



UWSR Eco Letter

September/October 2021

If this free Eco Letter was forwarded to you and you'd like to be included in our mailing list, [click here](#).

The free **UWSR Eco Letter** comes from Upper West Side Recycling six times a year. Each Eco Letter lists events taking place during the following two or three months and also includes a Commentary on an environmental topic relevant to the Upper West Side of Manhattan. **We urge you to distribute this important information to appropriate people in your network and refer them to [our website \(www.uwsr.org\)](http://www.uwsr.org).**



Make sure to open and save a copy of our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#) for more information on how to recycle a wide variety of items, as well as our list of [Environmental Organizations](#).

Please email us at info@uwsr.org with any information you may have about upcoming environmental events for our consideration.

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COMMENTARY:

Microplastics and Other Lightweight Plastics

Introduction

We've discussed plastics often in recent Commentaries because their proliferation has become an increasingly pressing issue, especially in the ways they affect our rivers, lakes, and oceans.

During the pandemic, New York City and the rest of the world have experienced a significant uptick in plastic use, especially single-use disposables. Of particular concern to us locally are the lightweight or flexible microplastics that result when plastics break down. These microplastic particles can be ingested or inhaled by land animals or sea creatures and also continually inhaled by humans, which can result in serious health issues. Less solid plastics – such as shopping bags and other film, Styrofoam, or plastic straws – can also be harmful when whole or in larger pieces, and these items aren't recycled by NYC's Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE COMPLETE COMMENTARY and learn more about these ubiquitous materials.](#)

[Click here for an
ARCHIVE OF PAST COMMENTARIES](#)

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EVENTS

Many events continue to be online, and you can assume that's the case if no location is listed. For ongoing events, please check first with the sponsoring organization for their status.

Sometimes we're notified of events after we send you the current bi-monthly issue. Be sure to [check here on our website](#) to see any updates.

Electronic & Textile Recycling

(See also our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#))

REMINDER: According to New York State recycling laws it is illegal to put any electronic waste into your trash. Residential buildings will be fined for violations of this law.

Free Electronics Recycling Events

- **Sunday, September 19, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., *DSNY Safe Disposal Event*, Union Square North, 201 Park Avenue South. [Registration required](#). Info: [DSNY Safe Disposal](#); or call 311

[Lower East Side Ecology](#); [212-477-4022](#). Hosts E-Waste recycling events during the year throughout Manhattan. Events occur as scheduled, rain or shine.

Accepted (unless otherwise noted): Computers and peripherals (monitors, printers, faxes/scanners, keyboards, mice, wires, etc.); TVs; stereo and A/V equipment, VCRs, DVD players; cell and wall phones.

Not Accepted: Microwaves, small appliances, refrigerators, air conditioners, smoke or carbon monoxide detectors. If you're not sure about a given item, check with Lower East Side Ecology before you bring it (212-477-4022).

- **Friday, September 10, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 300-310 West 14th Street (8th Avenue). Info: [Lower East Side Ecology](#), 212-477-4022
- **Sunday, October 10, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Marlene Meyerson, JCC Amsterdam Avenue, between West 75th & West 76th Streets. Info: [Lower East Side Ecology](#), 212-477-4022

Ongoing: Functioning cell phones and chargers can be donated to the Office of Assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell, 245 West 104th Street. Info: 212.866.3970.

Free Textile Recycling Events

(See also our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#))

- **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., *Broadway Green Fall Textile Drive*, Times Square at 46th Street and Broadway (behind TKTS booth). Info: [Broadway Green Alliance](#) (BGA), 646-454-5722 x 264

[Wearable Collections](#) will pick up from your building (for more details see our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#)).

Accepted by Wearable Collections: Clean textiles, including clothing and shoes, handbags, blankets, sheets, curtains, towels, etc.

Not Accepted: Scraps, pillows, comforters, luggage or carpeting.

Collection of textiles at the following sites as been temporarily suspended. Check the [Grow NYC website](#) for status.

Textiles are accepted at the *79th Street Greenmarket* [79th & Columbus Avenue], 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Sundays; at the *97th Street Greenmarket* [97th & Columbus Avenue], 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Fridays; and at *Columbia University Greenmarket* [Broadway between 115th-116th Streets], 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Thursdays and Sundays; also accepted in Inwood and other Manhattan locations; check [Grow NYC website](#) for hours. For information: [Grow NYC](#), (212) 788-7964. Events occur as scheduled, rain or shine.

