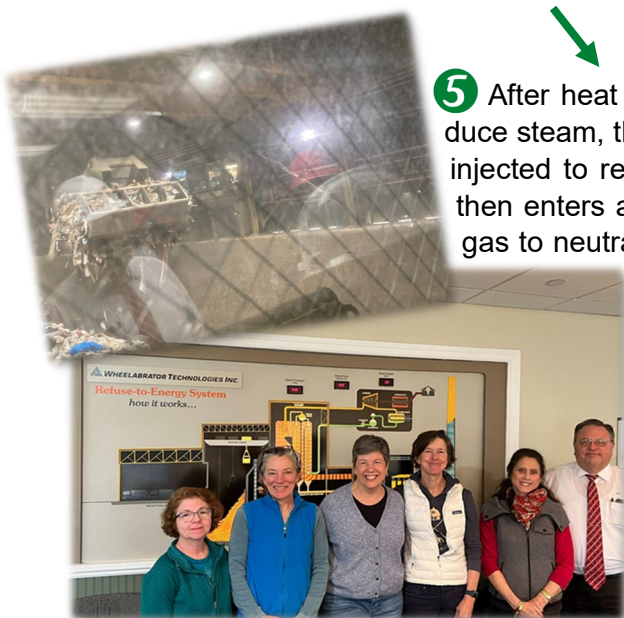
**-Program Coordinator Katherine Daniels  
& CSC Members**

## FOCUS ON GARBAGE

Committee Members visited the Win Waste Waste-to-Energy Facility ([Wheelabrator](#)) in Peekskill and learned a lot about garbage...

Here is an overview of the process:

- 1** Post-recycled waste is delivered to the plant from residential, commercial, and special waste customers and is transported to the tipping floor.
- 2** Overhead cranes then transfer the trash into a feed hopper to the boiler. Inside each boiler, an inclined, reciprocating, metal grate slowly moves the trash through a thermal (heating) process, where temperatures exceed 2000°F.
- 3** Hot combustion gasses pass by a series of boiler tubes filled with water, creating high-pressure steam. The steam is used to drive turbine generators and produce electricity for sale to local utilities. The steam also can be sold to drive industrial processes or for heating & cooling. The remaining steam is condensed into purified water and returned to the system for more renewable energy production.
- 4** Ferrous metals such as iron and steel, and non-ferrous metals, such as copper and aluminum, are removed from the ash residue and sent to recycling facilities. The remaining 10 percent is inert ash residue which is sent to a monofill and safely landfilled.
- 5** After heat in the combustion gas is absorbed in the boiler to produce steam, the gas exits the boiler and powdered activated carbon is injected to remove mercury and trace organic compounds. The gas then enters a spray dryer absorber where lime is combined with the gas to neutralize acid gasses, including sulfur dioxide and hydrogen chloride. The gas then passes through a fabric filter where particulates are removed. The cleaned gas exits through the stack after a series of continuous emissions monitors analyze and record levels.



### Upcoming Events

*Stay tuned for details on our upcoming table at the Library Fair on May 13th.*

**Town of North Salem Climate Smart Community**

266 Titicus Road, North Salem, NY 10560 914-669-5110 [www.northsalemny.org](http://www.northsalemny.org)



## FOCUS ON GARBAGE continued...



### Benefits of Waste-to-Energy include:

- ➊ Reduce post-recycled waste volumes by 90 percent
- ➋ Conserves valuable landfill space
- ➌ Reduces greenhouse gasses
- ➍ Peekskill plant produces 50 megawatts of electricity per day
- ➎ Plant recycles 12,000 pounds of metal annually from waste



### **We can't do this without you! Please join us:**

- Join [Community Solar](#), a clean energy program where you will see substantial savings.
- Join the [Clean Heating and Cooling Energy Efficiency](#) Campaign.
- **E-subscribe** to our news at [www.northsaalemny.org](http://www.northsaalemny.org)
- **Visit** our [webpage](#) to learn more about energy saving initiatives, waste reduction ideas, healthy gardens, etc.

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## HOW TO RECYCLE BATTERIES



What do you do with your spent batteries? Like so many things, the answer depends on who you ask and when. In some places, battery recycling is mandated. In others, battery recycling (like plastic recycling) is market driven and the economics can vary from month to month. Some municipalities are starting to provide designated drop-off sites for battery recycling. North Salem is not yet among them, but may one day join the ranks.




In the meantime, here are a few options that were outlined recently by Sarah Witman in a *New York Times Wirecutter* article entitled “Yes, You Can (and Should) Recycle Batteries. Here is How”:

### Drop Off Options:

-  **Call2Recycle** specializes in battery recycling. Its website has an extensive list of public and private collection sites for batteries.
-  **Greener Gadgets** lets you search for facilities that recycle e-waste, including batteries. You should double check to make sure that your preferred facility actually takes batteries.
-  **Earth911** and **GreenCitizen** both have interfaces that allow people to locate recycling facilities for household waste of all kinds. You can search for “alkaline batteries” and get a list of sites that accept them.

Once you decide on a drop off facility, you can call ahead to confirm that it will accept the specific type of battery you want to recycle. Also be sure to ask about how to prepare them. For example, some facilities require that you sort them by chemical composition, such as alkaline, lithium or nickel metal hydride. Some also want you to seal them in a clear plastic bag.

### Mail Options:

-  **Call2Recycle** offers a battery and cell phone recycling kit that holds as much as 25 pounds. It accepts cell phone batteries, coin and button-cell batteries up to a certain size. It also accepts alkaline batteries and others made of carbon zinc, lead acid, lithium, lithium ion, nickel cadmium, nickel methyl hydride and nickel zinc. Boxes and internal packaging are specially designed to be flame retardant and prevent leaking.
-  **Big Green Box “Mini”** holds up to 10 lbs. of batteries as well as other electronic devices, such as cell phones, laptops, tablets, gaming systems and wireless ear-buds. The package comes with a roll of tape for covering battery terminals and a pre-addressed shipping label.
-  **EasyPak Micro Battery Recycling Container** is more expensive than the Big Green Box Mini, but it is easy to use.



### Pickup:

CityCarting/WinWaste does not presently allow North Salem residents to put batteries out with their recycling. However, North Salem does have an e-waste recycling drop off service which accepts the batteries associated with electronic devices such as computers, laptops, tablets and gaming devices (the batteries must be in the devices to be accepted). Keep your eyes and ears open for new developments.