



Collective Impact

Inspiring Change for the whole community

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ITHACA

ITHACA COLLEGE

The quarterly newsletter
of our

Sustainability Initiative

Check It Out Inside

Curriculum and Research

Page 2

- First Year Students Tackle Resource Use
- Films, Films... and more Films...
- Show Me the Money!

Campus Operations

Page 3

- Turning over a New (100% recycled) Leaf
- Bringing On The House!
- Let There Be [Better] Light!

Community Outreach

Page 4

- Learning about Sustainability is FUN-damental
- Coffee, Tea, and Sustainability ...

College Takes the Lead on Climate Change

On February 20th, President Peggy Williams signed a Letter of Intent to sign the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment.

With this stroke of the pen, IC joins other presidents who have committed their institutions to strategize how to become "carbon neutral," minimizing the emission of greenhouse gasses that contribute to global warming.

The Presidents Climate Commitment is a joint effort of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, ecoAmerica and Second Nature.

As a recognized leader in campus sustainability efforts, Ithaca has been invited to be one of at least 200 colleges and universities to become charter signatories to the commitment at a public summit in June 2007.

Along with the Talloires Declaration President Williams signed in 2006, the Comprehensive Environmental Plan approved in 2001, and a number of the key goals in the college's Institutional Plan, Ithaca College

has a solid record of establishing "stretch goals" that continue to improve our campus sustainability efforts and further our development as a learning community.



Colleges participating in the President's Climate Commitment are encouraged to use the Clean Air – Cool Planet greenhouse gas emission inventory. Last spring, Stephanie Hylan '06 collected data to complete the CACP inventory for the years 2001-2005. This year, Alexandra Chesney '09 is updating the inventory through 2006.

<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/>

Famed Sustainability Educator Guides Community-wide Sustainability Training



"*Science in the Community*," the academic partnership between Ithaca College and EcoVillage at Ithaca, sponsored Jaimie Cloud, executive director of the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education, for a full-day workshop titled "*Educating for Sustainability*" at Ithaca College on January 31st. Cloud, a renowned specialist, has conducted sustainability education training for thousands of teachers and educational leaders nationally and internationally.

The seventy workshop participants represented a diverse spectrum of the regional academic community: IC faculty and staff; K-12 teachers from Ithaca City School District, Lehman Alternative Community School, and the Elizabeth Ann Clune Montessori School; staff from the Lab of Ornithology and Engineers for a Sustainable World at Cornell; educators from EcoVillage, the Finger Lakes Permaculture

Institute, Sustainable Tompkins, Project Look Sharp, and the ScienCenter of Ithaca. Joining the professionals were students in the new "*Teaching Sustainability*" course in Environmental Studies, taught by Tina Nilson-Hodges, an educator from EcoVillage at Ithaca.

Cloud ran attendees through a series of interactive learning exercises, including the "*Fish and Chips*" game that models the swordfish industry to explore resource management. Cloud discussed how to incorporate sustainability and systems thinking into classes at all academic levels.

The day before the College workshop, Cloud worked with administrators from the Ithaca City School District to discuss incorporating sustainability into curriculum at the K-12 level. Cloud will return in March for further work with local educators.

For more information: www.cloudinstitute.org



Collective Impacts

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First Year Students Tackle Resource Use

"*Sustaining our Worlds*" - the first year seminar nationally recognized by the National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology program - was team-taught this fall by David Saiia, assistant professor of business management, associate professor Jim Rothenberg from Sociology, and biologist Nancy Jacobson. The three explored general topics of sustainability with their students but each also led separate team projects investigating campus resource use and product choices.

Saiia's section developed a survey to elicit student knowledge about campus availability of recycled content office products and local/organic food items. Rothenberg's class

studied the economic and environmental benefits of 100% recycled-content paper, among these that 43% less energy would be required in the production of the paper, along with a 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and 49% less water used.

Jacobson's students studied the paper usage impact for duplex printing and reducing paper margins. Students concluded that significant savings could be realized from printing on both sides of a sheet of paper - this simple change could save the college over \$4,000 per year. Changing the default settings of Microsoft WORD documents to 0.75" all around could reduce campus paper use by 20%, saving another \$3,000 a year.

Films, Films, and more Films . . . and more . . .

Check it out!



Campus screenings of "*An Inconvenient Truth*", the Academy Award-nominated film on global warming featuring former Vice President Al Gore, have almost all been "standing-room-only" events.

Students for Sustainability hosted the latest public screening of this most unlikely cinematic phenomenon on campus on January 29th.

If you're interested in showing this thought-provoking film in your class, the film is in the Library MultiMedia Center.

Call #: DVD 2660 CORE

This year's **Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival** is bigger and better than ever. FLEFF, running from March 26 - April 2, offers 150 different events, including four world premieres. 37 featured guests include filmmakers, artists, musicians, writers, scholars, dancer, industry insiders, screenwriters, composers, journalists, radio producers - guests hail from 10 countries. Many films will be shown in classes on campus and there will be numerous special events off-campus as well.

