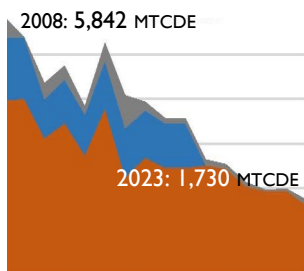


Newsletter of the **Center for Sustainability and the Environment** at Wells College.

Climate Action Plan Progress



Soliciting data from various offices, we calculated our campus greenhouse gas emissions (GHGE) for the fiscal year July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. This annual GHGE calculation helps us determine how well we are progressing in meeting our stated *Climate Action Plan* goal of achieving net 100% carbon emissions by 2050. We are well on our way, having reduced our emissions by over **70%** from our 2008 baseline emissions level.

For more details on how we calculate our emissions, see page 3. On that page you can also read a couple of stories about new energy efficiency measures undertaken.

In this issue:

Faculty Accomplishments	2
New Fall Sustainability Courses	2
Reunion College Presentations	2
Campus Store News	3
Reuse Areas Reset	3
Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory	3
Energy Efficient Vending Machines	3
Reusable Bottles for Newbies	3
Tick...Tick...Tick...	3
There's a Bright Idea...	3
Fall Sustainability Events, <i>Continued from page 1</i>	4

Fall Sustainability Events

Each semester, the Center (some along with other campus and community partners) programs a robust series of sustainability-related learning events and activities. At press time, here is what we have scheduled:



Our **Sustainability Perspectives** series brings in relevant experts to look at sustainability challenges from a variety of viewpoints. This fall, all talks will be offered virtually via Zoom. These *Perspectives* series talks are offered on Mondays starting at 12:30PM.

September 11 **Going Green – Start Where You Are** **Dan Antonioli**, CEO, *Going Green*

Sustainability is a multifaceted path that is personal, professional, social, and academic. Energy, agriculture, transportation, and the built environment are but some of the areas where sustainability is seeing dramatic innovations on a global scale. Students are at the cusp of a new paradigm of “green” and participating in this movement is as easy as starting where you are. Today’s students are in a unique position to study, embrace, and promote a sustainable and socially just future.

Zoom #: 820 2580 0585 **passcode:** en&pY4sY



October 16 **Centering Equity: The Role of Environmental Justice in the Climate Act** **Alanah Keddell-Tuckey**, director, Offc of Environmental Justice, NY DEC

OEJ works to address environmental issues and concerns that affect primarily low income and minority communities through grant opportunities, enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, consultation, guidance, and enhancing public participation. Mrs. Keddell-Tuckey will give an introduction to OEJ, its role at DEC, and expand on the role of OEJ in the implementation of climate justice under New York’s *Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act*.

Zoom #: 892 3198 4037 **passcode:** 5iK!zMzG

October 23 **Opportunities for Innovation in New York’s Agrifood Ecosystem** **Sarah A. Meyer**, program associate, GROW-NY

New York State is poised to lead the country in agrifood innovation. The time is ripe for new agtech solutions and leading-edge food and beverage applications to take root and grow within the state’s booming food and ag economy. *Grow-NY* and the *Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture* at Cornell AgriTech collaborated to research and publish “A Call for Agrifood Innovation in New York State,” the state’s first-ever report on innovation opportunities in its agrifood ecosystem. Sarah will provide an overview of this report and share how *Grow-NY* convenes upstate NY’s food and ag ecosystem.

Zoom #: 825 4606 4802 **passcode:** *9#FfZ#V



November 6 **The Principles and Practice of New York Sustainable Winegrowing** **Justin Jackson**, sustainability program coordinator, NY Wine and Grape Foundation

Sustainability. What does it even mean? In the New York wine industry sustainability revolves around locally-focused standards ensuring environmental preservation, social equity, and financial stability. Mr. Jackson will be discussing the New York Sustainable Winegrowing program, its principles, standards, and what sustainability looks like in the New York wine industry.

