

# Sustainability Salons



Join your neighbors in a community discussion of sustainability at a “conversation café” near you. Come to a hosted salon to join a conversation on what we can do as a community to promote **sustainable economic, environmental, and social well-being** on a personal and regional scale.

*You* bring the ideas, we provide the place and time to gather. The six-week series of Sustainability Salons, held in coffeehouses and restaurants around Tompkins County, runs March 29 through May 6.

Weekly topics will be introduced in The Ithaca Journal. They will include:

- An overview of sustainability
- Energy alternatives
- Green building
- Sustainable business practices
- Sustainable infrastructure
- Moving toward a sustainable culture

**A PLACE TO TALK,  
LEARN, INSPIRE,  
CHANGE.**

## Times and Locations

**Rogues Harbor, Lansing**

5:30 – 7 pm Mondays, March 29 – May 3

**Gimme Coffee, W. State St., Ithaca**

5:30 – 7 pm Tuesdays, March 30 – May 4

**Juna’s, Ithaca Commons**

5 – 6:30 pm Wednesdays, March 31– May 5

**WowNet, N. Aurora St., Ithaca**

7 – 8:30 pm Thursdays, April 1– May 6

**Simply Red, Trumansburg**

7:30 – 9 pm Thursdays, April 1– May 6

The salons will use “round robin” cycles that encourage everyone to speak to the issue at hand, mixed with open dialogue on the topic. No registration is necessary. Just come and join one, some, or all of these important conversations.

***For more information: Click on  
“Sustainable Tompkins” at  
[www.ithaca.edu/sustainability](http://www.ithaca.edu/sustainability)***

Sustainability Salons are a project of Sustainable Tompkins, which is supported by Ithaca College, The Park Foundation, Cornell University, Alternatives Federal Credit Union, HOLT Architects, Ithaca Bakery, and Tompkins Trust Company, with assistance from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County and EcoVillage at Ithaca.



## **Sustainability Salon Topics**

The salons offer citizens an opportunity to explore the concept of sustainability, share knowledge, ask questions, pool thoughts and talent. The following suggested topics are “jumping off” places for the discussions, which will take on their own form and substance.

*Every cultural shift starts with conversation.*

### **Week 1 – An overview of sustainability**

How would you define sustainability? What principles would guide us in making decisions that lead to sustainability? What examples do we already have in Tompkins County of sustainable practices? How can the sustainability “lens” help us solve the complex challenges we face in health care, housing, employment, education?

### **Week 2 – Energy alternatives**

Fossil-fuel derived energy is the basis of our economy, but it has many associated costs that are not directly born by its users. Now, some supplies are dwindling and we are not yet prepared to switch to new sources. What are our alternatives? What energy innovations are local businesses and residents exploring? What lifestyle changes can individuals pursue to gain energy independence?

### **Week 3 – Green building and responsible construction**

The homes that shelter us and the buildings where we work represent some of our largest investments. How healthy they are and how much they’ll cost to operate is determined by both initial design and choices of building materials. What are some of the new options in construction for saving energy and using “smart” materials? How can we design homes for “aging in place”? Where are local examples of “green” buildings?

### **Week 4 – Sustainable business practices**

What opportunities do we have to practice “industrial ecology” - mimicking the food web where one business’s waste stream becomes raw material input for another? How might we encourage sustainable management practices, managing for the “triple bottom line” of economic stability, ecological integrity, and social wellbeing? How can we support our local economy?

### **Week 5 – Designing infrastructure for a sustainable community**

Intermunicipal cooperation in designing the layout of physical infrastructure like roads, residential developments, and commercial districts can have positive impacts on our “social infrastructures” such as outdoor recreation and neighborliness. What are local examples of sustainable infrastructure design? What are barriers to sustainable design in Tompkins County?

### **Week 6 – Moving toward a sustainable culture**

How do we need to change, as individuals and as a society, to enable more sustainable patterns of activity?