Seven FLEFF 1-credit minicourses will be offered this year: The Greening of Corporate Management; Poverty, Panic, and Population Health; We Have Issues: Exploring the Environmental Context behind Films; Beyond the Maps; Required Viewing: The Best of the Fest 2007; Storyscapes; and Live Sound for "Silent Film".

See the complete Festival schedule:

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



FOCUS THE NATION

On January 31st, student leaders from a number of organizations held a "Focus the Campus" brainstorming session. This meeting was held exactly one year to the day ahead of a "Focus the Nation" event planned for January 31, 2008, when Ithaca College will conduct a day-long symposium on global warming and ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Sponsored by Campus Climate Challenge, the National Wildlife Federation, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and other partner organizations, dozens of campuses and communities have pledged to observe this simultaneous educational event. For more information:

<http://www.focusthenation.org/>

Show Me the Money!

"*Science in the Community*", the academic partnership between Ithaca College and EcoVillage at Ithaca, has announced the call for the latest round of **sustainability curriculum development minigrants**. Over the past four years, over forty \$1,000 minigrants have been awarded to Ithaca College faculty and EcoVillage residents to develop course modules or whole courses related to sustainability themes. Submit proposals **by March 9**. Guidelines and submission forms can be found at: http://www.ithaca.edu/biology/summer_proposalproc.pdf

The **Global Footprints Grant Program** has been announced by the Office of International Programs. One \$500 grant will be awarded to an IC study abroad student, and one \$500 grant will be awarded to an international student. Students should propose a research topic of study on the subject of sustainability which they are expected to present at the Whalen Symposium in Spring 2008. Students are required to find an Ithaca College faculty member who can assist them in organizing their research. Proposals are **due March 15**. For more information and application forms, contact the Office of International Programs, 214-2 Center for Health Sciences, intlprog@ithaca.edu or call 274- 3306.

Turning over a *New* (100% recycled) *Leaf*

Gail Wagner, procurement specialist, and Cindy French, manager of duplicating services, have announced the introduction of 100% post-consumer recycled-content, *New Leaf*[™] office paper on the approved list of office paper products available on-line from Staples.

French's staff put the product (and other comparable 100% post-consumer recycled-content paper samples) through extensive testing in campus office equipment throughout the fall semester, and found that *New Leaf*[™] performed equivalently to our default standard 30% recycled content office paper. *New Leaf*[™] was also



the lowest-price product tested. Listed as product #453645 in the Staples on-line catalog, the College contract price for a case of 10 reams of 500 sheets of *New Leaf*[™] paper is \$34.00. This price is an up-charge of less than a penny per sheet over Staples 30% recycled content paper but offers great environmental benefits (see related story, pg 2).

This recycled-content paper, offering equal brightness to other office papers, is processed "chlorine-free", meaning it is whitened without the use of chlorine bleaching agents, a major source of water pollution.

Bringing on the House!



Responding to overwhelming demand, Bonnie Solt-Prunty, director of Residential Life and Judicial Affairs, has announced that for Fall 2007, the Sustainably Concious Living Community, located this year on the first floor of Terrace 3, will take over the entire Terrace 2 building. This move will enable this community to grow

from 24 to close to 60 residents. This special housing option is designed for students interested in exploring and expanding their commitment to improving their relationship with the environment, society, and economy.

The SCLC also has plans to grow its educational offerings as well, according to faculty fellow John Hopple, assistant professor of biology. A special Ithaca seminar for first year SCLC residents is planned for the Fall. The SCLC regularly prepares community meals, takes field trips together and brings in speakers on topics of interest.

http://www.ithaca.edu/reslife/sustainable_index.html

Let there be [better] light!



Over winter break, electricians from the Facilities Maintenance group conducted a major lighting upgrade in the four gymnasiums in Hill Center. Bill Bartnick, supervisor of mechanics, reported that his staff changed the lights from 400-watt fixtures to far more energy-efficient T-5 fixtures that use just over 200 watts per fixture. The new fixtures, which turn on far more quickly than the old "slow-start" lights, have doubled the light lumens in the gyms while still

halving the electricity use. Bill Drake, assistant director of Facilities Maintenance, reports that by using our staff electricians, IC saved \$60,000 on the installation costs. Drake expects about a 2-1/2 year payback on this upgrade.

According to Ken Kutler, director of Athletics, "The installation of the new lighting system for the Ben Light Gymnasium in the Hill Center has made a world of difference in enhancing the competitive experience for our student athletes, spectators and guests. The new lights have made it possible for ICTV and web streaming telecasts to produce quality viewing for local and national audiences. I want to thank the Ithaca College administration for making this happen."

News Briefs

Michael "Bodhi" Rogers, associate professor of physics, Jason Hamilton, assistant professor of biology, and provost Peter Bardaglio teamed with Geoffrey Chase, dean of undergraduate studies at San Diego State University, to present a pre-conference workshop titled "*Infusing Sustainability into Higher Education*" for the American Council of Academic Deans.

On February 20th, IC hosted the "2010 Imperative Global Emergency Teach-in" This global webcast, sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and the U.S. Green Building Council, was viewed by a million participants in 47 countries.

