



The Lloyd Leaf



Who are we?

The Environmental Conservation Council (ECC) is a town-appointed council that advises the Town of Lloyd on the preservation, development and use of Lloyd's natural and historical resources.

ECC's mission is to ensure that as our town's residential and commercial facilities expand, its residents and visitors continue to enjoy clean air and water, biodiversity of plants and wildlife, and the scenic beauty with which our town is blessed. We believe these things redouble in importance with the town's growing reputation as a center for outdoor recreation.

What do we do?

Provide counsel to Town on environmental threats and opportunities

Coordinate with other environmental groups in the region

Promote environmental education in schools

Manage and improve the Black Creek Water Trail

Honor individuals and institutions for environmental contributions

Promote the creation of an Open Space Plan for the Town of Lloyd



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Lloyd Receives \$100K grant towards Solar Panels for Highway Department Garage

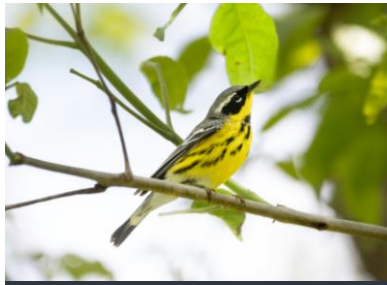
In 2024, Ulster County launched the "Solar & EV Infrastructure" (SEVI) grant program to fund municipal projects. This program is funded with 2.5 million dollars from the American Rescue Act to support clean energy investments by local governments. Up to \$100,000 can be awarded to towns for solar, electric vehicle infrastructure, or both and requires a 50% local match (which can come from additional grants).

In February of 2025, town of Lloyd was awarded one of these grants with the maximum amount of funding to install solar panels on the Highway Department garage on New Paltz road. Supervisor Dave Plavchak is committed to reducing the cost of electricity for municipal buildings. He said, "We are trying to lower our Central Hudson expense along with lowering emissions. We spent a large amount of money with Central Hudson to run the town, the largest user is actually the Water/Sewer Department. However, we chose the Highway Department to start with since we had to replace the old, deteriorated roof which we did in the Spring of 2024." Supervisor Plavchak received several estimates from solar companies that all came

in at about \$200,000. He continued, "At 200 thousand dollars, it takes approximately 18.5 years to recover the investment. So I am currently looking for another grant to make the remaining cost (100K) and get the return-on-investment much sooner. Once we finish the Highway Garage, we will continue to look at other areas in the town where we can convert to solar panels."

The town has contracted with Cynthia Flowers, a local grant writer to find and apply for money to cover the additional cost of solar panels. Having the SEVI grant funds may make it easier to win grants from other agencies. She will also help the ECC find funding sources for other Clean Energy Community projects. Additionally, there are federal, state, and utility tax incentives available that will help with project costs.

We see the investment into solar panels as a win:win:win: 1. There are climate benefits to switching from fossil fuels to a renewable energy source, 2. There are financial benefits to saving on our energy bill for municipal buildings, 3. We will earn Climate Smart AND Clean Energy points which enable the town to earn additional grant funding in the future.



Magnolia Warbler
Photo by Raju Bhupatiraju on Unsplash

Lights-Out Initiative for Migrating Birds

Between March and mid-June, billions of birds migrate north from their southern wintering grounds. The majority of these birds are migrating under cover of night. Highland sits along a major migration route along the eastern US coast; we can see upwards of 6,000 birds per kilometer per night during the peak in mid-May. Nocturnally migrating birds that use stars for navigation can become disoriented by human lighting causing them to collide with buildings or windows.

With peak migration underway, we are asking residents, businesses and municipalities to join the LIGHTS OUT initiative, a national effort to reduce unnecessary nighttime lighting. Between April 15 and May 31, you can:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11PM until 6AM
- Turn off or dim lobby and atrium lights.
- Turn off or dim interior home lighting, or draw blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Turn off decorative landscape lighting.
- Turn off lights before leaving the home or office.
- Be sure outside lights are aimed down and well shielded.
- Install motion sensors on outside lights to minimize use.

