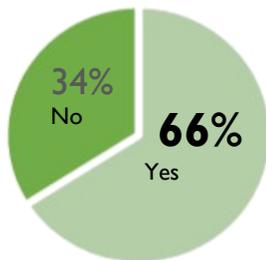


Newsletter of the **Center for Sustainability and the Environment** at Wells College.

The *Princeton Review* Hopes and Worries survey asked this question of over 9,000 prospective students: *If you had a way to compare colleges based on their commitment to environmental "green" issues (e.g. practices concerning energy use, recycling, etc., or academic offerings), how much would this contribute to your decision to apply to or attend a school?*



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Fall Sustainability Center Events

For budget reasons, we cut back on the number of sustainability-related events we programmed for this fall, but we still scheduled what we believe is a diverse and interesting line-up of events for the semester. In our *Sustainability Perspectives* series, offered on Mondays at 12:20pm in Zabriskie Hall Room 106, which brings in regional speakers on a variety of sustainability-related topics, we will offer these topics:

September 9 **What is a Waterway, Anyway?**

Daniel Rinn, Ph.D. candidate, Department of History, *University of Rochester*

Mr. Rinn will ask his audience to reflect on the terms we use to describe our environment. By looking at a handful of historic "waterways" in New York, the division between "natural" and "unnatural" is not as easy to draw as one might initially think. A waterway is more than a means of transporting goods or people; waterways can transport *ideas* and *culture* as well. Integrating video clips, music, and visual art, Mr. Rinn will illustrate the reciprocal relationship between waterways and human culture.



Mr. Rinn's appearance is made possible with support from the *Museum Association of New York*, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Museum's *Water/Ways* traveling exhibit, at Wells College through Sept. 29 (see below)



September 16 **Protecting and Promoting Water Resources of the Finger Lakes**

Lisa Cleckner, director, *Finger Lakes Institute*

Water resources and natural capital such as landscapes and agriculture are the heart of the Finger Lakes and economy. In addition to supporting the tourism and agriculture industries that comprise over \$3B in economic activity in the region, the lakes provide drinking water to over one million residents in Upstate NY communities. Threats to the lakes and actions that citizens can take to protect the lakes will be presented. This talk is offered in conjunction with the *Water/Ways* traveling exhibit.

September 30 **Our Changing Menu: What Climate Change Means to the Foods We Love and Need**

Mike Hoffman, executive director, *Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions*

Climate change is rapidly making the business of growing the foods we need and love less predictable and riskier. Almost everything on our food and beverage menu is changing – some obvious and some subtle and ominous. The challenges that face our local to global food system will be discussed along with solutions, including research and educational efforts underway at Cornell University.



October 21 **Purpose-Led Careers: Fact or Fiction?**

Monica Touesnard, associate director, *Center for Sustainable Global Enterprise*

Do you want to work for a company that has values that align with yours. You want to have meaningful work. You want your job to have a positive impact on your community, on the world! What does that mean? Monica will share with you a framework for thinking about sustainability jobs and provide some tips to get you started.

November 4 **Regenerative Agriculture in Action**

Rebecca Haag '74, executive director, *Island Grown Initiative*

The mission of the *Island Grown initiative* is to build a regenerative and equitable food system on Martha's Vineyard that engages, informs, and integrates the community. Goals of the organization are to increase local food production, reduce and redirect food waste, and expand access to healthy food for all islanders. IGI programs work in schools, with local farmers and with other organizations on the island that serve families facing food insecurity.



Fall Sustainability Center Events, *continued page 4*

Smithsonian Museum's *Water/Ways* Exhibit

Wells' Long Library, the Aurora Historical Society, and the Aurora Masonic Center applied to co-host this fascinating interactive exhibit all about water, to be installed in the Library in mid-August and open to the public during Library hours through September 29. The college programmed a number of activities around the *Water/Ways* exhibit (see *ours* above) and faculty plan to incorporate this unique experience into various classes.

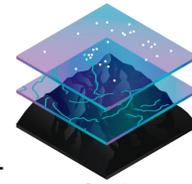


Niamh O'Leary, professor of environmental science, concluded a year of sabbatical research that fo-



ocused on water quality in the Fall Creek watershed of Cayuga Lake. The primary goal of the research was to determine trends in phosphorus inputs to the lake over several decades. Phosphorus inputs are the focus of Cayuga Lake management because phosphorus is the limiting factor for algal growth in the lake. In addition to a detailed study of Fall Creek, additional data on northeastern Cayuga Lake tributaries in Cayuga County were also analyzed. Her sabbatical activities allowed other opportunities to contribute to ensuring the health of Cayuga Lake. She was invited to join the Water Resources Council that advises the Tompkins County Legislature on water resource issues, and was also invited to join the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership, which will guide the lake and watershed through the adoption of a forthcoming lake management plan. She was also invited to contribute to the development of the harmful algal bloom action plan for Cayuga Lake. Niamh has been scheduled to present on her sabbatical research findings in the Fall Science Colloquium series.

