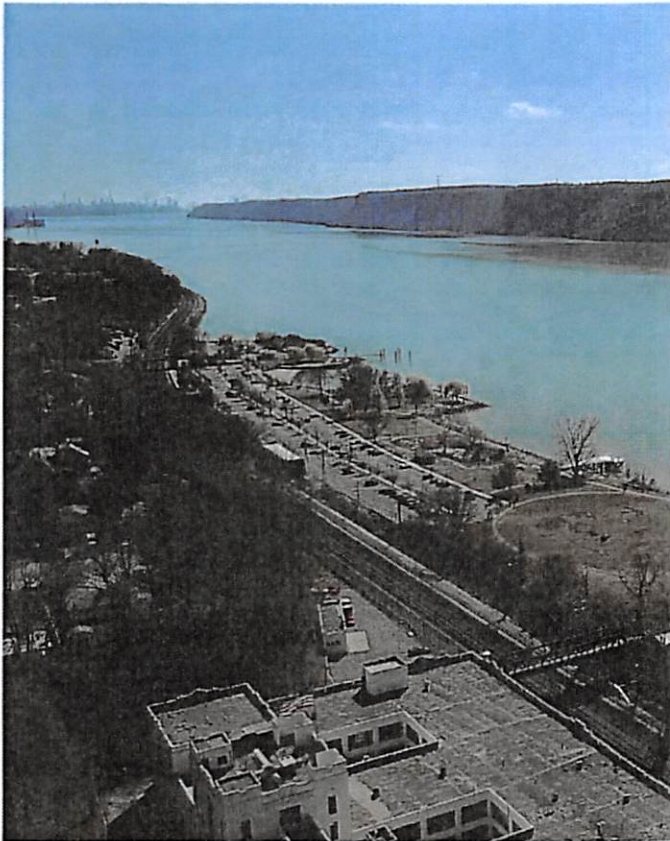




VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA

MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2020
AGENDA ITEM SECTION: MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION
AGENDA ITEM NO. : 4
AGENDA ITEM: CONSIDER A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DOBBS FERRY CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AS SUBMITTED BY THE SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE
ITEM BACKUP DOCUMENTATION: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. CLIMATE CHANGE, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

IMPLEMENTING THE DF
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND
LOOKING AHEAD

VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY

MAY 2020

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY

IMPLEMENTING THE DF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND LOOKING AHEAD

(MAY 2020)

INTRODUCTION

The Mayor and the Board of Trustees (BOT), and Village Administration officials have long championed the urgent need to confront the challenges of climate change as defined by the Governor of New York State, and taken a leadership role in promoting the goals of implementing climate smart community practices and initiatives. The Village of Dobbs Ferry (DF) has been fortunate to be able to work via the modality of community-based partnerships with diverse groups to engage with our residents. Working in close partnership with its Sustainability Task Force (STF)- a focused group of climate change and sustainability experts and community residents appointed by the Mayor- DF has worked to actively engage with residents on range of sustainability and climate change. Community driven climate engagement has been implemented along the key focal areas identified within the context of the 2017 Dobbs Ferry Climate Action Plan (CAP) which was unanimously adopted by the Village Board of Trustees.

DF was an early adopter in the need to approach climate change and sustainability through active community engagement. A key aspect of this was the decision to establish the STF with a dedicated mission to pursue different means to ensure the village was prepared for a climate responsive future. The STF consists of an intergenerational and interdisciplinary board of appointees, community volunteers, and professional advisors. Meetings of the STF occur on the first Tuesday of every month and are open to the public. The STF's mission is: *"To help Village government, residents, businesses and institutions become more sustainable by saving energy, using resources and renewable energy more effectively, and taking steps to become better stewards of the*

environment." The Sustainability Task Force promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy use, waste reduction and recycling; sustainable transportation; and appropriate land use. The group has built a strong partnership with elected officials, municipal staff, educational and not-for-profit (non-governmental) institutions, and local businesses". (<https://www.dobbsferry.com/sustainability-task-force>)

In particular, it should be noted that the STF has taken on the information and outreach connector role by serving as a community-driven interface for DF residents in dealing with education, awareness raising and outreach related to climate change. By maintaining an active knowledge-driven web presence on the Village of Dobbs Ferry website, and by the modality of briefing and updates to the Village Board, the STF has worked to support the Mayor, the BOT, and Village Administration to plan, develop and implement strategies, ideas and programs related to the key areas of the CAP.

