

# Bringing Climate Solutions Home

Hyperlocal Tips by Residents for Residents to Address Climate Change  
Online Panel Discussion – April 30, 2020

# Tonight's Speakers

- Edamarie Mattei – Founder of Backyard Bounty (Pollinators)
- Michael Whelan – Founder of Live Green & Town Resident (Home Energy)
- Betsy Johnson – Town Resident (Recycling)
- Ronni Jolles – Town Resident (Composting)
- Rich Matheny – Town Resident (Urban Food Gardening)

# The Insect Apocalypse



- Globally, insect decline is at 45%
- 25% of bumblebee species are at risk of extinction, 3 species have already gone extinct and 4 species of bumblebees have declined 96%
- Today, we have 1.5 BILLION fewer birds than we had 40 years ago  
*Source: Doug Tallamy*

It isn't just the birds whose lives are at risk -- 90% of plants humans rely on for food and as sources for pharmaceuticals, fibers, timber and other commercial products (e.g. perfume) are pollinated by insects and these insects feed on the plants native to our region.

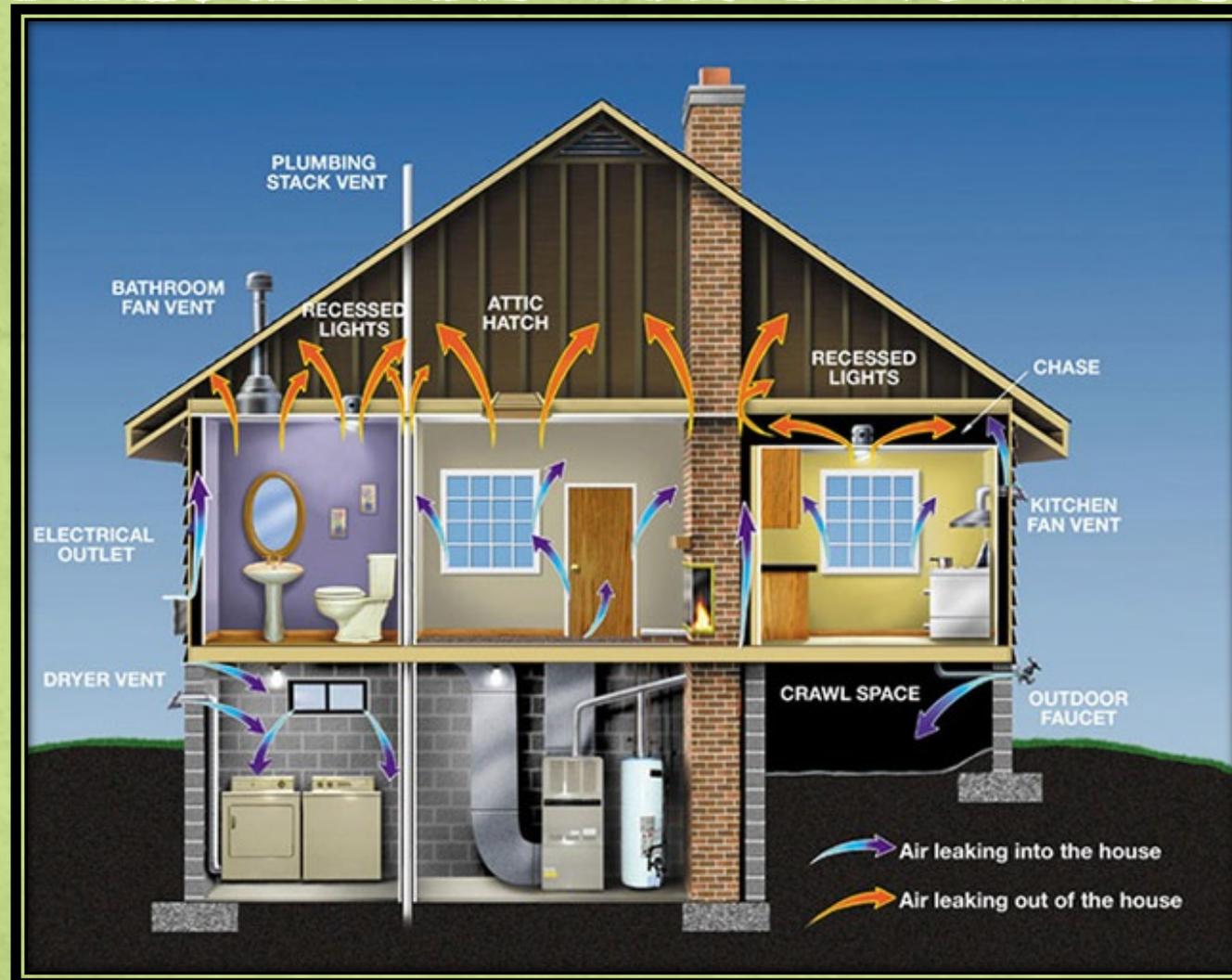
Doug Tallamy and team tracked chickadees in a suburban Washington neighborhood and found "If the yard has more than 70% native plants biomass, chickadees have a chance to reproduce and sustain their local population. As soon as the number of native drops under 70% that probability plummets to zero."

