

STUDENT GUIDE

TO SUSTAINABILITY AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY

WHAT MAKES A CAMPUS SUSTAINABLE?

YOU.

Welcome to Cornell.

Here, we think big, and live green.

Cornell University is committed to creating a more sustainable campus, and tackling climate change as one of the leading challenges of our time.

What role do students play?

First solar panels on campus? Students helped make it happen.

First campus sustainability coordinator? Students advocated for the position.

First Ivy University, and one of first in the nation, to commit to carbon neutrality?

Students made that happen, too.

But leadership isn't just about big commitments. It's also about daily actions.

Turning off the lights when you leave a room, every time.

Partnering with staff and faculty on projects.

Asking questions. Raising your hand.

Sitting in. Speaking up. Listening.

Sustainability.

It's a part of our culture.

It's the way we live.

It's the way we eat.

It's the way we seek justice.

It's the way we use energy.

It's the way we invent solutions.

It's our plan for the future.

It's our planet,

our future,

our community.

**IT REQUIRES ACTION
FROM EACH OF US.**



**HOW
WILL YOU**

**LIVE
LEAD
& LEARN**

**TO CREATE A MORE
SUSTAINABLE CORNELL?**



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SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

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BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

**SUSTAINABLE
CORNELL**
CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

[SUSTAINABLECAMPUS.CORNELL.EDU](https://sustainablecampus.cornell.edu)

YOUR SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS



FAST FACTS

100% CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2035

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY BY 2035

#1 GREENEST IVY LEAGUE SCHOOL

0% GROWTH IN ENERGY USE SINCE 2000



CARBON NEUTRAL CAMPUS

100% carbon neutral by 2035

That's our goal for the campus - and it means we will have to build smarter, greener buildings, transition our energy to renewable resources, change the way we travel, eat, research and live - all in just a few short years. A tall order for a large, research campus with cold winters.

Challenge accepted.

Here's how we've done so far:

- 36% greenhouse gas reduction to date
- 10% of our energy comes from our solar & hydro
- 5 solar farms + 5 rooftop solar arrays built
- 25+ LEED / green buildings built
- 5 green roofs on campus
- 30+ sustainable landscaping projects
- 5 electric vehicle charging stations installed
- 156,000 light bulbs replaced by LEDs
- 6,000+ students in sustainability programs
- 100% of campus is sustainably cooled by Cayuga Lake
- 50 green offices + 15 green labs
- climateaction.cornell.edu for the full plan...

What comes next:

- A bold plan to design and build **Earth Source Heat** to heat the campus using innovative geothermal energy right under our campus
- More solar & wind planned, with a goal of 100% renewable energy for the campus by 2035
- Strong engagement programs to reduce energy use in offices, labs classrooms, and living spaces across campus with your creative input



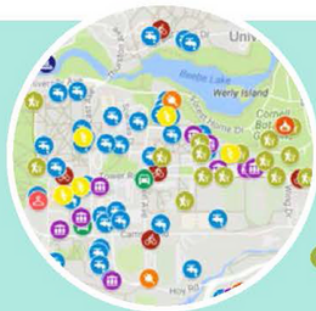


YOUR AWARD WINNING CAMPUS

Here's how we've done so far:
3rd for Diversity & Affordability
High scores in engagement
Low scores in investment
2013 Climate Leadership Award
5 years on the Princeton Review
Green Honor Roll

#1 greenest Ivy university in the country

According to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Cornell submits data to STARS - Sustainability Tracking & Rating System; Cornell has received a Gold rating for 6 years running as of 2017 and has the highest rating of any Ivy institution.



Sustainable Campus & Community Map

Where are the water bottle filling stations? Where are there solar panels on campus? Where can I drop off a Big Red Bike? It's all here on the map.



Building Energy Dashboard

How much energy does your building use compared to other residence halls? Use this tool to understand how you and your community can contribute to energy reduction: especially useful during the annual Energy Smackdown competition in the Fall when teams compete for the greatest energy reduction.

YOUR TOOLS FOR THE CAMPUS



Sustainable Campus Website

Head to sustainablecampus.cornell.edu for more information about how your campus is sustainable in food, water, waste, and more. While you're there:

- Sign up for the listserv, bottom of the homepage
- Check out the events calendar under "About"
- Look for the Building Dashboard and Map!

YOUR CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERS

Our focus areas:

BUILDINGS
CLIMATE ACTION
ENERGY
FOOD
LAND
PEOPLE
PURCHASING
TRANSPORTATION
WASTE
WATER

Campus Sustainability Office

The Campus Sustainability Office oversees sustainability in 10 focus areas, and empowers the entire campus to create the world's leading sustainable campus. We also manage sustainability committees, campus resources, and reporting. We hire students - come work with us!

SUSTAINABLE CORNELL

President's Sustainable Campus Committee

The PSC is our collective sustainability governance structure - and you can join! 10 Focus Teams comprised of faculty, students, and staff work together to manage the Climate Action Plan, act as networks to implement sustainable solutions, in addition to an Executive Committee which manages the Sustainability Plan. This group is responsible for sustainability in all areas.

