

HOW YOU CAN HELP PROTECT THE VILLAGE FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

A major cause of climate change is the growing amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, produced by the burning of fossil fuels like natural gas, oil and coal. Reducing our use of fossil fuels is an important step in reducing our contribution to climate change. Another is protecting natural areas and the plant life that uses carbon dioxide, pulling it out of the atmosphere and storing it underground in their root systems.

You can help with these Village of Catskill projects:

Shop at the [Catskill Farmers Market](#) in season. Buying fruits and vegetables grown close to home supports our local farmers, and it means less energy is used to transport produce long distances in gasoline-powered trucks. Plus, the freshest produce tastes the best!



In October and November, if you rake leaves in your yard, rake them to the curb where the Village will pick them up and take them to its Hamburg Road facility for composting. This is a free service that benefits both you and the Village's pocket parks, where the compost is used to enrich the planting beds. Check the [Village's Facebook page](#) or the [home page of the Village's website](#) for specific details each year on the date the program begins.

Are you considering installing rooftop solar panels in your home? These can greatly reduce your reliance on power plants that use fossil fuels to generate electricity. The Village recently adopted a [Unified Solar Permit](#) to make the permitting process smoother and easier. You may also wish to consult "[Understanding Solar PV Permitting and Inspecting in New York State.](#)" which has an extensive explanation of how this works.

The Village will soon have electric vehicle charging stations at the municipal parking lot. The next time you buy a car, you may wish to consider a electric car, which uses no gasoline, or a hybrid vehicle, which uses much less gasoline.



The biggest risk our community faces from climate change is increased flooding. Our [Comprehensive Plan](#), completed in 2020, includes guidelines and recommendations for how to reduce these risks, many of which have already been adopted as part of the Village's zoning regulations.

The Village has created a [Flood Preparedness Guide](#) for residents and businesses about the risks people in different areas of the community face when

floods occur. The guide provides information on how to plan ahead to protect yourself and your property from flooding.

Learn more about the Village's work to monitor its use of fossil fuel energy and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. The Village recently completed a [Greenhouse Gas Inventory](#) to monitor its emissions from all Village operations over the course of two years, as well as a [Benchmarking Report](#) to monitor emissions from specific Village buildings.

Your personal actions at home or in your business can also make a big difference:

Replace lighting in your home with energy-saving LED lights. This not only reduces fossil fuel use, it will also save money on your electrical bills. The Central Hudson website includes a [guide to LED lighting](#).

Purchase recycled paper products such as computer paper and toilet paper. This helps create a market for the paper you discard in your recycling bin.

Plant a tree, whether in your own yard or by volunteering for the Catskill Tree Council. Trees pull carbon out of the air through their leaves and store it deep underground in their root systems.



Vary your menu by eating vegetarian meals a few times a week or more often. Eating less meat is healthier for both you and the planet, and recipes for delicious vegetarian options are easy to find on the internet. Just use your favorite search engine to search "vegetarian recipes."

Learn how you can make your home more energy efficient by signing up for a [free home energy audit](#) from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research & Development Authority).

Consider heating and cooling your home with a [heat pump](#), which can both save energy and lower your utility bills. These energy efficient systems work by transferring heat into your home in the winter and out of your home in the summer. New federal and state laws can help people pay for heat pumps through tax credits and rebates.