Additionally, it should be noted that the Mayor and the BOT of DF recognizing the centrality of climate smart community engagement has: a) Appointed Trustee Larry Taylor to serve as a Trustee liaison with the STF and the DF community on climate smart initiatives , and b) Appointed the DF Village Clerk (Liz Dreaper) to serve as the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Coordinator.

Overall, DF's strategy in climate engagement and awareness has been implemented as a result of a series of targeted community events including the Rivertown Public Markets, the Ferry Festa , Arbor Day and Earth Day events that have allowed for increased climate change education and community building over the past few years. Actively engaging with community residents on focused initiatives related to the focal areas of the CAP has allowed the Village of Dobbs Ferry and its STF to bring to the fore the urgency of climate change and also the need to implement community based responses.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

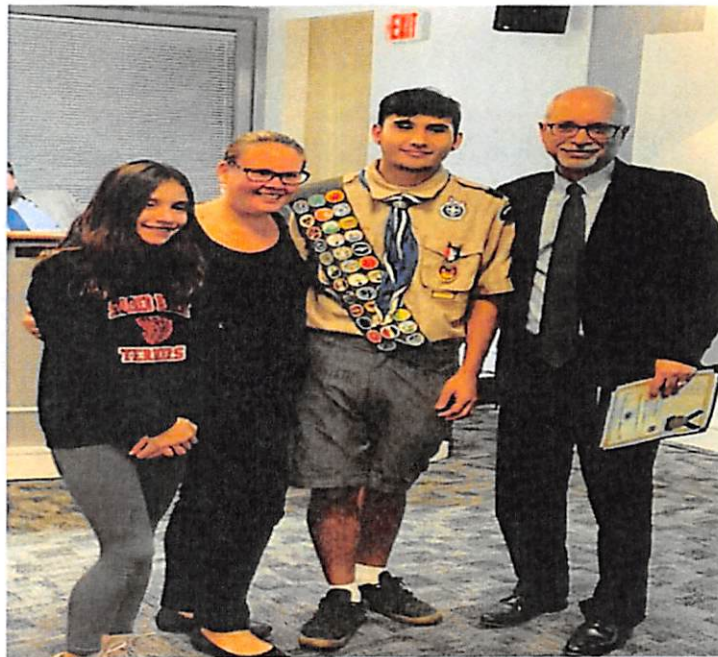
DF believes that climate change is one of the most existential threats facing its community residents and recognizes that climate change has multidimensional and multi-sectoral impacts which include the need to focus on engagement with a broad array of local community groups, as well as those in the Rivertowns and New York State and beyond in the next years to come. The Village working in tandem with its STF has adopted the "whole village" approach to community engagement and awareness-raising when it comes to climate change. Here, the recognition is that village wide community participation and village wide sharing of information is critical in order to accomplish the actions needed for climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Village in partnership with the STF has used the following strategies to engage the community on climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainability:

1) Community-driven Climate Action Planning and Implementation

The comprehensive community driven process by which the CAP was prepared was facilitated by the STF with the active involvement of numerous community groups. After the DF BOT's formal adoption of the CAP (2017), the STF and all branches of Village government have worked closely to establish a community engagement process that would enable the DF community to better understand climate change. The aim in DF has been to empower the community to implement more climate friendly and responsive measures related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste and pollution reduction, sustainable transportation, as well as sustainable conservation and use of natural resources. The Village of Dobbs Ferry has been fortunate to have climate community engagement promoted by our young residents as well as diverse community-based groups partnering together. For example, in 2019-2020, students in Springhurst Elementary were active in championing safe streets, walk to school campaigns to increase "walkability" and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from residential cars; Eagle Scout Nathan Tovar showcased the use of sustainable gardens with the DF BOT; and the Downtown Improvement Task Force along with the STF focused on alternative sustainable modes of transportation to combat climate change.





