

# Happy Ever After



Birds at the feeder



Raindrops on the lake



Helpful website



Myhus

## Stepping towards a better environment



### STEP UP TO A SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLE

BY ROBERT DEANGELIS

Let's make the world a cleaner, safer and healthier place. Like Michael Jackson said many years ago, we need to look at the "man in the mirror." Why blame someone else, or wait for others to drive change? If each of us steps up to our individual responsibility, we can collectively make a big difference, starting today. Believe it or not, it is not that hard. What may seem overwhelming and complex at first can be achieved step by little step. Today we start a series of articles to help all of us see how easy it can be to live a more sustainable life and, in many cases save money and improve overall health, too. Don't worry if you miss one. All articles will be filed on our website (yorktown100.org) for future reference. Each week we will share practical tips. Let us know if you have one you would like to share!

#### Today's Topic: Calculate your household carbon footprint

Every person uses fossil fuels. We use them to power vehicles, heat homes, generate electricity, and produce items we use daily including plastics, clothing and

food. Fossil fuels have been the primary source for energy to date, but they have significant deleterious impacts on our environment. With the current population increasing, and rising energy use per person, we need to reduce the amount consumed. See the chart on page 9 for the typical profile of CO2 emissions for a house in Yorktown Heights, NY (which is similar to other towns in the area) and derived from a national study from the University of California at Berkeley which estimates household emissions by zip code <https://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/maps>.

Wow. 61 metric tons per year for every household (or 370 pounds per day). Note that the average for Yorktown is about 20% higher than the national average due to significant transportation and household heating components. It really adds up and contributes to a global total that is very dangerous. To avoid disastrous and irreversible environmental tipping points (like polar ice cap melt and sea rise), we must reduce these emissions rapidly.

What's in these totals for each household?

SEE DEANGELIS PAGE 9

## Message from Yorktown Chamber

BY SERGIO ESPOSITO  
CHAMBER PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July holiday. I truly hope everyone enjoyed spending time with their family and friends as well as enjoy some well needed downtime. As the world seems to be spinning up once again, I have witnessed the hustle and bustle of daily life begin to return to a pace we all were used to in the pre-pandemic universe.

I also want to wish the Graduating Classes of The Yorktown High School, Lakeland and Panas the very best as you truly begin your life journey that will lead you to accomplishment, success and happiness. I have spoken to many graduating seniors and am continually impressed by their steadfast commitments and determination. It's an exciting time for all of you and a very heart wrenching time for all your parents as they begin the process of letting you go!

Our local business community is once again thriving as we enter Phase 4 of the New York "UNPAUSE" initiatives. I am proud to see our local businesses begin to open their doors while steadfastly adhering to the NY State mandated guidance. Throughout my travels within the local business community I have witnessed many Chamber members not only adhering to such necessary guidance but going above and beyond. One member that comes to mind is JILCO Windows and Doors who (along with the appropriate markers, barriers and social distancing practices) hand out gloves to all visitors

in order to keep contact to a bare minimum. It is a relief which will ensure a safe reopening.

The PPP Loan program and the forgiveness phase has raised many questions as to how it will work. Your lender should reach out to you when you apply for this very important new guidance has yielded some business may qualify for forms are the short form and the long form (FFELC) both be found online. The short form you must meet the following criteria: You are not have no employees; you are not have salaries or hours of work more than 25%; or you expect to resume business activity due to the pandemic and kept your employees at least 75%. Please remember to contact your lending institution to get the am sure more guidance.

Members, please take advantage of our many benefits such as advertising the LED sign which is required for renewal, member special social media promotions, e-blasts, and of course, advocacy. Let the Chamber be your voice to the town government, with those of you who are considering joining today!

Lastly, we share in the excitement of recent events around the town for all the families and

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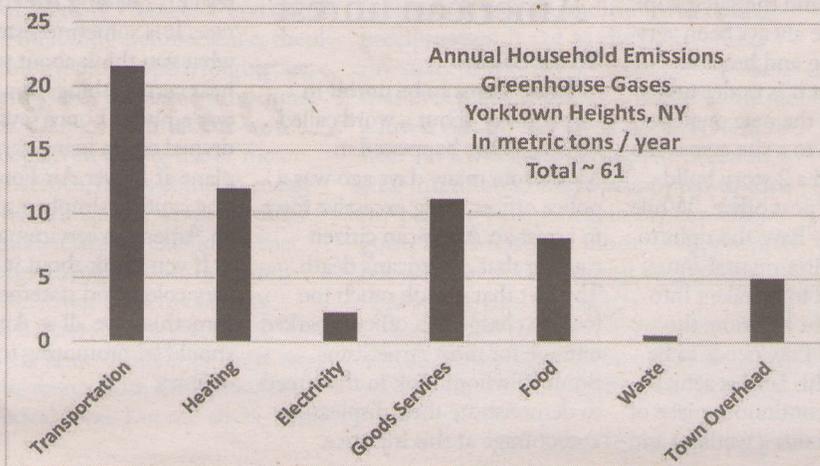
FROM PAGE 8

- Transportation: Automobile, airline and commuter train trips
- Heating: Natural gas, oil, propane that you use to heat your house
- Electric: All the electricity you use in your home
- Goods & Services: The emissions from manufacturing and distributing all the things you buy and services you utilize (including investments)
- Food: Includes emissions from agriculture and farm raised animals
- Waste: The garbage and recycled materials from your household
- Municipal: Town buildings, water and wastewater, schools, street lights, local businesses, etc.

What are your personal household emissions? How do you compare to this average of 61 tons per year? You don't need to be a scientist to calculate your own household emissions. You will need a copy of your utility bill, knowledge about your cars, and some other lifestyle information. While

there are other tools available, we highly recommend using this locally developed tool (courtesy of Croton100) with access from our website: <https://yorktown100.org/carbon-tracker> It will provide detailed insight into your carbon producing activities. It is a great exercise to do together with your family. It is also valuable to compare with friends, perhaps over a glass of wine with proper social distancing. We can learn from each other. If you would like help with this exercise, please contact us through our website. We will also be glad to meet (either virtually or with social distance) with interested groups.

The good news is that there are plenty of things you can do to reduce these emissions. Once you have an understanding of your own personal household emissions, you can begin to put plans in place to reduce them. In future articles, we will discuss lots of effective and easy options for each of the major categories shown above. In many cases you can save the environment and save money and improve health. Talk about a win-win-win! We look forward to sharing with you.



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