# 3 Habit Changes that Help Pollinators

1. **PROTECT HABITATS:** Plant natives and don't prune your garden until late winter after all remaining fruits have been eaten and before birds start nesting.
  - Cavity nesting bees make nests in hollow twigs and stems of native plants such as Oakleaf Hydrangeas, Elderberry.
  - Birds eat the seeds of native grasses and flowers
2. **DON'T SPRAY FOR MOSQUITOES - PESTICIDES KILL POLLINATORS - EVEN IF THEY ARE ORGANIC:** Clear any standing water on your property, use a fan on your porch or deck, attract birds and bats that eat mosquitos to your yard
3. **LEAVE THE LEAVES:** All kinds of insects and pollinators winter in the leaf layer
  - When we remove it, we remove their habitat



# Increasing Home Energy & Efficiency



# Better Recycling Habits

## Entertaining:

- Purchase compostable plates, cups, utensils (as Town has done for events)

## Organizing:

- [Refer to recycling guide](#); list may change over time because the market is changing
- Very important to clean/rinse recyclables so that they achieve highest market price which may lower overall recycling costs

## Eliminate Single Use Plastics:

- Do away with bottled water by installing under sink filtration system; take a container to the restaurant for leftovers

## Phase Out Other Plastics:

- Search the web for products without plastic

# It May Not Be Trash! Start Composting

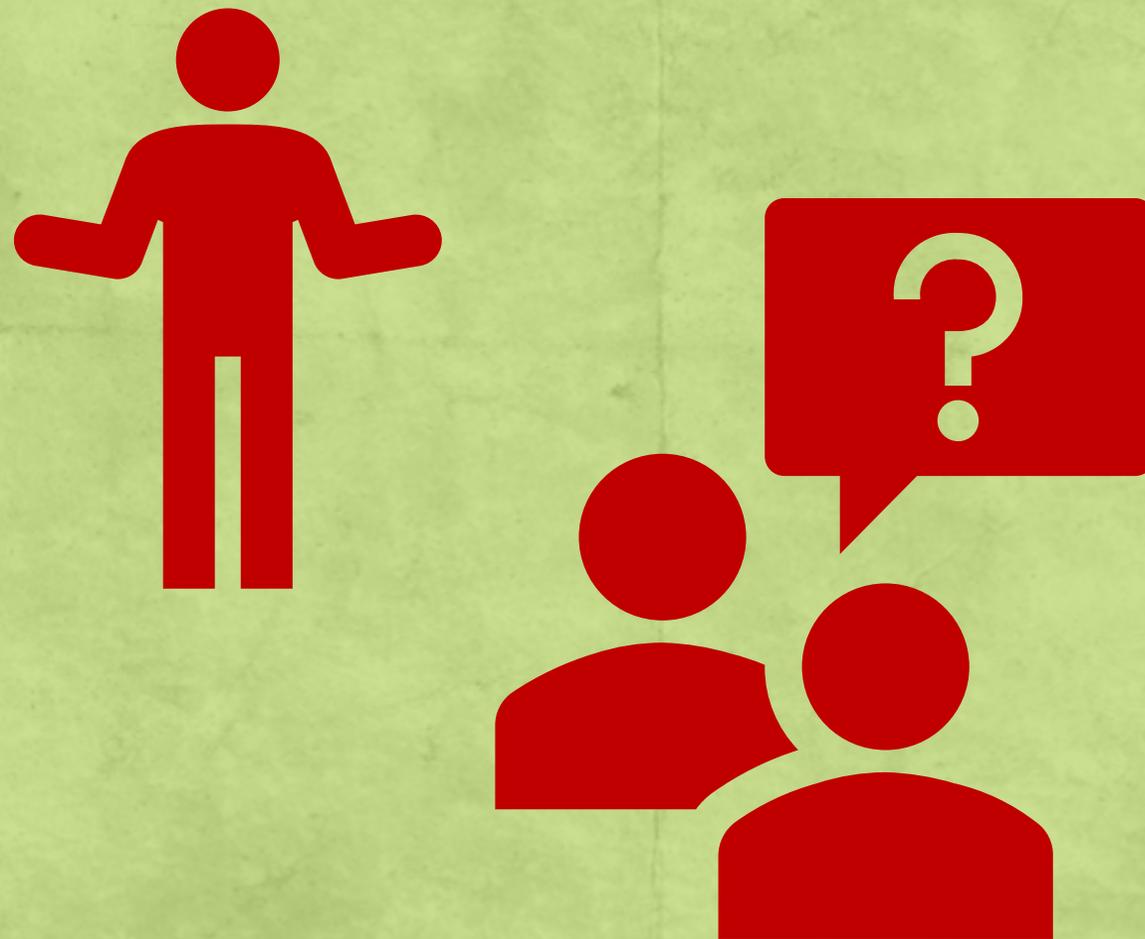
- **Composting is one of the best steps that households can take to fight global warming and support the environment:**
  - Diverts from landfill, where food scraps decompose and release methane gas into the atmosphere. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas with *84 times* the heat-trapping capacity of carbon dioxide!
  - Organic compost is a valuable fertilizer that can be applied to both agricultural and residential landscapes, avoiding the need for chemical fertilizers made from fossil fuels.
- **There are three simple steps to start composting:**