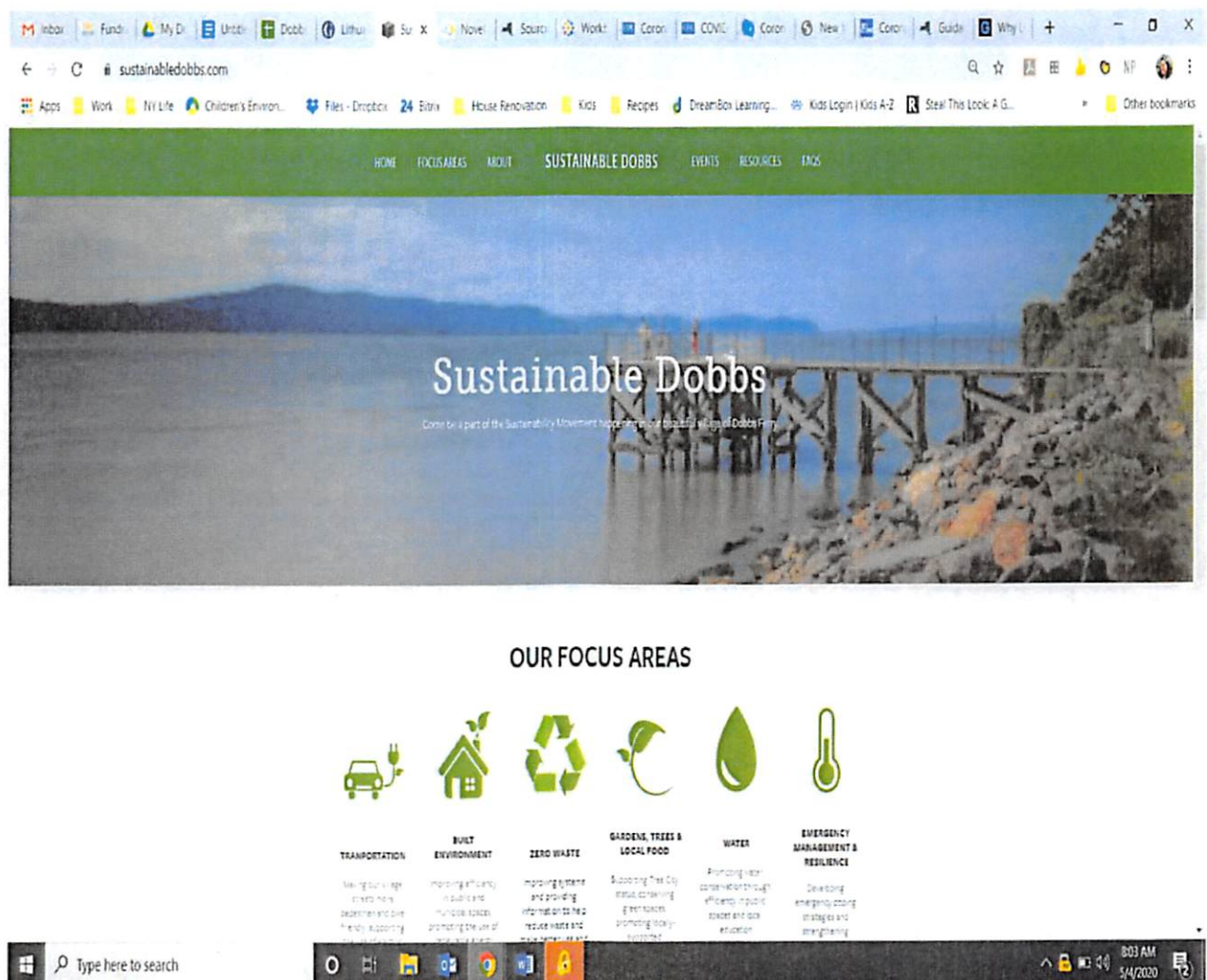
DOBS FERRY
**DOWNTOWN
IMPROVEMENT**
TASK FORCE

Goal 2	Encourage use of alternative transportation options – such as walking, taxis, rideshares, bikes, buses, and shuttles.	
#	Action	Proposed Group(s)
2a	Increase existing shuttle / jitney service hours of operation and stops, including in Downtown, and publicize more widely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Board of Trustees Village Staff Traffic Committee
2b	Install bike racks where possible, especially along / near the Old Croton Aqueduct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Board of Trustees Village Staff Village Department of Public Works Traffic Committee
2c	Partner with a shared bicycle service to encourage cycling and reduce vehicle use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Board of Trustees Village Staff Traffic Committee
Ideas for Consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research feasibility of “dockless” and “docked” bikes. Coordinate efforts with neighboring municipalities for bike-sharing offerings. Install attractive bus shelters. 		

