

BRIARCLIFF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Winter 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to our inaugural newsletter! We wish you all a happy, healthy, and sustainable New Year! The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee was formed in September 2022 with the goal of making recommendations to the Board of Trustees on matters related to sustainability, reducing our carbon footprint, and promoting environmentally friendly practices through education and community engagement. We are proud to announce in our very first newsletter that Briarcliff Manor has now become a member of the **Climate Smart Communities!** We look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, the Climate Smart Task Force, and of course all of you, on specific projects that will enable us to become a greener community!

Padma Sridhar, Mary Torres, Stacey Winnick, Seth Leitman, Jennifer Sendek and Melissa Rinzler



- The Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program is jointly sponsored by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), New York State Energy Research and Developmental Authority (NYSERDA), Dept. of Public Service, Dept. Of State, Dept. of Transportation, Dept. of Health, and the Power Authority (NYPA).
- By passing a pledge to reduce emissions and implementing actions to adapt to climate change, **Briarcliff Manor is now one of 369 registered CSCs in the state.**
- The CSC program supports municipalities by providing 50/50 competitive grant funding to implement projects to reduce emissions and build resilience to extreme weather.
- Implementing CSC certification actions can help our community achieve cost savings through greater efficiency, greater energy independence and energy security, improved air quality, and reduction of future flood risk through climate change adaptation policies,

Message from the Board of Trustees

In the fall of 2022, the Board of Trustees formed the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee to leverage the enthusiasm, knowledge, and willingness of the many residents who sought to encourage Earth-friendly activities throughout the Village.

Briarcliff thrives on the many volunteers who contribute to our community. A large number of residents applied for limited committee positions and the abundance of qualified, experienced applicants made it difficult to whittle down the selected to a manageable number. All residents are welcomed and encouraged to attend ESAC meetings, which are generally held on the first Thursday evening of the month, 7:30pm in the Court Room at Village Hall.

The Board has chartered ESAC to develop recommendations to improve sustainability and to promote “reduce, reuse, and recycling” initiatives. The committee will suggest policies directly to the Village Manager and the BOT, and they will also publish educational materials directly to residents. By better educating the entire community on the benefits, cost-savings, and ease of implementing greener practices, ESAC will encourage homeowners to contribute to a greener Briarcliff, ease the burden on DPW services, and save taxpayer dollars as well.

The Board thanks all ESAC applicants who volunteered their expertise, time, and energy. And we also thank all of you who take steps to reduce waste, decrease the burden of village resources, and help contribute to an even better functioning Briarcliff Manor.

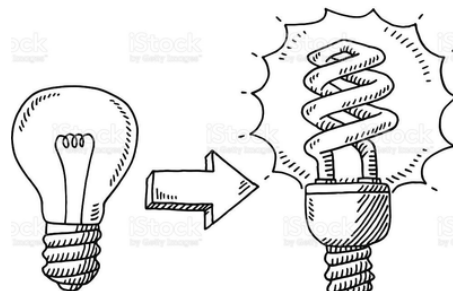
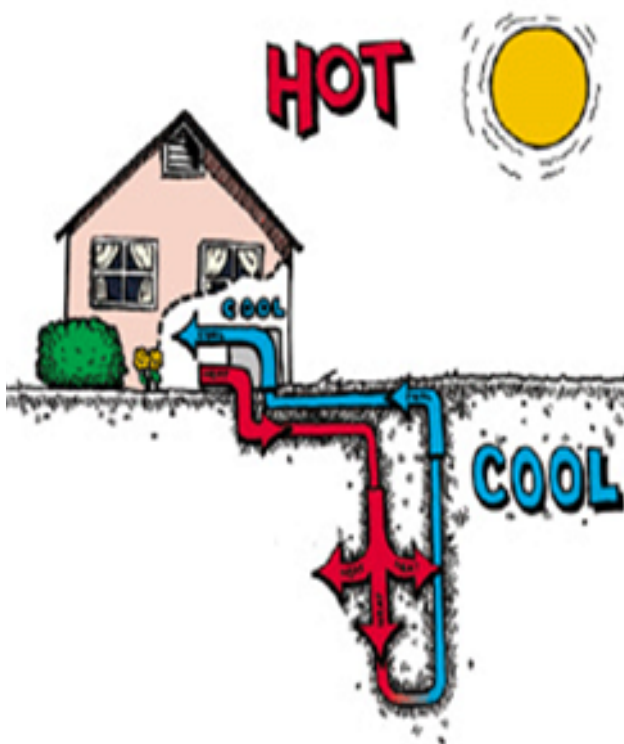
Happy New Year to all!
Board of Trustees



How is your winter going?