New courses approved for Fall



ENVR 103 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems I

This course introduces the concepts and components of a geographic information system (GIS). It is designed to provide students with foundational knowledge in analytical cartography and also to expose them to how geographic information can be used to answer questions and to solve problems in natural resource management, and emergency preparedness. GIS I is the first of a two-course sequence of GIS technology and applications. Students will learn concepts such as data acquisition, input, and manipulation; cartographic output; report and map generation. This course will be taught by Kinga M. Stryzowska-Hill, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Science

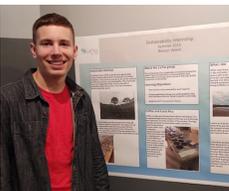
HS 285 Bioethics

An introduction to the study of ethical issues involving the biomedical and life sciences. We will consider the concepts of respect for autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence and justice as they relate to bioethical dilemmas such as the public health crisis of Ithaca's 1903 typhoid epidemic, editing human genomes, euthanasia, human and animal testing, genetically modified crops, rationing healthcare, and bringing back extinct species. Although primarily viewed through a western lens, we will explore how bioethics principles and practice can be influenced by different cultural backgrounds. Taught by Leah Elliott, assistant professor of Biology



Sustainability-related Summer Internships

We enjoyed checking out the interesting experiences our students had doing summer internships, presented at the Internship Fair in early September.



Brenon Weed '21, sustainability minor, fulfilled his required

internship with the *La Paz Group* in Costa Rica, learning about their consultation services to tourism business clients interested in incorporating sustainable practices.

Caitlin Lawrence '20 interned with the NY Department of Environmental Conservation's



Camp Colby outside Saranac Lake. As an environmental educator for this summer camp, Caitlin designed and led environmental activities to expose campers to environmental science and conservation. She guided campers to consider environmental solutions through activities and scenarios that encourage them to make decisions that mitigate their impacts on the environment around them.

Mark Yorkey '20 worked as a naturalist at the *Beaver Lake Nature Center*, leading guided trail hikes and kayak and canoe trips, and conducting maintenance of the more than nine miles of trails at this popular attraction. Beaver Lake offers a



rich mix of habitats that creates the possibility of seeing more than 200 species of birds and over 800 varieties of plants.



Brittney Meade '22, Business and Sustainability double major, and **Patience Koenig '22**, Sustainable Food Systems minor, co-presented on their summer internships as co-managers of the *Aurora Farmers Market*. Brittney studied the reasons why market vendors were not organic certified, learning that market patrons were more concerned about their produce being locally grown. Patience worked this season to improve the market's communication outreach strategies and social media presence.

Sustainability Study Abroad Opportunity

Amy Torea, coordinator of Off-Campus Study, made us aware of a new semester-long study abroad opportunity available to Wells students in Nice, France through the IES Abroad program, titled *Business, Sustainability & Immigration*. Among the sustainability-related courses being offered, we noted these two: "*Global Risks, Regional Vulnerabilities and Sustainable Development Pathways in the Mediterranean Region*", which will analyze regional vulnerabilities in a context of global risks and will explore mitigation and adaptation strategies at multiple scales; and "*Dangerous Liaisons: Cities and Water in the Mediterranean*", exploring the vital and inextricable link between urbanization, freshwater management and coastal management in Mediterranean coastal cities, demonstrate the importance of maintaining healthy ecosystems services to enable people to adapt to global environmental change and discuss institutions at all scales needed to implement adaptive policies.



Wellspring

We'll drink to that!

Again this summer, the *Center for Sustainability* collaborated with the division of Student Affairs to purchase reusable beverage containers to issue to all new members of our campus community, including students, faculty and staff. Hailey Uribe, assistant director for Student Activities and Leadership, shows off the spiffy new mugs handed out at First-year Check-in in August. The Center seized the opportunity to also hand out a Sustainability Guide for students. We gave out a similar guide to all new faculty at their orientation.



Restocking Reuse Areas

During our *Trash2Treasure* move-out collection in the spring, we diverted nearly 1,200 pounds of reusable materials. Items that no longer had a campus re-use went to *Finger Lakes Reuse*, but we held onto lots of housewares, room furnishings, costumes, art supplies, etc. to restock the *Bargain Basement* in Main building. Still-usable office/school supplies restocked the *RUMPUS Room* in Macmillan. Food and personal care items left behind were donated to the campus Food Pantry.



