

# SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY

## SPEAKER SERIES

CARE FOR  
CREATION



A MINISTRY OF HOLY  
NAME OF MARY

Patty L. Buchanan  
Croton 100



January 10, 2021

# How Green is our Village?

## Moral Call to Action

# LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF  
OUR COMMON HOME

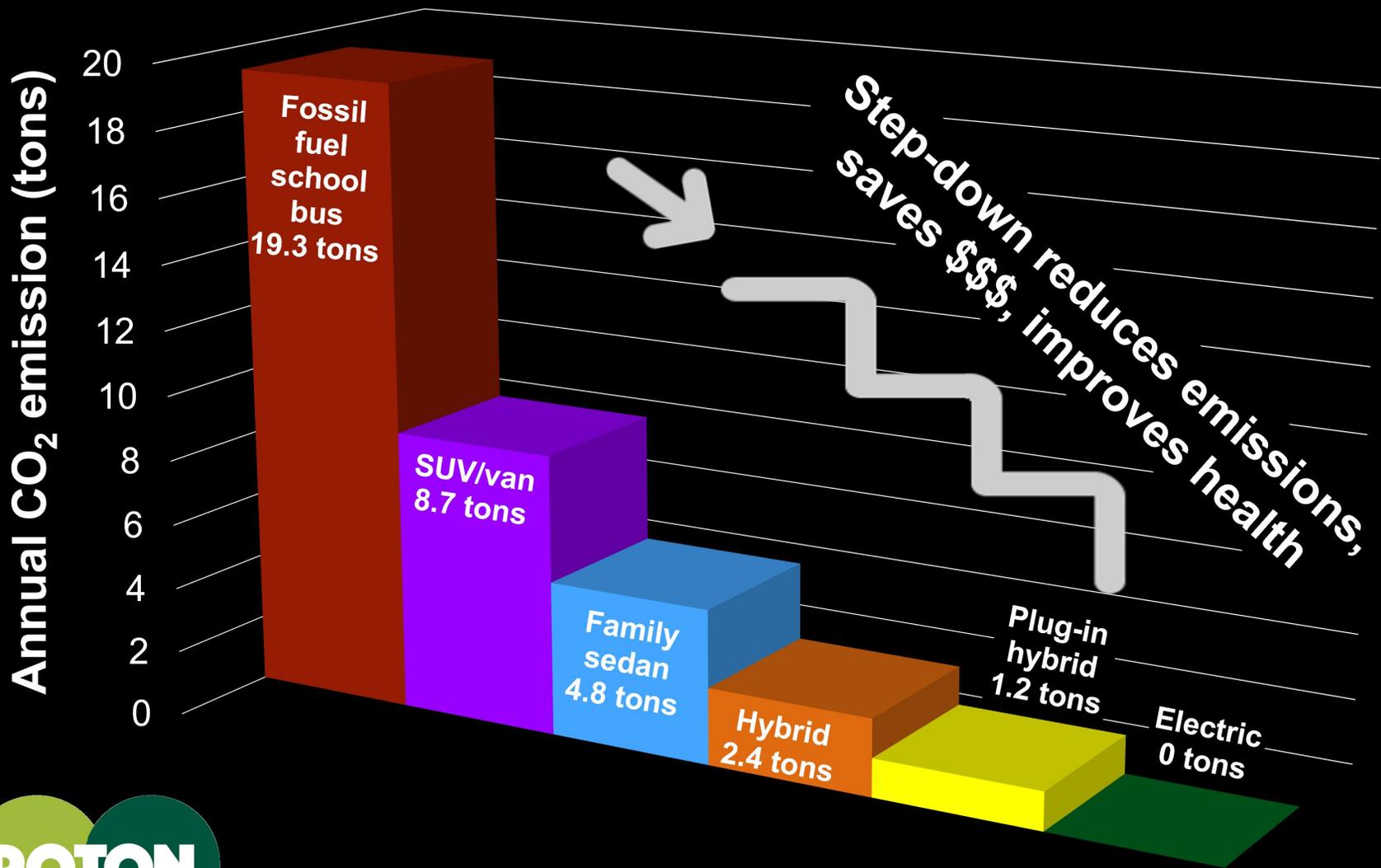


- Address to “every person living on this planet” about our moral duty to care for “our common home” (¶3)
- The structure of nature itself requires that we “monitor the harm done to nature and the environmental impact of our decisions” ¶117
- Warns against giving “absolute priority to immediate convenience” where “all else becomes relative” (¶122)