Goal 3	Encourage turnover of parking on Main and Cedar Streets.	
#	Action	Proposed Group(s)
3a	Enforce parking regulations and improve user-friendliness and functionality of parking payment meters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village Staff Village Police Department Traffic Committee
Ideas for Consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor utilization via “smart” meters and apply any technical upgrades to help with effectiveness. Consider opportunities to provide free parking for holidays and special events. Incentivize business owners and employees to park on side streets or at 99 Cedar Street parking lot instead of Main and Cedar Streets. Consider allowing use of nickels and dimes in parking meters to be more user-friendly. 		

2) Stand-alone Website for Clearinghouse on Climate Action Issues

In addition to the STF website maintained via the Village of Dobbs Ferry, there is also a dedicated community driven social media focused website - www.sustainabledobbs.com - that allows for active engagement methods, community awareness and partnership building related to sharing knowledge and communicating key municipal findings and initiatives on climate change. The STF was able to establish sustainabledobbs.com as a crucial first step for creating a digital outreach platform that allowed the public to learn about climate change and how the Dobbs Ferry Sustainability Task Force was working to create adaptation and mitigation measures. In addition, the site acted as a “community engagement information source” for climate related events and engagements that were further shared within the community through social networks (facebook and instagram).



3) Social Media Outreach

Through the Sustainable Dobbs Facebook and Instagram pages, the Task Force is able to amplify climate action messaging, disseminate local and regional, and governmental information and cultivate community around climate action issues.



4) E-Newsletters

Sustainable Dobbs launched a newsletter last year, with 800 community members signed-up to be included on Task Force updates. The Mayor's Newsletter, currently issued on a weekly basis, sends out Task Force information, and currently reaches 2,900 community members. The newsletters promote local events, lectures, while also disseminating information such as how to recycle right and save energy.

5) Community Engagement through Public Events

Climate and sustainability engagement activities include outreach booths at public events and markets, lectures and information sessions, integration into school education programs, environment-focused book groups, art shows, and other community initiatives. The STF and volunteers staff informational booths at established community events like the Ferry Festa and the 4th of July, but we also have helped make established community events more sustainable. The Fall Festival now incorporates a pumpkin smash to encourage the composting of Halloween Jack O'Lanterns. The Rivertowns Public Market is now a zero waste event thanks to community volunteers including high school and middle school students who help educate the public on the sorting of recycling, trash and compost. The STF helped event organizers establish guidelines to require the use of compostable or recyclable materials, and reduce the use of disposable wares altogether.



Many of these outreach and education campaigns focused on raising climate awareness through raising topics like transportation, built environment, zero waste, community agriculture and gardening, water, and resiliency. The STF has promoted a series of climate change related community events that often featuring guest speakers and enable community residents to learn about specific climate related topic including for example, better environmental practices for sustainably maintaining tree cover, launch of composting and waste reduction programs, solar incentives / programs including Solarize DF and other initiatives. See below for examples of DF climate outreach in 2019.



The Village and its STF has instituted some unique climate

awareness and sustainability engagement initiatives including examples such as the Trees are Life Initiative.

Tree are Life Initiative

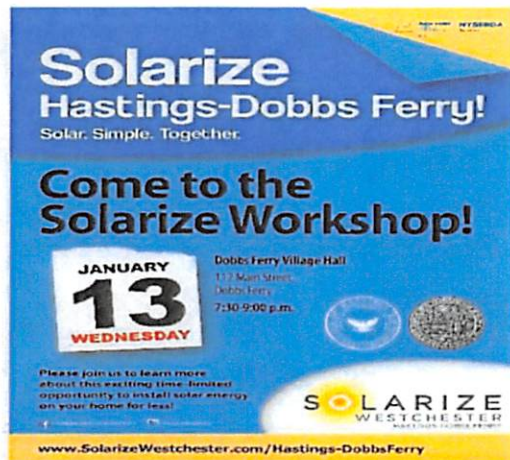
On April 26 2019, more than 75 Dobbs Ferry residents gathered for the first ever **Trees are Life Art & Word Show**. This was the first-ever community wide/fully inclusive Art & Word show that had a built-in climate and sustainability community engagement and participation. The project was a collaboration of the STF and the Tree Consortium, intended to promote increased awareness about the role of trees as valuable natural resource in mitigating and adapting to climate change as well as the need to build awareness on the importance of reducing waste as part of a larger “Zero Waste” initiative in Dobbs Ferry and Westchester County. DF’s promotion of climate smart community goals as well as New York State’s ban on single use plastic bags which begins in March 2020 lent new urgency to Trees are Life initiative. DF Mayor Bob McLoughlin spoke at the Opening Reception, and Westchester County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky helped with the “Reveal” of all the creative submissions.