Turning a new Leaf: A Look into Lloyd's Climate Action Progress

Sophia Henderson, Vassar College

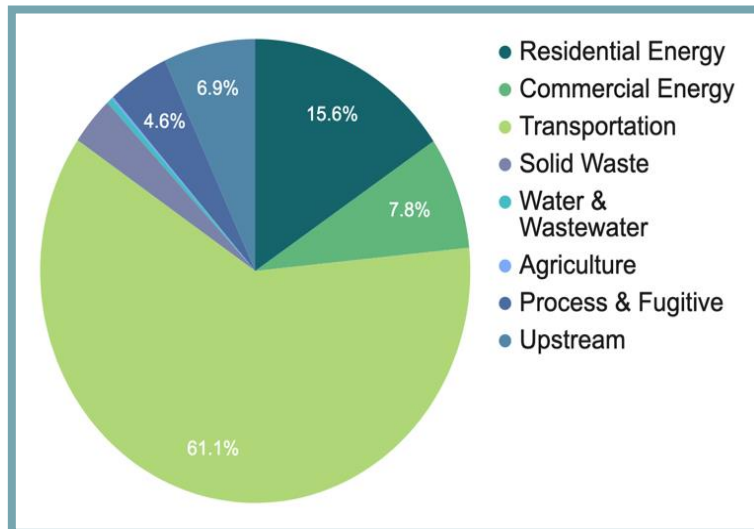
During the fall 2024 and spring 2025 semesters I had the pleasure of completing a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Report for the Town of Lloyd, working as the Community Engaged Learning (CEL) intern with the ECC. I looked at two prior inventories, the 2021 Mid-Hudson Regional GHG Inventory and the 2022 Ulster County GHG Inventory. The GHG Inventory Reports provided two key takeaways: transportation and residential buildings were the highest emitters of GHG emissions. For example, 61% of Lloyd's total emissions came from transportation while 16% came from residential buildings. This is a common trend among other towns in the Hudson Valley too. Second, Lloyd's forests are an important sink for CO₂ emissions, which is the most prominent greenhouse gas.

As we plan for Lloyd's future, it's crucial that we recognize the role of forests and their carbon-sequestering abilities in mitigating climate change. That's why it's so important for the town to fully embrace and implement its Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. This plan

emphasizes directing development to already built-up areas like the Hamlet of Highland and along Route 9W, where infrastructure such as water and sewer already exists. By encouraging compact walkable neighborhoods and protecting undeveloped forests, Lloyd can prevent sprawl and preserve the natural systems that help draw down carbon. Smart growth isn't just good planning—it's climate action.

As a Climate Smart Community, Lloyd should aim to complete as many CSC (Climate Smart Communities) actions as possible to reduce emissions from these sectors. This semester, ECC Chairperson Neil Curri and I began work on a community solar campaign, which would help cut residential energy emissions while also earning points toward grant funding. In addition to reducing electricity bills for residents, this CSC action would support Lloyd's sustainability goals. We also hope to explore other initiatives—such as the installation of heat pumps—to further address energy use in homes. Climate action at the

local level is no easy feat, especially for small towns working with limited budgets and big goals. But Lloyd is taking meaningful steps forward as a registered Climate Smart Community. I'm excited to continue following Lloyd's progress—and hopefully, see a measurable drop in greenhouse gas emissions in the near future.



Lloyd's Community Emissions for 2022
developed by ICLEI-local Governments for Sustainability in 2024

Tackling Fish Consumption

Usually, fish is considered part of a very healthy diet because it is high in protein and nutrients, but some freshwater fish in Highland lakes and rivers can contain mercury or PCBs (polychlorinated biphenals). The NY Department of Health has issued some advice regarding your fresh fish dinners. The chart applies to Ulster County fish in general with recommendations for mercury-sensitive individuals (children under 15 and pregnant women) and everyone else.

General Population	Ulster County Fishing Waters	Sensitive Population
	Best Choice Fish	
4 meals a month		4 meals a month
4 meals a month	Good Choice 	1 meal a month
1 meal a month	Eat Less 	1 meal a month
1 meal a month		0 DON'T EAT

Chart by NY Department of Health; health.ny.gov/fish

Many fish contain methylmercury, but older fish can accumulate more of this chemical in their bodies. People who regularly eat fish can also have methylmercury accumulate in their bloodstream. Exposure to high levels of methylmercury during times of active brain development can lead to neurological effects such as decreased measures of intelligence, difficulty in memory and cognition, and

problems with gross and fine motor skills. This is why children under 15 and pregnant women should limit their exposure. Mercury poisoning is unlikely given the low mercury content of our local freshwater fish. Fish that contain very high levels of mercury include shark, swordfish, and king mackerel.

This chart shows recommendations for fish consumption taken from the Hudson River between the Rip Van Winkle bridge in Catskill to the New York City Battery.

