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**Climate Solutions Week Rolls into Rhinebeck**

RHINEBECK NY: Climate Solutions Week returns to Rhinebeck this September 17-26, 2023. This is the second year that Climate Smart Rhinebeck, a Task Force of the Village government, and local partners have organized a string of events. The goal is to encourage, educate, and inspire participants around climate action.

This year Village Trustee Vanessa Bertozzi and Task Force volunteer Angela Basile are putting together a special event entitled “EV-Curious?” at the Starr Park/Thompson-Mazzarella parking lot on September 23rd. Akin to a meetup, “hosts” who have already made the switch to electric vehicles and hybrids will be there with their cars, and those who are EV-curious can come chat with them, take a ride in some different models, and get their questions answered about EV-ownership. Ruge’s will be there with a number of new models—including Subaru's first all electric vehicle. The event will also feature partners, such as Sinterklaas, collecting gently used clothes for their October fundraiser, “Love It or Swap It”. The PTSO will be taking donations for seasonal mums and has sponsored Mr. Ding-a-ling, our friendly neighborhood ice cream truck, to be on hand.

The EV-Curious event kicks off a Clean Energy Campaign that the Village and Town governments are collaborating on: if the Village and Town can get at least 5 residents to purchase EVs or plug-in hybrids in the ensuing months, the local governments will each get a $5000 grant from NYSERDA, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Grant money will be put towards the municipalities’ energy efficiency projects.

Additional events abound: The Walking School Bus returns on September 22—a fun and carbon-free way to encourage elementary school children to walk to school. Starr Library will host a discussion about food insecurity and food systems in the Hudson Valley, and Morton Memorial Library brings a guest speaker to talk through how Rhinecliff’s community can come together to protect itself against the impacts of climate change. Winnakee Land Trust will host a lunchtime webinar about land stewardship and its beneficial role in the era of climate change. The Rotary Club is sponsoring a free screening of a family-friendly climate change film called 2040 at Upstate Films. The film uses CGI animation to illustrate a hopeful picture of what the world will look like in 2040 if we continue to adopt new technology and make needed changes.

The Rhinebeck calendar of events can be found at climatesmartrhinebeck.org/climate-week

These Rhinebeck events are the local slice of what’s happening region wide for Climate Solutions Week for the entire Hudson Valley. Sustainable Hudson Valley, a nonprofit run by Melissa Everett, encourages programming across the region and gathers it all at this website: https://www.hvclimatesolutionsweek.org

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