

Green Ridgewood Public Comment

My name is Caitlin O’Leary, I live at ___ Bedford Road and I am a member of the Green Ridgewood advisory committee. Green Ridgewood met recently to discuss the final draft of the Master Plan. We focused on the Green Building & Sustainability element. Our group agreed that it is very thorough and points up the problems we face due to the Climate Crisis.

We applaud the goals of developing green building standards and considering sustainability up front in each and every public project. Educating the public, Village staff, the land use boards, and Board of Ed to do that makes a lot of sense. We would be happy to assist in coming up with the Checklist mentioned in the Plan’s Recommendations.

As for expanding the use of renewable energy -- YES! Great idea!-- Green Ridgewood was instrumental in persuading Village Council to start the process of getting more renewably sourced electricity for all residents. In fact, on Sept. 26, the Council will be interviewing energy consultants for the new program called “EAGER,” that’s Encouraging Alternative Green Energy for Ridgewood. The public is welcome to attend here in the courtroom at 7:00 p.m.

This draft Plan reiterates the need to eradicate invasive plants and to plant only native species. Green Ridgewood supports this goal through its Project 1000 Acres. And we are already educating residents about lawn care like “Cut and Leave It.”

What we didn’t see in the Master Plan draft was a sense of urgency. With the Climate Crisis upon us, stormwater management and flood control measures should be prioritized.

We were a little disappointed that Green Ridgewood was not listed in the Action Matrix more often as a “responsible party.” The members of Green Ridgewood have skills to help with recycling, renewable energy, animal control, and sustainable landscaping. Tap our skills for grant writing, educational outreach and planning. Green Ridgewood is rolling up its sleeves to execute this Master Plan.