100% RECs for Electricity

Constellation Energy, the company from which Facilities purchases our electricity, sent confirmation from *Green-e*, a certifier of renewable energy certificates (RECs), that 100% of the electricity we purchased from Constellation in 2018 was paired with RECs generated from wind power. RECs help offset the negative environmental impacts of electricity generation from fossil fuels. A REC represents the environmental benefits of 1 megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy that can be paired with electricity. This led to our EPA kudo...

2018 HISTORICAL PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

NewMx® is a Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) product and does not contain electricity. A REC represents the environmental benefits of 1 megawatt hour (MWh) of renewable energy that can be paired with electricity. For more information, see www.green-e.org/rec.

The product matches 100% of the electricity usage at the contracted accounts in 2018. The product will be made up of the following renewable resources:

Green-e Energy Certified New Renewables in NewMx®	Generation Location
Mix	Texas
TOTAL	100.0%

1. These figures reflect the resource mix of the RECs delivered to NewMx® customers in 2018.
 2. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the last 15 years.

For comparison, the average mix of energy sources in 2017 applying the US includes: Coal (30%), Nuclear (20%), Oil (9%), Natural Gas (32%), Large Hydroelectric (7%), Wind (6%), Biomass (2%), Solar (1%), Petroleum (Less than 1%), and Other (1%), from U.S. Department of Energy (Hydrogen Administration).

For specific information about the REC product, please contact Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., 644-636-3749, customerservice@newmex.com, www.constellation.com.

Green-e Energy
 Green-e.org

NewMx® is Green-e Energy certified and meets the environmental and consumer protection standards set forth by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. Learn more at www.green-e.org.

A rind is a terrible thing to waste

Rachel Porter '06, new Alumni Engagement officer, asked if it would be possible to have a compost collection bin in the kitchen in Pettibone. We supplied a nifty compost bin and proper use instructions for that area. Because Pettibone is so close to the Zabriskie greenhouse, where the bin for the GRIND Café's coffee grounds collection is located, these folks can easily "pitch in" their collected compostables whenever their kitchen bin fills up.



Campus Greens Clean Up

This student organization, which undertakes various sustainability-related activities on campus, participated in the *International Coastal Cleanup*, sponsored by the *Ocean Conservancy*. In this case, our "coast" was the east shore of Cayuga Lake near the college dock. Greens collected a substantial amount of trash for proper disposal, cleaning up our lake shore and preventing plastic debris from contaminating the lake, our drinking water source.



Wells is a Green Power Partner

Because Wells voluntarily purchases 100% of its electricity with RECs from renewable sources, the U.S. EPA recognizes us as a Green Power Partner. This EPA program protects human health and the environment by increasing organizations' voluntary green power use to advance the American market for green power and the development of those renewable electricity sources. Of the 169 higher education Green Power Partners, Wells is among only 51 that purchase 100% green power.



Sustainability Center Cards

Since arriving at Wells and learning about the amazing Book Arts Center, we have been itching to go over there and create some custom *Thank You* cards. We finally got our opportunity to do so. We accessed their collection of botanical print blocks originally used to illustrate guides by Cornell botanist Liberty Hyde Bailey and laboriously set the type to create these beautiful cards. Please do something nice for us so we have the excuse to send you one!



Recycled Trash and Recycling Bags

Facilities Building Care Manager Steve Gelsi made some changes to our recycling and trash bags this summer. Our supplier, Johnston Paper, started carrying the *Revolution™* line of trash and recycling can liners that all contain 30% to 97% postconsumer recycled resin. The resin is derived from recycled agricultural plastic irrigation piping and silage bags that are cleaned and converted back into plastic resins for remanufacturing. We used to order more expensive blue plastic recycling bags, but our Building Care folks only needed the different color bags to identify landfill trash from recyclables at our own recycling drop-off. Steve switched to lower-cost black *Revolution* bags.



Telling our ESA Story Nationally

On June 13, Wells VP and CFO Robert Cree and *Metrus Energy* president Bob Hinkle were participants in Second Nature's free, national webinar titled "*Delivering Campus Upgrades and Carbon Reductions through Efficiency Service Agreements*". The pair, who were interviewed by Eric Howard, director of Strategic Partnerships for *Second Nature*, discussed the nuts and bolts of our Efficiency Services Agreement and how our ESA with *Metrus Energy* allowed Wells to implement efficiency upgrades without impacting our balance sheet or borrowing capacity. More than 100 institutions tuned in.