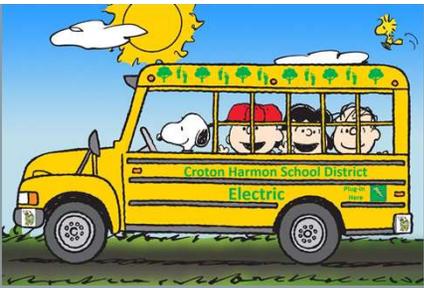
# Scientific Call To Action: Croton 100



- Croton 100 formed in response to call to action by world's leading scientists about the global warming crisis
- Must make “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” to reduce GHG emissions if we are to stave off the worst calamities of global warming
- Community based education and advocacy organization
- Reduce GHG emissions in Croton
- Net-zero by 2040, 5% per year
- Electric Vehicle Campaign designed to help Croton meet its goals

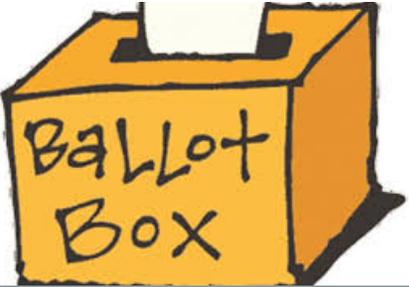


Using the national average of 11,398 miles per year per vehicle



## Campaign: Electrify School Transportation Fleet

- 400,000 miles per year
- 44 vehicles (20 minibuses, 17 large buses, misc. vans)
- Fleet owned and operated by School District, responsibility to manage its reduction of GHG emissions
- School has special obligation to protect young people and serve as role models
- Financial Stewardship: EVs save \$ on fuel and maintenance
- Transportation Budget \$2.5 M per year
- Finance purchase of new vehicles by Bond Propositions, annual School Budget Ballot June
- Community voter approval to borrow \$ to purchase new vehicles



## Spring 2020 Budget Process

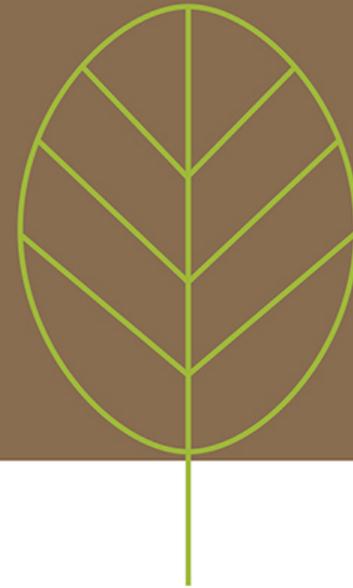
- Spring 2019-Spring 2020, we gave over a half dozen presentations about the climate crisis and the carbon reduction imperative
- Public Budget hearings beginning in Feb./March 2020
- School revealed plans to purchase a gas bus and other ff vehicles
- Proposed Bond for voter approval \$225,000 June ballot
- 35% of Bond amount added by State Aid (additional \$78,750 flows to school on top of bond amount)
- Croton 100, Mothers Out Front, community members advocated for immediate electrification of transportation fleet
- Croton 100 led public campaign opposing bond because School would not commit to adhere to global science-based need for transition to EVs



# Call to Action Was and Still Is

- Reduce emissions by 5% per year
- Immediate electrification of School Transportation Fleet
- Do not put a new fossil fuel vehicle on the road now because it will lead to another decade of continued emissions that will stay in the atmosphere for hundred+ years, contributing to perilous global warming
- Do not use any more tax-payer funds to purchase fossil fuel vehicles

Use your vote to  
**Tell the school district not  
to borrow money to buy  
any more fossil fuel vehicles**



**VOTE  
NO**  
ON PROPOSITION 3  
SCHOOL BALLOT  
JUNE 9



**Proposition 3** seeks voter approval to borrow \$225,000 to buy "various vehicles", which consist of a gasoline bus, a gasoline van and a plug-in hybrid van. We applaud the School District's intent to replace one gasoline van with a plug-in hybrid van, but the bulk of the requested funds in Proposition 3 is unacceptable because **it does not transition the school bus fleet to electric vehicles.**