Zoom #: 881 9828 9426 **passcode:** 5stV@Bmf

November 13 **Wildflowers and Ecological Landscaping in our State Parks and Beyond** **Maxwell McCune**, Horticulture Tech., Office of NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Max will discuss the importance of our native wildflowers and the role they play in supporting biodiversity in our area. Max will give a few examples of how the Finger Lakes State Parks have begun to utilize “Ecological Landscaping” techniques to incorporate more native and beneficial plants into Park landscapes to best support pollinator and wildlife diversity in out developed spaces. Furthermore, techniques will be discussed on how you too can create native biodiversity in whatever space you have available to you. **Zoom #:** 822 3734 6780 **passcode:** B%tQ3NLv



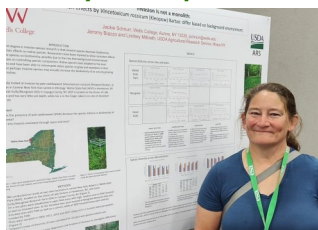
December 4 **Plan to Succeed – A Case Study on Sustainability Planning at the NYS DEC** **Brendan Woodruff**, Director of Sustainability, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

DEC recently released their first ever Sustainability Plan, which lays out a series of ambitious goals to lower the environmental impact of their operations and actions for how to achieve them. Mr. Woodruff will present on the importance of sustainability planning, how the plan was created, and how to carry out sustainability projects within a large and complex organization.

Zoom #: 821 4194 0676 **passcode:** TFgM5&4?

More Fall Sustainability Events, see page 4



Faculty Accomplishments

Jaclyn Schnurr, professor of Biology and Environmental Science, presented a poster of recent research work at the annual conference of the *Ecological Society of America* in Portland OR. Jackie's research project was titled "Invasion is not a monolith: invasion effects by *Vincetoxium rossicum* (Kleopow) Barbar. differ based on background environment." This longitudinal and multi-site study of black swallowwort, an invasive species, was undertaken in partnership with Jeromy Biazzo and Lindsay Bilbrash from the USDA Agriculture Research Service.

Center director **Marian Brown** was asked to judge submissions for the *Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's* Campus Sustainability Research Award in the Operations category. Marian was invited to participate in a NYSEDA-sponsored listening session to identify transportation needs within Cayuga County. Marian also worked with the *Cayuga Lake Watershed Network* to host two on-campus programs: *Discover Cayuga Lake's* summer intern training and *HABs Harrier* training for lakeshore residents willing to monitor Harmful Algal Bloom incidents.

**New Sustainability Courses for Fall**

These new courses were approved for Fall 2023 delivery (*status depends upon sufficient class enrollment*):

BIOL 310L Evolution

Instructor: **Thomas Jensen**, assistant professor of Biology

This class will focus on how natural selection influence evolution. It can be difficult to see and understand how natural selection affects the evolutionary course of a particular species or trait. Because the evolution of flight has to adhere to very strict selection pressures it is relatively easy to understand how flighted animals' anatomy and physiology evolved; they all look very similar. However, the why (did they start to flap their wings?) flight evolved is much more complex and we will discuss that while considering the differences at each evolutionary step. We will also be discussing why flight only evolved four times in animals. 4 credits

**ART / SUS 100 Art & Sustainability in the Field**

Instructors: **Anna Ialeggio**, ass't professor, Studio Art; **Jen Myers**, visiting ass't professor of Sustainability

This interdisciplinary course, designed for first-year students, explores the question: what does it mean to work in the field? Every week, we travel to a different location to consider the many varieties of working, living, and making that exist (or could exist) in that particular place through a wide spectrum of creative, scholarly, and experiential research methodologies.