A silent auction held during Dining Services' Food Frenzy on January 31st raised \$525 for FoodNet Meals on Wheels, which supplies nutritionally balanced hot meals daily to county residents 60+years of age. Dining has twice offered an on-line customer service survey that gave a \$1 donation to Loaves and Fishes, a local food pantry, for each completed survey.

During the Alternative Spring Break, some of our 70 student volunteers will visit EarthHaven, an ecovillage in North Carolina, to learn first-hand about sustainable lifestyles in an intentional community. College-approved drivers for the van are still needed. Contact Sarah Cuddi at scuddi1@ithaca.edu

IC plans to erect a meteorological tower on South Hill to collect wind and weather data for a year-long feasibility study of a utility-scale wind turbine to generate our own "green power." The next step is to seek approval from the Town of Ithaca for the "met" tower.

Biologist Jason Hamilton presented "*Sustainability: News from the Front*" at the Tompkins County Public Library on February 6th.

Learning about Sustainability is *FUN*-damental!

Doreen Hettich-Atkins, executive assistant to the vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Life, reached out for help to develop a training program on sustainability for SACL professional staff on January 10th.

Planning team members were trained as “chefs” to lead their peers through EarthCafe 2050, an interactive demonstration of “ecological footprinting”, a thought-provoking tool to assess one’s personal resource consumption habits and their impact.

Leading off the formal program, Jason Hamilton, assistant professor of biology, delivered his scientifically-supported presentation on global warming. During his talk, Hamilton explained the timeline

and viral nature of the growth of sustainability on campus. He facilitated discussion of the supportive roles SACL members could play in further advancing campus sustainability.



Next a panel discussed specific ways members of the college community could get involved. Marian Brown, special assistant to the provost, cited examples of each of the three aspects of the campus sustainability initiative.

Mark Darling, supervisor of recycling and resource management, talked about our recycling and composting programs. Residential Life director Bonnie Solt-Prunty outlined sustainable actions her professional staff had brainstormed to undertake during the Fall.

Jeff Scott, director of dining services, discussed some of the decisions his staff has made to integrate sustainability into food service operations.

During the lunch break, Brown and Darling offered tabling with demonstrations and displays, including giveaways of “green” product supplied by Staples. Offered was information on reducing “plug load” energy waste, energy savings from lightbulb replacement with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), and using duplexing and reducing margins to reduce paper waste. Jaimie Voorhees, assistant to the dean of Enrollment Planning, supplied information about purchasing local foods researched as a project for her Sustainable Health and Wellness class in Fall 2006.

Training program attendees entered drawings for CFLs, travel mugs, fair trade coffee cards and passes to the new Fresh Market local and organic food line in Tower Dining Hall.

“Coffee, tea and sustainability...”

Associate professors of biology Marina Caillaud and Susan Swensen have announced the Spring 2007 Sustainability Café series:

On February 7th, Dr. Beth Parks, professor of physics from Colgate University, presented “Sustainability Begins at Home: Using Less energy in our Houses and Vehicles.” Parks offered interesting insights into some reasons why we have yet to resolve our energy problems: This café was co-sponsored by the department of Physics.



On February 20th, Rodrigo Ontaneda, co-founder of Fundacion Maquipucuna, a cloud-forest preserve in Ecuador, and David Saiia, assistant professor of business management, who has worked with Ontaneda for the past eight years, presented on the development of the high-altitude rainforest reserve in the Andes, and the service-learning field study program for IC students Saiia developed in May 2006. This café was co-sponsored by the School of Business.

On February 26th, Mark Milstein, director of the Center for Global Sustainable Enterprise at Cornell University, presented on the “Bottom of the Pyramid” work of the GSE to create sustainable microenterprises in third-world countries. This café was also co-sponsored by the School of Business.

Upcoming Sustainability Cafes:

March 7 - 4:00pm, McDonald Lounge, Campus Center
“Meeting Report of the 2006 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”

Garry Thomas, retired professor of Anthropology, and Sean Vormwald, assistant director of Alumni Relations.
Co-sponsored with the department of Anthropology

April 5—12:00pm, McDonald Lounge, Campus Center
“Aldo Leopold’s Odyssey: An Assessment of the Emergence of the Leopold Conservation Vision”

Julianne Lutz Newton (‘88) and Carl Leopold, Cornell University, son of Aldo Leopold
Co-sponsored with the department of Biology

April 12 - 4:00pm, Center for Natural Sciences Room 112
“Phytoremediation: Pipedream or nascent biotechnology?”
Beth Ahner, Cornell Biological and Environ. Engineering
Co-sponsored with the department of Biology

April 25 - 3:00pm, Center for Natural Sciences Room 204
“Wind Power at Ithaca College”
Beth Ellen Clark Joseph, assistant professor of Physics, and Carl Sgrecci, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Co-sponsored with the department of Physics

News Briefs

Congratulations: David Saiia, assistant professor of business management, has been awarded \$40,000 from the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance to further develop sustainable microenterprise projects in Ecuador.

For sale: Natural Lands T-Shirts \$12.00 each. Available in forest green, burgundy, dark brown, and navy blue; sizes: S M L XL

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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

This newsletter has been produced on recycled paper.