*Croton100 does not take any position on the overall budget of \$49,424,525 on the ballot.*



## Croton 100 Actions

- Croton 100 engaged in persistent education and advocacy directly with School February-September
- Submitted extensive detailed information about available funding through NYSERDA
  - \$200,000 voucher
  - \$4,000 charging station
- Actual e-bus proposal
- Information/Studies about e-bus industry, reliability of e-buses
- Urged School to issue RFP for e-bus before committing to bus purchase



## School Response 2020 Purchase

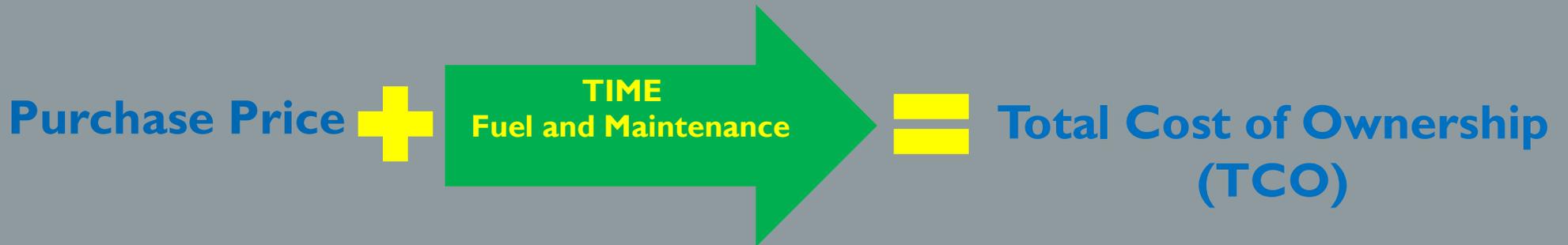
- Mostly ignored communications, public comments
- Inaccurate Statements about:
  - Costs and Funding
  - Viability of e-buses
  - Availability of e-bus
  - Charging station costs/installation
- Conflated the need for long-term planning for fleet-wide electrification with immediate purchase of new vehicles
- Purchased gas bus in Fall 2020, several other ff vehicles
- Purchased one Prius Prime (plug-in)
- Created “Advisory” Electric Bus Task Force October 2020
  - Croton I00 Participating in TF
  - TF recommendations to be considered by Administrative Committee, and further recommend to BOE



## Costs/Funding Possibilities

Croton Harmon School District New Electric Bus Purchase	
Item	Cost
Cost of 66-passenger <b>gas</b> bus	\$130,000
Cost of equivalent Lion C <b>electric</b> bus all-inclusive, 100-mile range	\$346,650
Incremental cost of electric bus	\$216,650
NYSERDA funding <i>possibly</i> available	\$120,000- 200,000
School district incremental "out of pocket"/recover-savings fuel/maintenance	<b>\$16,650-\$96,650</b>

Croton Harmon School District Repowered Bus Purchase	
Item	Cost
Cost of 66-passenger <b>gas</b> bus	\$130,000
Cost to Repower 66 –passenger bus from gas to electric	\$170,000
NYSERDA funding <i>possibly</i> available	\$120,000
Cost to School for new powered bus	\$50,000
School district <b>savings</b> (does not include savings fuel/maintenance)	<b>(+) \$80,000</b>



Vehicle Type	Purchase Price	Fuel	Maintenance	Total Cost of Ownership
<b>Electric</b>	↑	↓	↓	↓
<b>Gas</b>	↓	↑	↑	↑

# LAUDATO SI'

ON THE CARE OF  
OUR COMMON HOME



- Croton School, as a guardian of and role model for Croton youth, has a special obligation to care for our common home
- Croton School District has a duty to practice good financial and environmental stewardship
- “Society as a whole and the state [Croton School District] in particular are obliged to promote and defend the common good” (¶157)
- Young, who are deserving of inheriting a stable climate wonder, “how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded”. (¶13)
- “Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us.” ¶160



Thank You!  
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