Winners were announced at the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees meeting on May 28th. The winning designs were printed in color on 2000 reusable grocery bags distributed for free throughout the community. Winners in each of the categories also received a \$50 cash prize contributed by the STF and the DF Library. Three local businesses generously stepped forward to underwrite the cost of printing the Reusable bags – The Hardesty Team at Compass Realty, Paul Bunyan’s Tree Service, and DeSouza Landscaping. The Village distributed the reusable bags within the community at Rivertown Public Market, Ferry Festa and other community events which showcased the vital importance of trees in addressing climate change and allowed for reducing waste and improving sustainability in DF.



6) Informational campaigns in partnership with Sustainable Westchester

Dobbs Ferry has been an early-adopter for the educational campaigns produced with the support of Sustainable Westchester. Solarize and HeatSmart were two 6-month long initiatives that included multiple community events, dissemination of informational materials and other engagement opportunities. The engagement campaigns resulted in the installation of solar panels, and smarter heating and cooling solutions on the part of private homeowners.



7) Sustainable Municipal Operations

Improved Transportation Demand Management Community Forum: The Village of DF and its STF convened a community wide meeting on November 21, 2019 with all relevant stakeholders to focus on the issue of improving sustainable transportation and addressing climate change and safe streets concerns. Detailed presentations were made by the Village, Westchester County Smart Commute Program, , Mercy College, and others. From the Village's perspective the key priorities highlighted were:

Growth without Cars: what the Village is doing

1. Make walking, bicycling and transit better by redesigning our streets



- Shorten crosswalk distances
- Slow motorists to reduce risk of collisions and impact speeds

Growth without Cars: what the Village is doing

2. Make walking, bicycling and transit safer by lowering motorist speed limits



- Reduced speed limit on Ashford Avenue
- All other streets except NYS Rt 9 covered by Area-Wide limits
- Waterfront Parking Lot speed limit 10 mph

Growth without Cars: what the Village is doing

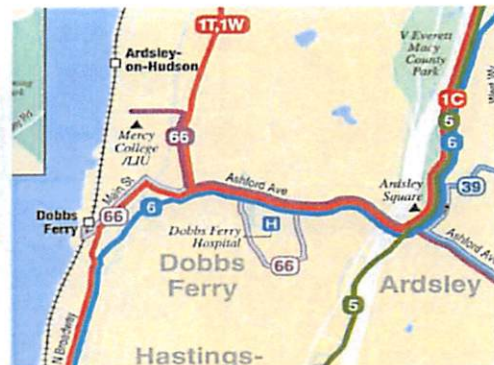
3. Make walking and bicycling safer with school crossing guards



- Train and employ 10 school crossing guards
- Fill-in with DFPD officers in cases of absences
- Helps our schools have walk/bike rates far above the 13% national average.

Growth without Cars: what the Village is doing

4. Improve existing bus and shuttle services



- Operate a commuter bus from the Dobbs Ferry train station
- Operate a senior citizen bus
- Work with County to optimize Bee-Line routes and stops to increase safety and ridership



Improving Recycling: The Sustainability Task Force helped produce a new recycling flyer mailed out to every household.



Village of Dobbs Ferry Recycling Guide

**Sustainable
Dobbs**

Commingled (Place items loose in curbside bin, rinsed clean)



Plastic Coded
1 through 7





Glass Bottles and Jars



Metal Cans, Containers and Foil

NEW



Milk cartons, Soup, Juice Boxes

Cups and Lids okay with commingled

Paper (place items loose in curbside bin)



Cardboard,
Staples okay



Pizza Boxes
(Clean and
Free of Food)



Newspapers,
Magazines, Catalogs



Household
Product Boxes



Phone Books



Paper Bags
(All Sizes)



Unwanted Mail
(Plastic windows OK)



Paper
(Shredded OK)



Paper Rolls



Greeting Cards
and Gift Wrap

Other Items



Electronics and
Appliances



Food Scraps

Remember: Recyclables must be placed loose in bins - not in plastic bags.

