

“Community Resilience for the Climate Emergency”

Wednesday, July 19th, 2023 at 6:00 PM
at Belfast Free Library (with Zoom option)

The Peace & Social Justice Forum/Waldo County, in coordination with ABCD and Possibility Alliance, will host Dr. Peter Kalmus, award winning author and climate scientist from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab.

Dr. Kalmus has said that “Global Warming is happening with a rapidity that leaves me speechless” and he is dismayed that our government is not placing this existential threat at the center of the challenges that we are facing. Moving beyond fossil fuels and how we as individuals can work toward this goal, while living fulfilled lives is the question he and his family have been grappling with.



Dr. Peter Kalmus

Dr. Kalmus will share his personal journey in this essential work, and will discuss how we can respond as individuals locally, and in collective ways to move us toward a fossil free future. His award-winning book is titled *“Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution.”*

Following the presentation on July 19, Dr. Kalmus will join other climate activists for two community circles to further the conversation about practical ways to support a just transition and increase community resilience in this time of climate crisis. Both circles are open to the public and will be held at the Possibility Alliance, 85 Edgecomb Road, Belfast on Sunday July 23, and Saturday August 5, from 4-6 pm. All are invited.

ABCD Celebration Event

Grant funding for the ABCD project is coming to a close at the end of August, and our team is celebrating 3 years of educating and encouraging dialogue about climate change. Going forward, the Library will continue offering educational programs on the climate crisis, and supporting community action. **Save the date: Tuesday, August 29th from 5-8 PM at the Belfast Free Library.** Stay tuned for more details!

If you want to be part of a citizen-led climate action network in Belfast, building on the work of ABCD and so many others, please reach out to Brenda Harrington at the Belfast Free Library.

Community Composting in the Works for Belfast

In response to recent reports that the yearly amount of carbon emissions generated by wasted food in the U.S. is equal to that of 42 coal-fired power plants and that households account for half of the wasted food, an informal committee has formed to spearhead a community composting program for Belfast.

Committee members, from the Belfast Garden Club, ABCD / Belfast Free Library and local churches, have been meeting with Davis Saltonstall of ScrapDogs Community Compost to

learn about the options. ScrapDogs already provides compost pickup service to local businesses & organizations like The Belfast Soup Kitchen, Rollie's and the Belfast Community Co-op.

The committee is excited to share that they have identified a promising site and hope to announce and confirm this by end of July! Stay tuned for updates.



Example of a community composting drop-off site in Southern Maine, courtesy Garbage to Garden.

Comprehensive Plan Draft Updates for Belfast Include Climate Solutions

The "City of Belfast Draft Comprehensive Plan Update May 2023" (including a section on "Climate Solutions") was shared with the public in an open house on June 29th. The document can be found on the Belfast Library ABCD website or you can ask a librarian to see a printed copy.

Your feedback can be emailed to the Comprehensive Planning Committee at compplan@cityofbelfast.org.

Belfast Accepted to Community Resilience Partnership; Applying for Heat Pump Grant

On June 20th, 2023, Belfast City Council authorized the enrollment of the City of Belfast into the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Community Resilience Partnership.

On July 5th, the City Council authorized an application for its first Community Action Grant for \$50,000, to fund heat pump installation in multiple City-owned buildings.