The *Morningside Park Down-to-Earth Farmers Market* (110th & Manhattan Avenue), accepts textiles from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturdays. Info: [Down to Earth](#).

Also, [United War Veterans Council](#), [Salvation Army](#), and [Goodwill](#) will pick up from residential buildings. So will [re-fashion NYC](#) (new enrollments are on hold, but you may now submit an application). See the Textiles Section of our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#) for more specific information.

Other Recycling/Solid Waste

(See also our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#))

- **Sunday, September 19, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., *DSNY Safe Disposal Event*, Union Square North, 201 Park Avenue South. [Registration required](#). Info: [DSNY Safe Disposal](#); or call 311
- **Saturday, October 2, 2021**, 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., *Annual, Free & Safe Paper Shred Event*, 620 Columbus Avenue (between 90th & 91st Streets, west side of street). Info: Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell (odonnelld@nyassembly.gov, 212-866-3970); State Senator Robert Jackson (212-544-0173); Council Member Helen Rosenthal (212-873-0282)
- **Second Wednesday of each month** (except July & August) 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., (location varies), *Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting* (Online now). Info: [Manhattan SWAB](#)

Year-round Greenmarkets in Upper Manhattan that accept *food waste* include locations at: 66th Street and Columbus Avenue (**currently suspended**); 79th Street and Columbus Avenue; East 96th Street and Lexington Avenue; West 97th Street and Amsterdam Avenue; the east side of Broadway between 115th-116th Streets (**currently suspended**) (*please note* the compost collection on Sunday ends two hours earlier than the textile collection at this site; William B. Washington Memorial Garden at 321 West 126th Street; Inwood Greenmarket at Isham Street and Seaman Avenue (see [Grow NYC](#) for status and hours or our [Hard-to-Recycle List](#) for more information and other locations).

Climate Change & Energy

- **Monday, September 20, 2021**, 9:00 a.m.-10:15 p.m., *ClimateShot: The Agricultural Innovation Race to Save Our Planet* (online). Info: [Columbia University Earth Institute](#); (212) 854-3830
- **Monday, September 20, 2021**, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., *The Power of Female Leadership to Help Solve the Climate Crisis*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street. Info: [The Ethical Culture Society](#), (212) 874-5210

- **Monday, September 20, to Sunday, September 26, 2021**, *Climate Week NYC 2021*, various events. *Info:* [Climate Group](#)
- **Tuesday, September 21, 2021**, 6:30 p.m., *Climate Change, Shifting Cultures* (online), American Museum of Natural History. *Info:* [American Museum of Natural History](#)
- **Wednesday, September 22, 2021**, 8:15 p.m., *Climate Trivia* (online), American Museum of Natural History. *Info:* [American Museum of Natural History](#)
- **Tuesdays, September 28, October 19, November 16 & December 7, 2021**, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (online), *Climate and Society*, Center for Science & Society (Columbia Univ.). *Info:* [Center for Science & Society Columbia University](#)
- **Tuesday, October 5, 2021**, 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m., *Climate Education in Global Cities – New York City and Tel Aviv-Jaffa*, (online). *Info:* [Teachers College Columbia University](#)
- **Second Wednesday of each month**, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., *350 NYC Sustainable Solutions Working Group*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street, Room 508. *Info:* [The Ethical Culture Society](#), (212) 874-5210
- **Third Wednesday of each month**, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., *350 NYC Divestment Working Group*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street, Room 508. *Info:* [350NYC](#); [The Ethical Culture Society](#), (212) 874-5210.
- **Fourth Wednesday of each month**, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., *350 NYC General Meeting*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street, Room 508. *Info:* [350NYC](#); [The Ethical Culture Society](#), (212) 874-5210
- **First and Third Thursday of each month**, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., *NYC Safe Energy Campaign Meeting*, NYU School of Law, Furman Hall, 245 Sullivan Street, Room 245. *Info:* [NYC Safe Energy Campaign](#)
- **Fourth Sunday of each month**, 1:30 p.m., *Climate Change Circles*, The Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street, Room 514. *Info:* [The Ethical Culture Society](#); (212) 874-5210

