

GREEN OPTIONS COMMITTEE

January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes



Green Meeting was held via hybrid in Town Hall

Green Members Present: Tim Purtell (*Chairperson*), Donald D'Amato, Charity Robey **Zoom:** Christina Herman
Excused: Rob Pappas

Town Liaison Present: Meg Larsen (*Councilwoman*) **Zoom:** Benjamin Dyett (*Councilman*)

Attendees: Elise Horning

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am (*Tim Purtell*)

Minutes

Motion to accept December 18, 2025 Green Options Meeting Minutes. Seconded. Unanimously approved.

Members Acknowledge Steve Sanders

Chairperson Purtell recognized the absence of Steve Sanders, a friend and Green Options Committee Member since February 2022 who passed away on December 26, 2025. Members shared personal anecdotes about Steve's numerous contributions to the Committee and his positive outlook.

Chairperson Purtell wanted people to know that whenever he would reach out to Steve about a despairing article, Steve would always say: *"Mother Nature holds the Cards."*

Member D'Amato submitted a letter to the Shelter Island Reporter (01/15/26) listing many attributes Steve had and included the following about Steve:

“Passionate environmentalist, his enthusiasm was contagious, and his curiosity, never wavered.

Beyond his technical expertise, Steve was a kind and generous presence who approached every conversation with respect and good humor. His absence leaves a void in our committee and in the wider Shelter Island community.”

ETIPP Updates (*Energy Technology Innovation Partnership Project*)

Committee received the ETIPP final report. Member D'Amato provided comments about the report such as the unsubstantiated prototype of the school's size and chart labeling issues. It also included positive aspects of work by geologist Terry Proffer, AEE-certified GeoExchange Designer (CGD) at Major Geothermal (*page 30*), on geothermal insulation and minimal flow through bentonite. Committee discussed the effectiveness and technology of grout in sealing boreholes. Inquiries have been received regarding opportunities for geothermal installations on Shelter Island and that vertical geothermal systems do not require as much land area as horizontal systems (noting project in Westchester County and Manhattan). Deliberated on the historical context of geothermal systems noting that open-loop systems failed due to high mineral content in the water and the differences between open-loop and closed-loop systems and the challenges faced by older systems. Plus, there is a lot of data on PSEG programs (*page 8*). Members will evaluate the report in depth and discuss at the next meeting.

GOC Cloth Shopping Bags

Member D'Amato showed samples of the bags available to purchase for GOC and provided details on the cost and quantity of the bags. If 150 bags were purchased the cost would be \$7.95 each. Councilman Dyett suggested putting information inside the bag about the Committee and the projects GOC is working on and ask people to get involved. Member Herman suggested they sell bags at the Farmers Market and other locations. Member Robey will propose several clever phrasing/tagline options for the new bag and submit them to the group by email for consensus. Members discussed the potential for raising awareness and

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recruiting new members through bag sales. The committee approved purchasing 150 Green Options Committee bags for \$1,200 and will sell them for \$10 each. Give order to Town Clerk to order and process the voucher and payment process.

Solar at the Recycling Center

Chairperson Purtell emailed GOC members, Joe Finora, Ken Lewis, and consultant Tom Connolly (*Green Logic*) to arrange a meeting to discuss the recycling center's potential solar project and the timeline that takes advantage of the Federal 30% incentive. The committee also suggests researching state and other grants applicable to the proposed solar project.

Residential Solar Update

Member Herman sent out information on Solar Kits. Research safety and isolation mechanisms used by plug-and-play/kit-style residential solar systems (how they react during outages) and check the current New York State status/legislation, then report findings. Member Herman will follow-up.

Adjourned Public Meeting and motion to go into Executive Session at 11:59 am

*Submitted By,
Coco Lee Thuman
Green Options Committee Clerk*

(Approved 02/19/2026)