Electronics & Appliances: with second weekly garbage pick up, Thursday or Friday depending on route.

Food scraps drop off: Anthony Veteran's Park, 11 Olympic Lane, Place loose in green bins on left

NO Plastic Bags!!

NO Styrofoam!!

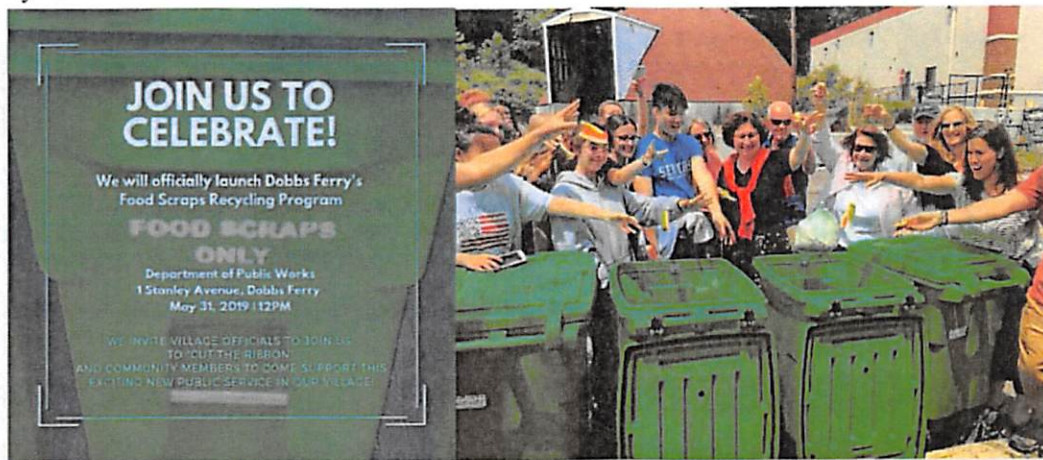
Plastic Bags: **DO NOT PUT WITH RECYCLES!!!** Can be brought to Stop and Shop for recycling

Styrofoam: All Styrofoam (even coded #6) go in TRASH. We do not have facilities to recycle.

Questions: Call 914.231.8507 DPW or 914.813.5425 Recycle Help Line

8) Food Scrap Recycling Drop off: The goal of reducing waste is critical to the broader aim of addressing climate change. Working in close partnership with the Village of Dobbs Ferry, the STF was excited to announce the launching of a Food Scrap Recycling Drop-Off facility in May 2019. Located at the DPW, the drop off site was launched open to all village residents via ribbon cutting that included Westchester County Legislator Mary Jane Shimsky and DF Mayor McLoughlin. All food scraps will be accepted, including fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, bread, rice, pasta, raw and cooked food, fresh or spoiled, as well as cut flowers, napkins, and tissues. The material will then be brought to a commercial compost facility and turned into compost!

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash, but rather a valuable resource that can be turned into useful compost. Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, prevents soil erosion and mitigates the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use and is climate friendly responsible measure that all community residents can participate in. By recycling food scraps, DF residents were encouraged to reduce waste and create compost - a double win! The new municipal operation involved significant communications and engagement efforts to ensure smooth adoption of the system.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key Accomplishments

- Dobbs Ferry Sustainability Task Force prioritization of key CAP goals
- Establishment of Sustainable Dobbs website

- Solarize Dobbs Ferry
- Heat Smart Dobbs Ferry
- Rivertowns Public Market Zero Waste Campaign
- Ferry Festa Climate Awareness Campaign
- Trees Are Life Initiative– Arbor Day, Climate Awareness and Reusable Bag Campaign
- Food Scrap Recycling Campaign
- Compost Bin and Food Scraps Site Launch
- Green Group Reads
- Dobbs Ferry Heat Pumps Program
- Tree City USA
- Improved Transportation Demand Management Forum
- Submission of Climate Resilience Grant from Pace Land Use