Topics may include rewilding, Indigenous land histories, local land use issues, wild pigments and ceramic ingredients, and more. Through collective, hands-on immersion in the cultural and ecological histories of the Cayuga watershed, we will explore how we ourselves build, understand, and communicate our own experiences of the world. 3 credits (photo of 2021 *FIELDS* class at local farm)

BKRT 121 Paper Formation + Form

Instructor: **Mary Tasillo**, director, Book Arts Center

Students will learn the basic techniques, materials, processes, and concepts used in the Papermaking Studio. Technique will be taught as a method of investigation, a material exploration of ideas. Projects will focus on using papermaking as an image making tool and sculptural material. Projects engaging micro-industry, environmental, and community building models will also be considered. Students will gain skills in harvesting and beating a variety of fibers, sheet forming, watermaking, pulp painting, and high-shrinkage techniques. 3 credits

**SUS / WTQS 102 Belonging in the Outdoors**

Instructors: **River Vooris**, assistant professor, Women's, Transgender and Queer Studies and **Jen Myers**, visiting assistant professor of Sustainability

This course will examine the intersections of gender, race, ability, nationality, and class in regard to knowledge production about human-nature relationships, access to outdoor spaces and recreation in nature, and focus on cultivating a better understanding of our local relationships to land and community. Through a mix of discussion-based classes, and experiential learning, including fieldtrips, students will build a connection to both the campus community and the local community around Wells,

and develop key academic skills. 3 credits (photo of Wells campus waterfall)

Reunion College Presentations

It was a large and enthusiastic audience for both Reunion College sessions in June, doubtless attracted by the overarching theme of "The Birds and the Bees". Psychology Professor **Deb Gagnon** led off this learning experience for Alumni Reunion 2023 attendees—her talk focused on what we know about the mental life of animals. She explained that much has been learned in just the past two decades about what cats and dogs, chimps and apes, octopi and fish, and yes -- birds and bees – think and feel. What can understanding the cognitive lives of animals teach us about the nature of cognition and the ethics surrounding how we treat other sentient, pain-feeling animals? The second presentation was offered by **Tom Jensen**, assistant professor of Biology, who discussed the wonderful world of reproductive anatomy and behavior, examining the different anatomical adaptations and behaviors that keep species separated. Tom's photos of and explanations about unusual animal genitalia to an often raucous—and decidedly Wells-ian! - audience offered a thoroughly enjoyable educational experience for all in attendance.



Campus Store News

Rich Kloster, Campus Store Manager, estimates that around 30-40% of the textbooks offered to students this Fall bear the "USED" yellow sticker, which saves substantially on the purchase cost. Rich also called our attention to two new "plushy" toys sporting Wells gear. These teddy bears each sport "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" reminder patches on one paw. These special "One Teddy Bear at a Time" toys feature material composition information indicating that each bear is fabricated using recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic derived from 4-5 disposable plastic water bottles. Accordingly, Rich has nicknamed these two different bears "Polly" and "Ethel" (get it?).



Reuse Areas Reset

We reset both of the free campus reuse areas with still-usable items left behind during our Spring "Trash2Treasure" move-out collection. We didn't (couldn't!) keep everything, but we retained a significant amount of the more than 1,600 pounds of donated items. We purchased a new door banner for the 'Food and Freebie Room' in Main to signal its dual purpose housing our reuse stash along with the campus Food Pantry. We also restocked the free RUMPUS Room in Macmillan 111A with gently-used office and school supplies. Both reuse areas are available 24/7.



Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

As mentioned on the front page, the Center for Sustainability annually calculates the college's greenhouse gas emissions, using data from several campus offices. To measure Scope 1 emissions - those emitted by combustion of fossil fuels on-site. For these, we review utility billings for propane and fuel oil for main campus buildings and gasoline and diesel fuel for fleet vehicles. For Scope 2 - indirect emissions from purchased electricity - we compile the data for the two main campus electric meters. Post-COVID, our gross emissions from electricity have risen slightly despite efforts to increase efficiency and conservation, but we get to "zero out" those Scope 2 emissions because of long-term contracts offering renewable energy credits (RECs) from buying 100% wind energy. Scope 3 emissions are a catch-all: we collect info on trash and recycling, composting, recycled paper purchasing, and study abroad travel—emissions that occur from normal campus operations. Below shows a 3-year comparison of these three emissions Scopes.



