



Sustainability Perspectives

Spring 2022

All talks in this series take place on Mondays at **12:30PM**.

All presentations will be offered virtually via **Zoom**.

Zoom meeting event and passcode information is available at:

<https://www.wells.edu/academics/center-sustainability-environment/events>

January 31 ***The Soil Factory Network: Advancing the Circular Bionutrient Economy***

Rebecca Nelson, professor, School of Integrative Plant Science, *Cornell University*

Modern sanitation and modern agriculture, two of humanity's most noted achievements, have enabled much of the world's population to avoid sickness and famine but are neither sustainable nor well suited to many contexts. In much of the world, nutrients flow from rural and peri-urban areas into towns and cities, depleting agricultural soils and polluting urban and aquatic environments. The *Soil Factory Network* (SFN) is a new collective that works to advance the circular bionutrient economy (CBE), recovering nutrients and carbon from organic waste streams to agriculture. The *Soil Factory* in Ithaca is a key node in the SFN that brings together artists, scientists and others from Wells College, Cornell University and beyond for work on the CBE and other fun topics.



March 7 ***Moving an Upstate New York County Toward "Net-Zero"***

Terry Carroll, Chief Sustainability Officer, *Tompkins County*

Mr. Carroll is responsible for leading and overseeing the overall execution and efficacy of Tompkins County's Energy Strategy and the pursuit of a financially sound path to net-zero emissions in County operations. He will talk about the policies and practices the county is employing to reduce the energy intensity of its daily operations and how he works with County departments and community members to gain their support to achieve this ambitious vision.

March 28 ***Genetically Engineered Trees: No Solution to Climate Change***

Theresa Church, assistant director, *Global Justice Ecology Project*

The climate crisis is leading to an increasing promotion of genetically engineered (GE) trees as a "solution," arguing that they will sequester "more carbon," but at what cost to forests, communities, and health?



April 11 ***Merlin, eBird, and the power of the birding community***

Cullen Hanks, project team leader, *MacCaulay Library, Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

The Merlin Bird ID app is a stand-alone app built by the Cornell Lab of O to help people identify the birds around them. Merlin is also a critical part of the *eBird* information system that leverages hundreds of thousands of observers and cutting-edge techniques in machine learning to connect people with birds and power research and conservation efforts. Cullen will focus on the Lab's efforts to expand access to Merlin to communities around the world, and how this is connected to our understanding of bird populations both locally and globally.

April 18 ***Research Perspectives at the Intersections of Climate and Energy Justice***

Daniel Carrión, assistant professor, Environmental Health Sciences, *Yale School of Public Health*, and director of Education, *Yale Center on Climate Change and Health*

Energy is fundamental to human health, specifically the energy for cooking, heating during the winter, and cooling during the summer. However, historical choices for energy production are driving our climate crisis, with poor communities and communities of color bearing the brunt. This seminar will discuss research considering these intersections, specifically focused on energy poverty and energy insecurity.



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April 25 ***Hazardous Waste Disposal Practices and Challenges***

Glenn B. Kays, account executive, *US Ecology*

We all generate relatively harmless waste materials that we send "away" at the end of their useful life, either into recycling processes or disposed of in landfills. But what about more problematic materials generated especially in businesses that require special handling during collection, packaging, transportation, and disposal to minimize any potential detrimental environmental and human impacts? What are some of these more hazardous waste products we don't think about and how is their disposal safely managed?

All ***Sustainability Perspectives*** series talks are free and open to the public.