

2025-2026 Sustainability Priorities

Priorities adapted from actions proposed in the Ithaca Climate Action Plan



**IC a
Sustainable
Future**

BLUE + GOLD = GREEN

Presented by
The Office of Energy Management and Sustainability

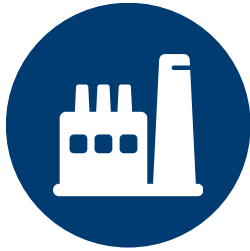
Goals and Proposed Actions from 2009 Climate Action Plan

2050

Ithaca College will achieve Climate Neutrality by 2050.

25%

25% reduction in Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2015 (complete!), and another 25% reduction by 2025 (added 2% to go to reach 50%).



Facilities

Upgrade controls, retro-commission all facilities, and switch to more benign fuels where feasible



Transportation

Create a coordinated travel-demand management program (TDM); Reduce the carbon-intensity of IC's vehicles; Provide distance-learning, web conferencing tools, and training & support.



Understanding

Gain a better understanding of emissions by collecting and creating a comprehensive inventory



Wind Power

Develop and present proposals surrounding wind power and use of renewable energy



Policy

Develop, test, and evaluate program and policy changes that support emissions-reducing behaviors

Key 2024-2025 Accomplishments

Several key 2024-2025 priorities were successfully accomplished over the past year. These include: the expansion of sustainable transportation options on campus with laying the groundwork for the installation of 28 new Level 2 charging stations and 2 new DC Fast Chargers; the completion of the Quads District Thermal Feasibility Study provides a vision for the feasibility of increased campus geothermal; sustainability education was at the forefront of major campus events such as Convocation and Orientation, helping to establish a culture of sustainability among first-year students; the creation of the Ithaca College Fund for a Sustainable Future has further established a dedicated resource for financing sustainability-focused projects; and the Office of Energy Management & Sustainability further continues to plan an active role in the increasingly popular annual Sustainability Week.

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Based on guidance from representative students, faculty and staff the following 9 actions were adapted from Ithaca Forever Climate Action Report and placed into the following 4 categories.



Decarbonization

- ACTION 1 - Continue to seek funding opportunities for the implementation of added campus energy efficiency projects with a goal of reducing natural gas use under FY25 levels (Lead - Office of Energy Management & Sustainability).
- ACTION 2 – Develop added incentives to increase alternative transportation use (Bikes/EV/Bus) (Lead - Office of Facilities).



Operations

- ACTION 3 - Explore projects to improve campus water conservation and cost reduction (Lead - Office of Facilities).
- ACTION 4 - Implement a pilot program to integrate reusables into retail dining locations and explore added single use plastic reduction on campus (Lead - Dining Services).



Governance

- ACTION 5 - Review existing campus purchasing policy to identify opportunities to reduce waste and save costs (Lead - IC Eco Reps).
- ACTION 6 - Pilot a system for tracking faculty and staff who are engaged in local environmental and climate justice organizations, boards, or committees to help support community engagement efforts (Lead - IC Government, Community and Constituent Relations).



Research and Learning

- ACTION 7 – Integrate climate and sustainability programming into First Year Seminars (Leads - Ithaca College Seminar Program/Office of Energy Management & Sustainability).
- ACTION 8 - Implement the Education for a Sustainable Future grant program and publicize sustainability course offerings across each of the 5 Schools (Lead - Center for Faculty Excellence / Office of the Provost).
- ACTION 9 - Continue to study AI impacts on the environment and draft list of best practices for campus users (Lead - Information Technology and Analytics/Office of Energy Management & Sustainability).
- ACTION 10 - Explore the potential for a campus sustainability leadership certificate program (Lead - Office of Energy Management & Sustainability / Office of the Provost).

Thanks to the numerous students, faculty and staff who helped to develop and support the 2025-2026 IC Sustainability Priorities.



Added IC Energy & Sustainability Resources

Visit the Office of Energy Management & Sustainability website for IC sustainability resources.

<https://www.ithaca.edu/sustainability-ithaca>