Energy-efficient vending machines

The Business Office recently completed a successful renegotiation of the campus' multi-year vending contract. As part of the new agreement with American Food & Vending, our vending service provider, we requested that cold beverage machines conform to Energy Star standards. Energy Star certified vending machines are on average 40% more energy efficient than standard units, which is important since these refrigeration units run 24/7.



Reusable bottles for Newbies

The Center for Sustainability partnered with the Office of Student Affairs and the GRIND Café to purchase custom-imprinted, reusable beverage bottles to distribute to all new members of the campus community. Each of these new Wells red bottles are imprinted with the slightly-suggestive slogan "Drink Responsibly—Use reusable beverage containers". Each bottle, which is made from recycled PET plastic derived



from disposable water bottles, was stuffed with an instructional sheet with info about the safety and quality of Wells' tap water as well as a handy-dandy listing of the locations of each of the water bottle fill stations on campus. And speaking of those water bottle fill stations...

"Tick... Tick... Tick..."

On August 1st, we checked the LCD electronic fill counters on every one of the 15 active Elkay EZH2O hands-free water bottle fill stations located strategically across campus. Between May 2022 (when we last did this fill count survey) and this reading, the counters registered a total of over 185,000 fills. These electronic fill counters tick upward every time 20 ounces of chilled, filtered tap water is dispensed into a container. So our many campus users who used these fill stations to refill their own beverage containers saved themselves the cost of an unnecessary purchase of another water bottle and saved the College the cost for proper disposal of that many single-use containers. Well done, everyone!



There's a Bright Idea...

Facilities director Tim Ryan initiated a relamping project in several buildings. Remaining fluorescent lamps in light fixtures were changed out to comparable LEDs. While fluorescents are significantly more energy-efficient than incandescent bulbs, LEDs are even more efficient, plus the ballasts in fluorescent tubes contain heavy metals so they require disposal as hazardous waste. LEDs pose no such risks. Rooms in Zabriskie Hall had 4' fluorescent tubes replaced with LEDs with a higher lumen level but a similar "color temperature" - this significantly brightened these spaces while saving additional energy. (photo of Zabriskie 2nd floor Center for Sustainability lounge).





Center for Sustainability and the Environment

Marian Brown, Director
Wells College

170 Main Street

Office: 213 Zabriskie Hall

Aurora NY 13026

Phone: 315-364-3304

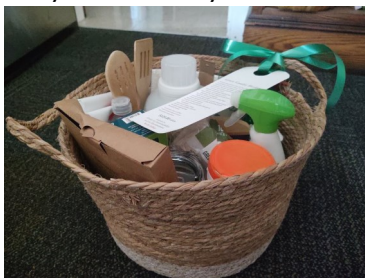
E-mail: mbrown@wells.edu or
sustainability@wells.edu

We're on the Web:
www.wells.edu/sustainability



Wells Center for
Sustainability and
the Environment

Our "Green Goodie Baskets", filled with a curated assortment of more sustainable personal care and cleaning products, remain popular. We provided one for the silent auction for Camp Gregory's Community Day fundraiser that was valued at \$125. We spoke to the lucky local winner of that basket who enthused about all the "green" products that they had always wanted to try out.



We also provided a basket for Hazard Public Library's fundraiser, valued at \$115. Depending upon available budget, we are happy to try to support are organizations in this way.



Sustainability is a decision-making framework for continuous improvement that mindfully takes into account the social, environmental, and economic impacts of our choices.

Fall Sustainability Events, continued from page 1



The **Sustainable Business** speaker series, a collaboration between the Center for Sustainability and the Sullivan Center for Business and Entrepreneurship, brings in business leaders to explore why and how their organizations integrate sustainability thinking and practice. These virtual events are offered at 7PM on the date shown.

