



SUSTAINABLE PIERMONT

NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM A COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TO RESPOND TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE PIERMONT?

Sustainable Piermont is a community initiative to protect our environment and prepare for the upcoming effects of climate change. In this newsletter, we'll outline what we're working on—and how to get involved.

IT'S OFFICIAL: WE'RE A CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY!

The New York State DEC's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program aims to build a network of communities that are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate resilience.

On September 27, Piermont received CSC's "Bronze" certification and officially joined their ranks.

The CSC program was established in 2009 to provide information, tools, and funding to communities that undertake climate adaptation and mitigation projects. Joining CSC requires communities to make a formal pledge, then follow up with specific actions that earn points towards certification.

Piermont began working to achieve CSC certification in 2011. Some of the actions that contributed to our success include:

- Adopting the New York State Unified Solar Permit, which streamlines the approval process for installing solar
- Developing a Resilience Roadmap to set strategies for adapting to rising sea levels



Climate Smart Communities Certified Bronze

- Energy Code enforcement training to help officials reduce greenhouse gas emissions during the construction and renovation of commercial buildings
- The installation of an EV charging station to demonstrate our support for alternative fuel vehicles

What does CSC mean for Piermont? It represents an official acknowledgement of what our village's residents have long known: that climate change is real, that our community is uniquely vulnerable, and that we must come together to do all we can to mitigate the damage. It also makes us eligible for state funding opportunities that will help us accomplish more in the future. New York State has implemented some of the country's most significant environmental legislation, and it's a privilege to be at the forefront of those efforts and initiatives.

The Sustainable Piermont committee will continue to refer to CSC guidelines as we undertake new projects to mitigate climate change—and work to achieve higher levels of CSC certification.

OCTOBER 29: SAVE THE DATE

Every year, Piermont's Waterfront Resiliency Commission (PWRC) hosts a town hall meeting to share information and updates on the many ways we are working to build a more resilient village. This year, our event takes place on **October 29th**, the anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, from **7 to 9 PM** at **Village Hall**.

We will be displaying a sample GO bag, Climate Adaptive Designs from Cornell and CCNY, and the latest models on Sea Level Rise. We'll also distribute our flood guide and register those who are interested in the N2N alerts network. A presentation will be given on what Piermont is doing to reduce our climate change impact, what we need to plan for, how best to prepare, and how to recover from flood events.

It's a great chance to learn more about how Piermont is leading the way to adapt to the challenges of our time—and how you can get involved and help sustain our efforts to minimize climate change and mitigate sea level rise impacts on our community.

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LED STREETLIGHTS

Got a light? In an effort to reduce the energy consumption, maintenance costs, and the environmental impact associated with Piermont's network of streetlights, the village recently installed new Light Emitting Diode, or LED, streetlights.

LED streetlights are energy efficient, virtually maintenance-free, and last up to 4 times longer than High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights. Piermont expects to save an estimated 101,053 kilowatt-hours of energy per year, equivalent to a 66% reduction, compared to our current consumption. But we won't just be saving money—we'll also be cutting greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 72 metric tons annually, equivalent to the gas emissions from approximately 15 passenger vehicles driven for one year.

Piermont negotiated the purchase of these LED fixtures from O&R, but the village will take responsibility for maintaining the new lights. So if the streetlight in your neighborhood is too bright or shines into your home, call the **Piermont DPW** at **845-359-1717** and they'll adjust it.

A LIVING SHORELINE

Earlier this year, HDR Davis, an environmental design firm, was awarded a \$125,000 grant by the NEIWPC and NY DEC to create preliminary designs for a living shoreline along the north side of our pier from Parelli park out the dogleg. This project will be designed to mitigate the damage done by storms and improve our resiliency to sea level rise; it's possible because of the Cornell CAD studio we did two years ago. We will be conducting a series of outreach activities throughout the design process to incorporate the priorities of the community and encourage everyone to participate.



NEW EV CHARGING STATION

In our last newsletter, we wrote about the new EV charging station that was installed downtown, near the diagonal parking area on Piermont Avenue. Now, we're pleased to report that the charger is hooked up and ready to go.

Acquired through a grant from the New York State DEC, Piermont's charger is part of the "Greenlots" charging network and is listed on the Greenlots app. It's compatible with most makes and models of electric vehicles on the market today, including Nissan, Chevrolet, Kia, Jaquar, BMW, Audi, Hyundai, Volkswagen, Honda, Toyota, and Tesla. (While an adapter is available for Tesla's Models X and S, it is not yet available for the Mayor's beloved Model 3.) When visitors arrive at the Charging Station, they can simply scan a code and start charging. The fee they'll pay to do so—of 25 cents per kWh—also goes through the Greenlots app.

It's our hope that as word spreads about the charger's existence, people who own electric cars will be motivated to visit Piermont! Hosting a charging station is a highly visible way to demonstrate our village's

environmental values, which in turn helps contribute to a "green" image that attracts and retains like-minded visitors.

GET INVOLVED

Sustainable Piermont is a community led initiative, and we want to hear from you. If you've got expertise in waste management, alternative energy, or something else you think our village should be doing to combat climate change, please let us know. (A graphics expert would also be welcome to help with upcoming communications!)

In the future, we'll be planning for a series of Sustainability Workshops at the library, educating residents about how to reduce food waste, and celebrating the climate resilience plans taking shape across the community.

Find us online at <http://piermont-ny.gov/sustainable-piermont> or connect with us on Facebook @SustainablePiermont.

GET IN TOUCH

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