Key Events/ Accomplishments for 2020

- 2020 Earth Day #MomentsofCommunity
- Launch of Climate Resiliency Vision Planning by STF
- RFP for 2020 Village of Dobbs Ferry Comprehensive Plan which includes a clear focus on climate adaptation and resiliency.
- Initiation of Pace Land Use Institute Climate Resiliency Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Grant
- Submission of CSC grants related to sustainable transportation, safe streets and increasing community adaptation measures.
- Convening of Community Forum on Climate Resiliency & Adaptation

Sustainability is Community

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

Mayor Rossillo, the Board of Trustees & the Dobbs Ferry Sustainability Task Force invite you to share

#MomentsofCommunity you've experienced here in Dobbs Ferry.

From the collective strength of a community-sourced food pantry, to the recognition of our first responders and personal heroes. From the creative energies of small businesses reinventing themselves, to enjoying the simple beauty of Spring sunshine.

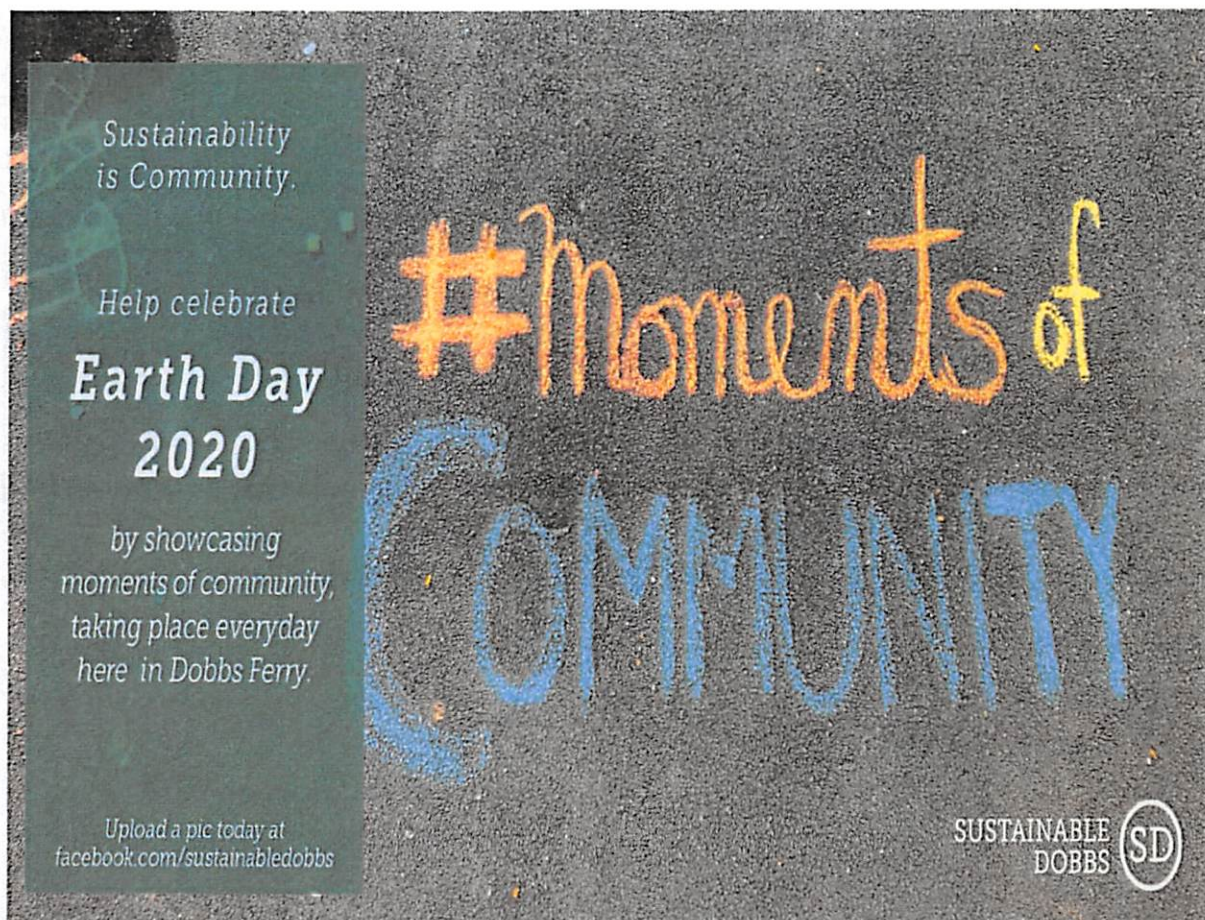
All of these acts - and so many more - remind us that we are not in this alone.