  - Email the Town office to order your free white bucket lined with a compost bag
  - Put all the food and other organic items you usually throw in the garbage or garbage disposal into the bag inside the bucket. [List of Compostable Materials](#)
  - Set the bucket out on the curb Monday night. Your compost will be picked up and a new bag delivered early on Tuesday.

# Raised Garden Beds: Easy, Fun & Rewarding

- Why a raised bed?
- How to?
  - Four sides, no bottom, level
  - Soil, compost, sand, etc.
  - Irrigation, hoops for netting, plastic
- Siting: 6+ hours sun
- Fall/Spring – cool season
  - *Arugula, greens, lettuces, chard, spinach, mustard greens, bok choi, kale, broccoli rabe (and many others)*
- Summer – hot season
  - *Tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, cantaloupe, strawberries, cucumber, zucchini*
- Alternatives: garden bags, pots



# Q&A



# Additional Resources #ClimateSolutions

- [The Chickadee's Guide to Gardening](#)
- [The Insect Apocalypse is Here & Earth's Sixth Mass Extinction Event Underway, Scientists Warn](#)
- "[The Living Landscape](#)" by Doug Tallamy and Rick Dark'. Tallamy's earlier book, "[Bringing Nature Home](#)", is a seminal call for native plantings.
- USDA flyer: [Enhancing Nest Sites for Native Bee Crop Pollinators](#) has a great graphic on how to build a garden that welcomes bees
- Organizations like [Potomac Conservancy](#) and [Audubon Naturalist Society](#) are also great places to go for more information.
- [Project Drawdown](#) (Electricity, Food, Buildings, Transportation)
- [MoCo DEP A-Z List](#) (Recycle, Proper Disposal)
- Story of Plastic (Discovery Channel)
- Compost Crew [List of Compostable Materials](#)

# Additional Resources for Home Gardeners

- Your neighbors know the climate, microclimate
  - Swing by 4119 Stanford Street to chat – *I'm outside as much as possible!*
- American Plant
- Podcasts
  - [www.Joegardener.com](http://www.Joegardener.com)
  - [www.Epicgardening.com](http://www.Epicgardening.com)

