



# Collective Impact

Inspiring Change for the whole community

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## ITHACA

ITHACA COLLEGE

The quarterly newsletter  
of our

 Sustainability Initiative

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## We're **TOTALLY** committed...

Environmentally supportive practices are of long duration at Ithaca, but in the past six years, IC has made three important public commitments to campus sustainability. During Earth Week in 2001, President Peggy Williams endorsed the **Comprehensive Environmental Plan (CEP)** that was drafted by the Resource and Environmental Management Program steering committee. The CEP commits the College to a number of sustainability-related actions, including educating our community about environmental responsibility, developing environmentally responsible purchasing policies, and supporting conservation and efficient use of energy, water, and other resources. The CEP commits us to minimizing solid waste production and encourages recycling and composting. The plan promotes reduced use of hazardous and toxic materials and mandates disposal of any such wastes in an environmentally responsible manner. The CEP calls for integration of environmentally responsible campus design, planning, construction, development and operational prin-

ciples for campus infrastructure, grounds, and buildings. Two very important examples of sustainable design - in keeping with the Comprehensive Environmental Plan - are the new School of Business and the Gateway Building (see related story below and on page 3).

In the years after enacting the Comprehensive Environmental Plan, the College community began to understand that environmentalism was but one important part of the more complex concept of sustainable development, a decision-making model that knits social justice issues and economic impacts together with protection of our natural resources. (cont. pg 4)

### Comprehensive Environmental Plan:

<http://www.ithaca.edu/remp/cep.htm>

### Talloires Declaration:

<http://www.ulsf.org/pdf/TD.pdf>

### Presidents Climate Commitment:

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/html/commitment.php>

## LEED-ing the Way . . .

The two new facilities under construction on our campus will be tangible representations of sustainable development. The design of each building models ways in which the natural and built environment can intersect to support the well-being of the people who occupy these structures. Each will prove the contention that sustainable design is cost-effective and far less resource consumptive.

Construction continues on the new home for our School of Business. The 34,000 square foot building, designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects, is on schedule to open for classes in January 2008.

High-performance sustainable design features of this building include: glass throughout the building so that 98% of the building's usable interior space receives natural light; a lower, visible vegetated roof section that provides

maximum insulation value and white reflective roofing material on the upper deck; a storm-water reclamation system that will provide irrigation and non-potable water for toilet flushing; energy and other utility systems designed to be 50% more efficient than comparably-sized buildings; and use of native landscaping plants that require little maintenance.



The project begins to resemble the design.



The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Rating System™ is the accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance buildings. LEED™ levels range from certified, silver, gold, all the way up to the highest level: platinum.

## Collective Impacts

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## Finger Lakes Project 2007

On May 24, IC faculty led the Finger Lakes Project, the sustainability curriculum development program modeled after the Ponderosa Project at Northern Arizona University and the Piedmont Project at Emory University. Biology professors Susan Swensen and Jason Hamilton - who were trained by the originators of the NAU and Emory programs - customized this educational program to support their peers' desire to incorporate sustainability content into courses across disciplines. Also presenting were



several past recipients of mini-grants (*see more below*). Hamilton and environmental historian Michael Smith led the group on a campus tour to an elevation where participants could view the city of Ithaca basin, which the pair used as a backdrop to discuss the geological, historical, cultural, economic and developmental history of Ithaca. Over 45 faculty participated in the day-long training program, a part of the Summer Faculty Institute. A number of participants represented other institutions including the Ithaca City School District, Wells College, Monroe Community College, Onondaga Community College, and the University of Rochester.

## Sustainability Curriculum Development Mini-grants Awarded

"*Sustainability in the Community*", the academic partnership between EcoVillage at Ithaca and the Environmental Studies program, has announced the recipients of its latest round of \$1,000 summer mini-grants to underwrite the development of sustainability-themed courses or modules.