You can participate by:

- Posting an image, video or short story to our [Instagram](#) or our [FB page](#)
- Use the hashtag #MomentsofCommunity and tag Sustainable Dobbs

Moments of Community will help carry us through.

Thank you to all of you for continuing to do your part to keep Dobbs Ferry safe!



LOOKING AHEAD: PARTNERSHIPS ON COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AND ADAPTATION ARE KEY

Climate adaptation and climate resiliency is critically important for the future of DF. In late 2019, The Nature Conservancy and the Hudson River Watershed Alliance approached municipal officials in the Villages of Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Tarrytown to discuss and identify resilience needs relative to infrastructure, habitat restoration, and community resilience. DF will avail of the finding of the “Community Resilience Building Workshop: Summary of Findings” issued on March 2020 to guide ongoing efforts aimed at climate resiliency.

The Village is in the process of visioning what type of village it wants to be by 2030. This is primarily being moved forward through its comprehensive planning process. The comprehensive plan provides an opportunity to integrate principles of sustainability and resilience into its overall vision. The current RFP has mandated that the planning and design team incorporates sustainability and resiliency into the comprehensive plan and provide a clear roadmap for the village’s development.

DF greatly welcomes the opportunity presented by the Pace Land Use grant awarded by NYS on climate resiliency. Dobbs Ferry is a member of the Land Use Law Center's Mayors’ Redevelopment Roundtable (MRR), which serves 15 urban communities in the Mid-Hudson Region. This grant continues the Center’s 10-year initiative to build an effective model for regional prosperity and resiliency through the development of LWRP community resiliency components. Working with Dobbs Ferry and other local governments, the Center will develop LWRP resiliency components using the EPA/FEMA C-RISE Local Assessment Tool, which is designed to evaluate hazards and risks and comprehensively assess and refine laws and policies to improve resiliency and help achieve desired community outcomes.

The aim of the assessment is to refine community goals and priorities for enhancing climate adaptation, community resiliency and highlight community successes, strengths, gaps, and challenges. The tool recommends strategies for improving resiliency, including through amendments to land use plans, codes, and policies. Completed assessments will form the basis for the LWRP resiliency components. The Center will share resulting models and best practices regionally, statewide, and nationally through its public database and trainings.

The STF plans on convening a Community Forum (possible date early November 2020) on Climate Resiliency which includes the lessons learned from community engagement including addressing emergency services and food security concerns that arose as a result of the COVID pandemic. This Community Climate Resiliency Forum will be an opportunity to hear not just from climate adaptation and resiliency experts but will also include diverse range of community stakeholders so as to hear from voices/perspectives from all relevant groups especially those underserved and vulnerable. The STF in partnership with the Village will be working towards identifying the best format for this community forum. As part of the lead up to this Forum as a result of the anticipated project on climate resiliency with Pace Land Use, DF will benefit from the results of mapping of climate vulnerabilities related to the C-Rise tool, as well as the mapping of existing infrastructure and emergency services across Village across following focal Areas including:

- Food and Water Security
- Hazard Zone Identification & Hazard Mitigation Strategy
- Safe Shelters
- Access to Medicines/Emergency Services
- Storage and Battery/Generator
- Transportation Challenges

Partnerships Approach for Climate Resilient DF: Key Partners of Village Government and its STF

- Sustainable Dobbs
- Dobbs Ferry School District
- Dobbs Ferry Tree Consortium
- DF Conservation Advisory Board
- DF Transportation Committee
- DF Schools including DFSD, and other private and public school entities
- Local Houses of Worship and Businesses
- Rivertowns Chamber of Commerce
- Hudco
- Greenburgh Nature Center
- Westchester County
- Rivertowns – Intervillage agencies
- NY State
- GroundWork Hudson
- Pace Land Use Institute

- Sustainable Westchester
- Mercy College
- Masters School
- Hudson River Watershed Alliance
- Nature Conservancy
- Hudson River Estuary Program
- Scenic Hudson
- Sustainable Hudson Valley