October 25 *Eliminating the Idea of Waste*

Kathy Pazakis, chief commercial officer, *Terracycle, Inc.*

Overconsumption and a throwaway culture have led to a global waste crisis. While even complex trash is technically recyclable, most materials are not profitable to recycle. As a result, waste piles up in landfills and pollutes our planet while virgin materials are extracted from the earth to create new products. *TerraCycle's* mission is *Eliminating the Idea of Waste®*. Businesses, government entities, and people like you work with the company globally to keep trash out of landfills or from incineration. Through collaboration and innovation, they have developed the world's first solutions in everything from recycling to reuse.

Zoom #: **820 7092 0674** passcode: **w@#ar0gB**



November 1 *Farming the Superfood That Can Save the Planet* (tent. title)

Chad and Claire Simons, *3 Cricketeers Cricket Farm*

Farming crickets requires far less water and land than traditional animal agriculture and creates much less waste and emits virtually no greenhouse gases. *3 Cricketeers* is the only cricket farm for human consumption in Minnesota and one of only a handful in the US. The company organically and humanely grows and processes their crickets in their urban farm and onsite licensed commercial kitchen. The Simons oversee every aspect of the process from the farm to the finished products which include cricket protein powder, granola bars, seasoned roasted crickets, cricket cookies, and cricket "frass" that can be used as a natural plant fertilizer. Learn about their personal motivations for starting to farm - and eat - insects and what they view as the huge growth potential for insect agriculture. (tentative description) Zoom #: **836 3688 2889** passcode: **!iN4isj2**

We will host two **Sustainability Film** screenings, each starting at 7:00PM in the DeWitt Lecture Hall, Zabriskie Room 106. Organic popcorn and butter served.



September 13 *Planetary* We are in the midst of a global crisis of perspective. We have forgotten the undeniable truth that every living thing is connected. *PLANETARY* is a provocative and breathtaking wakeup call -- a cross continental, cinematic journey. The film takes us from one of the truly extraordinary events of our civilization, space travel, and looks at how this gave us a totally different perspective on the Earth. It is a humbling reminder of the near-

incalculable breadth of our impact on the earth, intellectually challenges us to reconsider our relationship with our home and the urgency to shift our perspective -- to remember that we are **planetary**. Featuring interviews with thirty renowned experts including astronauts Ron Garan and Mae Jemison, celebrated environmentalist Bill McKibben, National Book Award winner Barry Lopez, National Geographic Explorer Elizabeth Lindsey and Head of the Tibetan Buddhist Kagyu school, the 17th Karmapa, Janine Benyus, Wade Davis, Joanna Macy, *PLANETARY* takes viewers on a cinematic journey to experience our world like never before. Runtime: 84 minutes

November 8 *Fixing Food* tells stories of people who are working to lower our carbon footprint with impactful new ways to gather and prepare the food we need. The series looks at five important areas where we can make changes—farming in the ocean and the air, finding new food sources, learning from Indigenous agriculture, and rescuing the food we already have. Their stories challenge us all: If we change the way we eat, can we save our planet? Runtime: 46 minutes



As one of our **Sustainability Special** events, we are partnering with the *Visiting Writers Series* and the *String Room Gallery* to bring in author and artist Daniela Molnar for a multi-day residency. She will present a talk about her poetry and prose on Thursday, September 21 at 5PM in the *String Room Gallery* and will offer a 3-hour workshop on making natural pigments in Campbell Fine Arts building on Saturday, September 23. from 10AM—1:00PM. Pre-registration is required.

On September 11 at 4:30PM, we will partner with *Discover Cayuga Lake's* Floating Classroom program to offer a free, 90-minute *Community Eco-Cruise* to learn about lake ecology and area history. Their 65' vessel, the *Teal*, will depart from the Wells College dock. Occupancy is capped at 60; pre-registration is required—see flyers.