Lower Hudson From Rip Van Winkle Bridge at Catskill to the NYC Battery	General Population	Sensitive Population
	4 meals/month	0 DON'T EAT
	1 meal/month	0 DON'T EAT
Do not eat the tomalley ("green stuff", mustard, hepatopancreas) or reuse cooking water	6 crabs/week	0 DON'T EAT
*DEC regulations prohibit taking American eel for food from the Hudson River	0 DON'T EAT	0 DON'T EAT

Chart by NY Department of Health; health.ny.gov/fish

In the early 1900s, PCBs were dumped into the Hudson River north of Albany. Currently, the most contaminated areas remain in the northern reach of the Hudson River, but fish downstream can still contain these chemicals. PCBs are considered a probable cause of cancer in people, and can trigger health problems such as low birth weight, as well as reproductive and immunological problems. All fish caught between Troy and Hudson Falls are on the "take no fish, keep no fish" list. In Ulster County, fish are edible with consumption limits recommended. The NYDEC tracks PCBs in fish, and while concentrations have lowered since the cleanup that took place between 2009 and 2015, they are still higher than the predicted benchmarks.

Hazardous Waste Events (Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency)

- **June 22** – Kingston
999 Flatbush Road,
Kingston, NY
- **August 23** - New Paltz
1 Clearwater Road, New Paltz, NY 12561
- **October 26** Kingston
999 Flatbush Road,
Kingston, NY

All hazardous waste days are from 8:00-12:00
Must register

FREE Paint Recycling Event (PAINT ONLY) - Climate Smart Kingston

Saturday May 31
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Kingston Plaza
151 Plaza Road, Kingston, NY

PaintCare Locations

- Beck's Home and Hardware of New Paltz,
- Herzog of Poughkeepsie and Kingston
- Sherman Williams of Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Kingston
- Habitat Restore of Kingston
- Page Lumber of Poughkeepsie
- PPG Paint of Poughkeepsie





ECC Members

Wesley Salis, Natalie Kikel, Kelly Oggenfuss, Jonathan Kalplan, Erik Hazelton, and Neil Curri (L to R) as well as JoyAnn Savino, Nancy Hammond, Jessica Van Houten-Kenny, and Jeff Rieger (not pictured) invite you to join ECC sponsored activities or to join the ECC itself.

Discover more about our town's natural heritage and scenic beauty.

Help clean up our roads, waterways, and parks.

Encourage town development that maintains the health of our land, air, water, plants and animals.

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Come Join the Lloyd Environmental Conservation Council!

Public Meetings held the third Monday of every month

5:30 pm at the Lloyd Town Hall

Come visit with any environmental questions, concerns or thoughts

OR stay and become a member!

Contact Chairperson Neil Curri for info – (845) 664-2100

ecc@townoflloyd.com

We're Online!

Please visit our website

And like our Facebook page for ECC updates and activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfLloydEnvironmentalConservationCouncil>



How to get rid of old paint

Not all paint should be thrown away in the garbage. When you finish your home improvement project do you know how to deal with the leftover paints and stains? A New York State paint stewardship law passed in 2019 aims to make it easier to safely dispose of various paints. This law is administered by the non-profit group PaintCare

PaintCare is funded by a fee charged to new paint based on the size of the container (free for less than half a pint, up to \$1.95 for 5 gallons). Dropoff for leftover paint is free. Items must be in their original containers, less than 5 gallons, and covered with a secured lid. Leaking cans will not be accepted.

Water-based paint (latex): Most household paint is water based. To dispose of leftover paint, open the lid and allow to dry completely. Mixing cat litter or sawdust in will speed up the process. Once the paint is dry, throw it away with household garbage.

Oil-based paint: Oil based paint is considered a hazardous waste product. You can dispose of liquid paint by taking it to a Paintcare disposal site or to a Hazardous waste day at the Ulster County Resource Recovery (see sidebar page 3)

Stains, deck coatings, varnish, shellac, waterproofing, and rust preventatives: These are a hazardous waste as well. Dispose of these items by taking them to a PaintCare disposal site, or to a Hazardous waste day at the Ulster County Resource Recovery (see sidebar page 3).

Spray paint: Spray paint can be either water or oil based, but most are oil based and should be considered hazardous waste. Do not add to garbage or metal recycling. Take cans to a Ulster County Resource Recovery hazardous waste event (see sidebar page 3). PaintCare will not accept spray paints.