Urban Greening

- **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**, 4:00 p.m., *Seed Saving in your Garden* (Virtual Workshop). *Info:* [GrowNYC](#)
- **Saturdays, September 11, 25, October 9, 23 & November 13, 27, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., *Broadway Berm Beautification Day*, -Fort Tryon Park, Broadway and Arden Street. *Info:* [Fort Tryon Park Trust](#), (212) 795-1388, info@forttryonparktrust.org
- **Thursday, September 16, 2021**, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., *Fall Tips for Street Trees and Tree Beds* (online). *Info:* [Green Thumb](#), 212-788-8070
- **Saturday, September 18, 2021**, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., *42nd Annual GreenThumb Harvest Fair*, Pleasant Village Community Garden, 342 Pleasant Avenue. *Info:* [Green Thumb](#), 212-788-8070
- **Sundays, September 19, October 17, & November 21, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., *Sunday Stewardship Day-Fort Tryon Park*, Margaret Corbin Circle in Fort Tryon Park. *Info:* [NYC Parks](#) (212) 795-1388
- **Wednesday, September 22, 2021**, 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., *You Can Eat That? Edible Garden Weeds and More!* (online). *Info:* [Green Thumb](#), 212-788-8070
- **First Wednesday of each month**, 6:30 p.m., *CB9 Landmarks Preservation & Parks Committee Meeting*, Rio II Gallery, 583 Riverside Drive (135th Street), Top Floor. *Info:* [Community Board 9](#), (212) 864-6200
- **Third Thursday of each month**, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., *New York City Community Garden Coalition Monthly Meeting*, Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 East 11th Street. *Info:* [NYC Community Garden Coalition](#), (212) 228-2781

Environmental - Miscellaneous

- **Sunday, September 5, 2021**, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., *Fort Tryon Rocks! Geology Hike*, Anne Loftus Playground - in Fort Tryon Park. Info: [Urban Park Rangers](#), 212-304-2277
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays, September 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30; October 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, 2021**, 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m., *River Project: Wetlab Look-Ins*, Hudson River Park's Pier 40, 353 West Street. Info: [Urban Park Rangers](#), 212-627-2020
- **Wednesday, September 8, 2021**, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m., *River Project: Ask a Scientist* (online). Info: [Urban Park Rangers](#), 212-627-2020
- **Thursday, September 9, 2021**, 7:00 pm, (online), *Sierra Club Sustainability Series: Mega Dams = Mega Damages*. Info: [Sierra Club New York City](#)
- **Thursdays, September 9, 16, 23, 30; October 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021**, 2:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m., *River Project: Live from the Field* (online). Info: [Urban Park Rangers](#), 212-627-2020
- **Saturday, September 11, 2021**, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., *Nocturnal Wildlife Hike*, 81st Street and Central Park West. Info: [Urban Park Rangers](#), 212-304-2277
- **Saturdays, September 11 & 25, 2021**, 12:00 p.m.–2:00 p.m., *Summer on the Hudson: Billion Oyster Project Presentation*, at 125th Street and Marginal Street (in West Harlem Piers). Info: (212) 870-3070, summeronthehudson@gmail.com
- **Friday, September 17, 2021**, 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m., *Summer on the Hudson: Birding Tour*, 120th Street and Riverside Drive in Riverside Park. Info: (212) 870-3070, summeronthehudson@gmail.com
- **First Monday of each month** (except holidays), 6:30 p.m.–8:45 p.m., *NYC Grassroots Alliance Monthly Meeting*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street. Info: [NYC Grassroots-Alliance](#); [Ethical Cultural Society](#), (212) 874-5210
- **Third Monday of each month**, 7:00 p.m., *CB 7 Parks & Environment Committee Meeting*, 250 West 87th Street, 2nd floor. Info: (212) 362-4008; office@cb7.org
- **Second Wednesday of each month**, *CB9 Health & Environment Committee Meeting*, 16-18 Old Broadway. Info: (212) 864-6200; info@cb9m.org
- **Third Thursday of each month**, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., *Food and Water Watch Meeting*, Social Hall, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Info: Food and Water Watch, 347-778-2743; [Ethical Cultural Society](#), (212) 874-5210
- **Fourth Sunday of each month**, 1:15 p.m., *Environmental Stewardship Committee*, Ethical Culture Society, 2 West 64th Street, Room 508. Info: [Ethical Cultural Society](#), (212) 874-5210

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Upper West Side Recycling Center, Inc.

