

Tusten Energy Committee Report January 2022

Soft Plastic Recycling

In January 2022 the TEC collected 546 pounds of soft plastic making us eligible to receive our 6th TREX outdoor bench. This one will go next to the HORSE for operators and those dropping off food scraps.

To date the TEC has logged more than 9 tons from Tusten residents and businesses to be recycled into TREX decking and outdoor furniture.

LED Streetlights

The TEC would like to request the board's support in asking NYPA to schedule our Main St pendant streetlights installation in the spring. On that day they could also go through a punch list of issues with other already installed cobra head streetlights. Originally NYPA wanted to come back only once to Narrowsburg to trench and install the parking lot streetlights on that day as well.

We've waited more than 1 year for the completion of our LED streetlights install and waiting on the parking lot install could take another year. Because the parking lot needs a whole day to trench and install poles with cobra head LED streetlights, we'd like to ask NYPA to break it down that way and come back when the board is ready to proceed.

Bank Building on Main St

The TEC is on our way towards a silver certification as a Climate Smart Community and we've recommended the board consider purchasing and installing air source heat pumps in the bank building lowering Tusten's emissions and energy costs significantly. Councilwoman Jane Luchsinger has confirmed the board's support of mini-splits or air source heat pumps in the building. The TEC thanks you for this decision.

Tusten HORSE update

To date, we have processed 1 ton of organic material from The Heron, The Botanist, Blue Fox and Pete's. We are sorry to hear that The Botanist has closed but thank them for their support while they were in Narrowsburg.

- The TEC is now working on the ongoing HORSE operations plan which is our last deliverable for the DEC grant.
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York (NOFA-NY) Certification of the Tusten HORSE plant food product has been initiated with a local farm.
- The local SUNY Green Technology department is interested in scheduling a visit in the spring. There is significant training potential for students with the HORSE.
- As reported previously, an RIT research student/professor team is working on a graduate case study about the Tusten HORSE with the goal of understanding the social, environmental, and financial drivers of a distributed model for food waste processing and energy production.
- Energy Vision is a NYC based advisory team whose sole mission is to help communities lower their carbon footprint across the country. They will be featuring Tusten as a US community committed to responsible energy use. They fully support the Tusten HORSE as a necessary sustainable path for the future and want to highlight our efforts over the past 11 years.

Other TEC Initiatives

The Forsythia in front of the Tusten Solar Array has been fed liquid organic plant food from our HORSE last fall. In spring, Narrowsburg Beautification wants to work with the TEC to mulch and plant around the Forsythia making it look better and become easier for the hi-way department's mowing maintenance. This Tusten garden improvement will be submitted to Sullivan Renaissance this year.

Brandi designed new stickers for town outdoor trash and recycling bins making it easier to understand what each bin is for. The bins surfaces will be cleaned and stickers applied in the spring.

This year the TEC Facebook page will feature inspiring green efforts around our community.

Brandi Merolla, chair
1/29/2022

Star Hesse, Naomi Holoch, Catherine Lewis, Jennifer Porter, Scott Porter, Councilman Greg Triggs, Councilman Kevin McDonough.