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Wells Center for
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Marian Brown, *Center for Sustainability* director, is on the steering committee of the regional *HeatSmart CNY* campaign to educate homeowners and businesses on the benefits of converting to electrically powered geothermal or air source heat pumps for building heating and cooling. Brown is leading the planning efforts for educational workshops and open houses in Cayuga County in Fall 2019.

Brown was re-elected to a 2-year term on the steering committee of the *New York Coalition for Sustainability in Higher Education* (NYCSHE)

Brown was invited to serve on the Environmental Justice committee for the *CNY Regional Economic Development Council*. This committee is charged with identifying populations who are at risk of or are currently being marginalized, and brainstorming strategies to ensure they are included as New York transitions to a green economy.

Brown was interviewed on her experience with sustainable development on college campuses, as part of an independent research project by a team at the College of the Holy Cross.

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*

In the **Sustainable Business** speaker series, which we co-program with the *Sullivan Center for Business and Entrepreneurship*, we have scheduled this talk at 7:00 PM in Zabriskie Hall Room 106:



September 19 **Financing the Clean Energy Transition and the Role of State and Local Green Banks**

Curtis Probst, co-CEO, *New York City Energy Efficiency Corporation* (NYCEEC)

Financing the transition to a clean energy economy represents both an enormous challenge and an unprecedented opportunity. The frameworks and instruments of finance are evolving to meet this need, and "green banks" are playing an important role on the national level in some countries and on the state and local level in the US. Probst, co-CEO of the oldest local green bank in the US, based in NYC, will discuss these important trends and their role in financing the clean energy transition.

We have scheduled two **Sustainability Films**, at which we serve organic popcorn and butter:



September 11 **Once Was Water** 7:00PM, Zabriskie Hall Room 106
Las Vegas is the driest city in America, yet it leads the U.S. in sustainable water conservation. Follow the story of Patricia Mulroy, whose leadership is providing a path to safety in the face of intensifying water scarcity.

* This film is programmed in conjunction with the *Water/Ways* exhibit (*see more page 1*)

October 22 **A Fierce Green Fire** 7:00PM, Zabriskie Hall Room 212

This is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement, spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change. The film tells vivid stories about people fighting - and succeeding - against enormous odds. The film is divided into five "acts":

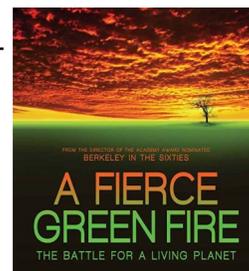
Act 1: the conservation movement of the '60s, narrated by *Robert Redford*.

Act 2: the new environmental movement of the '70s, narrated by *Ashley Judd*.

Act 3: alternative ecology strands, narrated by *Van Jones*.

Act 4: global resource issues and crises of the '80s, narrated by *Isabel Allende*.

Act 5: concerning climate change, narrated by *Meryl Streep*.



And last, but most certainly not least, with the generous support of a grant from the *National Federation Rating Council*, we are reviving our **Sustainability Speaker** series, which brings national level speakers to Wells College. This talk will be held at 7:00PM in Phipps Auditorium in Macmillan Hall.



October 17 **Drawdown Rising: Solutions, Leadership, and a Path Forward for the Climate Crisis**

Dr. Katharine Wilkinson, VP of Communications & Engagement, *Project Drawdown*
Humanity has faced urgent threats in the past, but never one as all-encompassing as the climate crisis. What's required is nothing short of societal transformation. The scale and speed of the task is daunting, yet there is a path away from crisis and toward a life-giving future for all. In this keynote, Dr. Katharine Wilkinson will speak to both what we can *do* and who we can *be*, to effect the change required. She will share highlights from *Project Drawdown's* pioneering assessment of climate solutions, as well as insights about catalytic climate leadership from people, organizations, and movements. Our collective wisdom is vast; now is the time for collective will to match it.

All *Center for Sustainability & the Environment* programmed events this fall are free and open to the public.

Center supports community sustainability activities

The Center offered an Open House during the Wells College Reunion College, offering our water challenge and other water-related interactive activities. We also provided compostable plates, utensils and napkins for the Odd/Even cake celebration at Reunion. We also provided compostable food service items for the Wells employee picnic at the end of the semester.



The *Center for Sustainability* hosted the *HAB Harriers* workshop on June 12. Speakers included Tony Prestigiacomo, senior scientist with the *Finger Lakes Water Hub* (photo), Hilary Lambert, steward for the *Cayuga Lake Watershed Network*, and staff from the *Community Science Institute*, who instructed lake homeowners on how to identify and properly report Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) during this summer season.