IC faculty awardees are: Lisa Paciulli, anthropology, who is developing a new course called "*Global Change: A Biological Anthropological Approach for Understanding Homo sapiens' Relationship with Earth*," focusing on how various aspects of the planet evolved and existed before and after our ancestors began evolving 6 million years ago. Fellow anthropologist Paula Turkon will further develop her archaeology course, "*Human Environmental Impact*," bridging the existing prehistoric, data-focused approach with modern issues of sustainability to make the course more relevant to students' own life experiences. Biologist Anne Stork is developing a section for a biology course for non-majors, "*Examining the World through Evolutionary Biology*," to help students understand current sustainability issues and problems in areas such as ecology, conservation biology, agriculture, and human health and medicine.

In a first for the mini-grant program, Sara Brylinsky, an IC undergraduate, will work with an interdisciplinary team of faculty to develop a class called "*Strategic Sustainability: Intersections and Immersions*," envisioned as a collaboration between learners and faculty to address the unique challenges of communicating and implementing sustainability into organizations. Four EcoVillage educators also received mini-grants, including Jim Hodges who will develop a module entitled "*Assessing and Enhancing Native Plant Biodiversity in the Schoolyard*", doing fieldwork at the Elizabeth Ann Clune Montessori School. Tina Nilsen-Hodges will continue to develop her "*Education for Sustainability*" course curriculum. In Spring 2007, students in Tina's course envisioned and designed a high school. In Fall 2008, Tina will further work with environmental studies and education students to develop a New York State charter school application. Karyn Olsen-Ramanujan will develop a program titled "*Exploring the Connection Between Core Values and Sustainability Education*," featuring explorations of "core values." Karyn plans to organize many of the activities around topics otherwise considered environmental education or sustainability themes. Bill Goodman will study the feasibility of starting a paw-paw orchard on land owned by EcoVillage.

### Did you know....?

Both new buildings under construction will feature "green" or vegetated roofs planted with low-growing, drought-resistant species able to withstand cold winter temperatures. Vegetated roofs purify rainwater and add insulation value, cooling the building in summer and keep it warmer in winter. But these won't be our first "green" roofs. There are two on the Center for Natural Science—one you can easily spot, and one much harder to see. The first roof, next to the greenhouse, covers the loading dock. The second, found on the CNS rooftop, is student researcher Dan Carrión's project to test plants and optimal soil mixes.

### Sustainability in Ithaca Seminars

A number of this fall's Ithaca Seminar courses designed for first year students will feature sustainability themes—here are a few course titles of special note:

**Exploring a Global Challenge** will explore what we need to know about ourselves, society, business and the natural world in order to achieve sustainability.

**Discovering Identity in the New Millennium** will challenge students to consider the cultural, social, and environmental context of their proposed vocation.

**Writing About Nature and the American Experience** will focus on the complex ways Americans have addressed questions about nature through American history.

**Math and Nature: Exploring the Outer Worlds** combines mathematical problem-solving skills with nature-related activities.

**Green Grrls and Earth Mothers: Women Shape the Future** will explore what women are doing to create a world that is ecologically sound and socially just.

## LEED-ing the Way *(cont. from page 1)*

On May 25th, IC broke ground on its latest construction project, the Gateway building. Sited adjacent to the School of Business, these two new sustainably designed facilities will create a



strikingly new and improved, sustainable “front door” for the campus. Expected to open in Fall 2008, the 58,000 square foot Gateway building will house offices for student services (Admission, Financial Aid, Bursar, Registrar), human resources and graduate studies as well as senior administrative offices. In keeping with the college's sustainability commitment, the facility was designed by HOLT Architects to achieve at least LEED™ Gold certification. This facility will connect to

Dillingham Center by an enclosed second-story bridgeway. Over 50% of the building's energy will come from renewable sources, including a geothermal system for heating and cooling. Other

sustainable features include: ~6,500 square feet of vegetated roof area; natural convection ventilation to cool the atrium by drawing cooler night air across a north-facing shade garden; sensors that control light fixtures and mechanical ventilation based on natural light levels and occupancy; and a 12,000-gallon tank below the garden to collect rainwater from the roof, supplying over 85% of the building's non-potable water.