Now that the holidays are over, are you ready for January and February? Here are some tips to help you save money while helping the environment this winter!

- Check the insulation in your home! Consider a home energy audit.
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Residential-Energy-Assessment-Programs>
- Did you know that lighting accounts for about 15% of an average home's electricity use? Save by switching to energy-efficient lighting and using timers and dimmers.
- Switch to a smart thermostat. Lower your thermostat. Each degree above 68 can increase your energy usage by 3%.
- Take advantage of off-peak rates (check peak times at www.coned.com) and run full loads with your dishwasher and laundry.
- If you are thinking of upgrading your home's heating/cooling systems, check out clean energy options such as geothermal and heat pump technologies at www.coned.com





► Community Day, September 10, 2022

Community Day was the perfect occasion to introduce ourselves to the community. Visitors to our booth got free reusable bags (generously donated by the Briarcliff Sustainability Committee) and LED light bulbs (generously donated by Sustainable Westchester). Thanks to Just Eyes Optometry for their donation of a raffle prize (sunglasses made of recycled plastic). Huge thanks to our high school volunteers!!



► Stash the Trash, October 15, 2022

Thanks to the Rec department and the DPW for helping put this event together! We gave out orange trash bags, gloves, and grabbers, and the community brought their energy! We loved the enthusiasm of the Brownies (Troop 1227) who played the trash/recycling game, and won a prize for most trash collected!

How well do you know your sustainability trivia?

1) The US Dept. of Energy (DOE) recommends turning off the monitor and placing the computer on sleep mode if you are not going to use it for more than

- a. 2 hours
- b. 6 hours
- c. 45 min
- d. 20 min

2) LEDs use ____ of the energy needed for incandescent bulbs

- a. 25%
- b. 50%
- c. 75%
- d. 100%

3) How many gallons of gasoline does the average American consume in one year?

- a. 150 gallons
- b. 500 gallons
- c. 310 gallons
- d. 750 gallons

4) Do items such as cell phone chargers, fans, coffee makers, desktop printers etc. consume energy even when they are turned off?

- a. Yes
- b. No

5) On average, how many aluminum soda cans are used in the United States every year?

- a. 90 million
- b. 80 billion
- c. 120 million
- d. 3 billion

Answer key

!

1) D: It is estimated that in 2008, \$2.8 billion was spent on energy to power unused computers in the workplace alone. Lose the screen saver! They use as much energy as when the computer is in use!

2) A: LEDs use a quarter of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs!

3) B: The average American consumes 500 gallons of gasoline yearly. Carpooling or taking mass transportation helps cut down on gasoline consumption!

4) A: These items consume power even when they are turned off, and can account for up to 5% of your home's energy use! Unplug devices when not in use.

5) B: We use 80 billion aluminum cans every year! Aluminum cans are completely recyclable, and there is no limit to the number of times aluminum can be recycled!

Our Friendship with the Earth

Madeline Dubroff, Grade 2, Todd Elementary School, Briarcliff Manor

our friendship with the
Earth.

The Earth is special because it
is our home and take care of
us. The Earth gives us air and
food, water, soil, trees, night
and day too.

What should we do for the Earth?

We should not litter. We should
recycle and compost. We should
protect the trees and plants. We
should protect the air and animals.

We Love you Earth.

By: Maddie Dubroff

Native Plant Spotlight

Winterberry Holly

Would you like to add some beautiful color to your winter garden? Consider planting winterberry holly next spring or fall. Since forest colors are muted at this time of year, the beautiful berries of winterberry stand out. Winterberries remain on the plant throughout the winter and are a colorful addition to the winter landscape. The bright red berries are toxic to humans but provide food for birds such as robins and sparrows. Winterberries also provide nesting habitat and shelter for wildlife, and their flowers benefit pollinators including native bees and butterflies.

Pictured: The red berries of winterberry holly in winter (Photo by NYSDEC)



ESAC Upcoming Events

·**Con Ed informational event** on energy efficiency for residences and small businesses, cutting down energy costs, and rebates/incentives for electric vehicles (February 16, 2023). The event will be sponsored by the Greater Hudson Valley Electric Vehicle Association.

Stash the Trash (Spring 2023)

Join us at our meetings (**7.30 pm on the first Thursday of every month** at the Village Hall, Court Room) to learn what we are working on, and to see how you can contribute to making Briarcliff cleaner and greener! For more information about the committee, visit us at **www.briarcliffmanor.gov/environmental-sustainability-advisory-committee**