## A positive read on sustainability

Our College electricians undertook a major relamping project in the Library this Spring, replacing older light fixtures with high-efficiency electronic ballast units that use half the electricity. The new lighting offers a better spectrum for reading and staff work. Producing twice the amount of light as the old fixtures, these lamps allowed our electricians to completely eliminate about 400 fixtures. Additionally, digital controls are being installed to allow banks of lights in various areas to be automatically switched off when floors are not in active use. According to College Librarian Lis Chabot, “This change will allow the College to annually realize a



\$15,000-\$20,000 savings.” Another unique collaboration between Facilities and Library staffers has found damaged desk chairs surplus from student residence hall rooms being reincarnated as footstools for the reading lounge chairs in the Library. Before this clever and inexpensive adaptive reuse process, these items would have clogged the landfill. Now, building maintenance staff simply remove the damaged seat backs, sand and re-finish the cut edges and deliver the stools to the Library to begin their new term of service.

## News Briefs

**Professor of Accounting Pat Libby and Business Ambassador Brooks Lape presented on our School of Business construction project for the annual Green Building Conference, held in Syracuse in April.**

**Catered picnic events on campus - like the CommUnity picnic after Convocation - feature compostable bio-plastic cold cups and eating utensils, and biodegradable paper plates and napkins. All leftover food waste and compostable tableware is collected and composted.**

**Staples announced a price increase in 30% recycled content and virgin office paper. Good news: the price for 100% recycled content New Leaf™ office paper isn't rising. New Leaf™ - the first item on the approved paper products list on the StaplesLink online order system - costs \$34.00 for a case of 5,000 sheets - less than a penny a sheet.**

**The Bookstore reports that during Spring buyback, 1,538 textbooks were purchased for Fall resale to IC students as “used” texts at reduced price. A wholesaler purchased 4,773 books to re-sell on other campuses. 20 cartons of books were collected for the “Bridges to Asia” program.**

**Recycle mugs are issued to all incoming students. Reusing these mugs to purchase refills of coffee or fountain drinks at retail food operations gets you a discount. Plan to use your recycle mug - you might get “Spotted” and get a coupon for a free refill.**

**In May, strategic management professor David Saiia and Astrid Jirka from the Office of International Programs returned with an interdisciplinary team of students to the Fundacion Maquipucuna, a cloudforest reserve and ecotourism project in Ecuador, to continue local microenterprise development work with natives begun in Spring 2006.**

## Growing Green



Many of the mature annual plants transplanted into campus landscaping beds are propagated from plugs grown in the greenhouse in the Facilities complex, reports groundskeeper Victor Rosa. Growing our own “green stuff” saves us a lot of the other “green stuff.”

## These babies are real GEMS

Have you spotted these new additions to the Facilities utility vehicle fleet? GEM cars (Global Electric Motorcar) are used to deliver supplies and small equipment and to transport personnel around campus with lower environmental impact. The two GEMS snuggle into their den outside the Compost Facility at the end of each workday in order to recharge their batteries.



**Change is inevitable. Growth is optional. Positive growth is intentional.**

## Plunge into Sustainable Service

Community Plunge, conducted the week before the start of the fall semester, provides IC students with opportunities to perform sustainability-related service projects in the greater Ithaca area. In August 2006, 117 IC first year students and 30 upperclassmen took “the Plunge”. Several Plunge sites offered sustainability-focused activities. These included:

- \* performing trail work for the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Cayuga Nature Center;
- \* removing invasive species along the Six Mile Creek nature trail;
- \* painting and rearranging stock at Significant Elements, a local architectural salvage enterprise; and
- \* helping the Southern Tier AIDS program prepare for its annual Ride for Life fundraiser.



The Center for Natural Sciences Sustainability Group has issued an open invitation to their academic colleagues from all other disciplines across the institution and any interested students, staff and administrators to become actively involved in what will now be known as the **Ithaca College Sustainability Group**. Watch [Intercom](#) for announcements of monthly meetings starting in Fall 2007.

Here are just a few of the many campus groups that will welcome your involvement::

### Students for Sustainability

[www.ithaca.edu/biology/sfs](http://www.ithaca.edu/biology/sfs)

Promotes principles of sustainability through education and action on campus and the community. Dan Carrión, Co-Chair [dcarrio1@ithaca.edu](mailto:dcarrio1@ithaca.edu)

### Ithaca College Environmental Society

[www.ithaca.edu/ices](http://www.ithaca.edu/ices)

Promotes environmental awareness and responsibility on our campus through education, activism, and stewardship.

Jack Haurin, Co-President [jhaurin1@ithaca.edu](mailto:jhaurin1@ithaca.edu)

### Business Sustainability Ambassadors

[www.BusinessSustainabilityAmbassadors.com](http://www.BusinessSustainabilityAmbassadors.com)

Explores the role of sustainability in the Business School and the corporate world. Aims to foster sustainable enterprises through real world discovery and the sharing of information.

Brooks Lape, President [blapel@ithaca.edu](mailto:blapel@ithaca.edu)

For more organizations to join, visit the **Center for Student Leadership and Involvement**.

<http://www.ithaca.edu/involvement/>

## “We’re TOTALLY committed...” (cont. from pg.1)

Recognizing this growing consciousness, in February 2006, President Williams added Ithaca College to the roster of over 320 institutions adopting the **Talloires Declaration**, an international commitment developed by University Leaders for a Sustainable Future. Talloires (pronounced *Tall'-whär*), named for the French city in which the document was first ratified, articulates a 10-point action plan to help participants chart their progress toward greater campus sustainability.

By accepting the Talloires Declaration, we pledged to increase awareness of environmentally sustainable development among our partners and to encourage our peers to create an institutional culture of sustainability. We promised to continue our academic programs in environmental management and sustainable economic development and ensure that our graduates are environmentally literate and have the capacity to be ecologically responsible citizens. We vowed to continue to model environmental responsibility - through the same practices we enacted under the Comprehensive Environmental Plan - for resource conservation and environmentally sound operations.

The growing concern about the impacts of global climate change began to focus attention on the potential for sustainable development to help mitigate further atmospheric degradation. Institutions of higher education were among the first sectors to respond to calls for action and to develop specific plans to reduce carbon emissions.

On May 29, 2007, President Williams joined with over 200 presidents to sign the **American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment** (ACUPCC), acknowledging our institutional responsibility to address global climate change. IC pledged to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality. The college must complete a comprehensive inventory of our greenhouse gas emissions (including those from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel). As it happens, two Environmental Studies students have already completed the Clean Air - Cool Planet Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory for the years 2001-2006. This “baseline” information will be critical to informing the climate commitment task team’s decisions about targets and timelines for making meaningful reductions in our campus production of greenhouse gasses.

The ACUPCC calls for the college to actively make learning about climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum as well as to expand research and other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality. Other suggested actions to lighten our “carbon footprint” include: building new campus construction projects to at least **LEED™** Silver standard; requiring purchase of **EnergyStar™** energy-efficient products; purchasing offsets for college-related travel; further encouraging public transit use by our community; producing or purchasing at least 15% of our energy from renewable sources; and considering socially responsible investment of our endowment funds.

### News Briefs

Visit the “*Exploring Positive Growth—The Sustainability Initiative*” display and EarthCafé 2050 demonstration at the Sustainability Fair during the Ithaca Festival, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Stewart Park.

The Natural Lands Committee will conduct a walking tour of the South Hill wooded areas for the annual Day of Learning on June 14<sup>th</sup>. See the complete Day of Learning schedule at [www.ithaca.edu/hr](http://www.ithaca.edu/hr)

### We’re on the Web!

A pdf version of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Sustainability at Ithaca website at

[www.ithaca.edu/sustainability](http://www.ithaca.edu/sustainability)

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