Senior Leaders Climate Action Group

SLCAG is comprised of a select group of senior leaders and key representatives who are committed to ensuring Cornell's climate leadership. SLCAG works specifically on implementing high-level actions that require cross-campus collaboration in the Climate Action Plan.



Your recycling team!
R5 manages non-hazardous waste and recycling for everything from paper to printers. Connect with R5 for reuse and compost resources and guidelines, or bins for your on-campus event.



The Cornell Environmental Collaborative - ECO connects over 40 sustainability student groups on campus through annual events, cosponsorships, funding, outreach and advertising support.



ATKINSON CENTER
for a Sustainable Future

The Atkinson Center provides start-up funding, research, and internship opportunities with partners like Environmental Defense Fund, Oceana, CARE, and others. Check out their sustainability course listings!

100% OF STAFF HAVE SUSTAINABILITY IN THEIR JOB DESCRIPTION

Which means there are resources and sustainability initiatives in offices, centers, and clubs across campus!

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HOW TO

LIVE LEAD LEARN



FAST FACTS

DISCOUNTS FOR USING YOUR OWN MUG AT ALL DINING LOCATIONS

COMPOST IN EVERY ON-CAMPUS RESIDENCE

FREE BUS PASS FOR EVERY NEW STUDENT

40+ STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY ORGS



LIVE



Phone Hacks for Sustainable Living

Set an alarm for "MUG & SPORK" 1 minute before you usually leave for class so you grab your reusables every day

Set a timer for 15 min every day to get your "NATURE RX:" go outside, meditate, and enjoy the wellness effects of spending time in nature

Set up a group chat / text with people in your hall for quick ridesharing

Get an app like Way of Life or HabitBull to motivate new habits like shutting down your computer or bringing your own utensils

Use a Carbon Footprint & Water Footprint calculator to see how your resource use stacks up

IN YOUR ROOM / RESIDENCE:

CHANGE THE LIGHTS

Ensure all personal light bulbs are LED, or CFL.

HOT? COLD? PUT IN A WORK REQUEST.

Google "Cornell maintenance request" to get help with a hot, cold, drafty, or leaky room or bathroom appliances.

SEAL WINDOWS

Make sure windows and doors seal tightly. Drafts will make you cold and waste energy.

USE THE BLINDS

Close blinds on a hot day to keep room cool, open blinds on a cold day to let in thermal heat. You'll be surprised at what a difference this makes!

BE A BETTER FRIDGE OWNER

Share a fridge with your roommate, use the common fridge, and keep the temp at 35F, and 0F in the freezer. (Best for cold drinks!)

COLD LAUNDRY, FULL LOADS

Washing cold reduces energy use by 90% and makes clothes last longer. Wash only full loads, dry clothes in 30 min cycles or air dry on a rack to reduce unnecessary wear and tear, and don't forget to clean the lint trap!

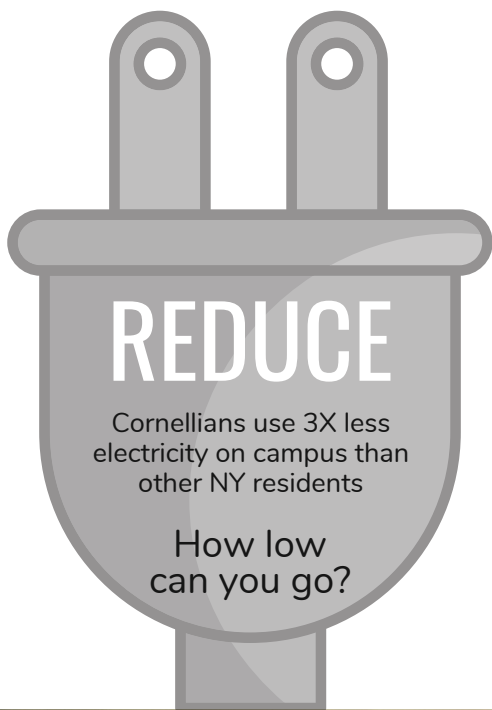
TAKE YOUR MUG WITH YOU

And a reusable fork and plate, too. Did you know you can get a discount for bringing your reusable mug or cup at all dining locations on campus, and get free clean water at over 30+ filling stations (or any tap) across Cornell?



YOU COULD SAVE
UP TO \$115 PER YEAR





USE SMART POWER STRIPS

Plug electronics into a smart strip, and it will turn off appliances that don't need to be on all the time like TVs or game consoles. Look for "smart strip" label.

FLIP THE SWITCH

Turn off the lights in your room, common areas, around campus. Every time you leave a room, make it a habit. Bathrooms too! Call out "Lights off?" if you are not sure you're the last one out.

ENERGY SAVING MODE

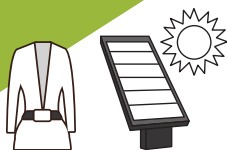
Enable power-saving features on your computer and save up to \$75 in electricity each year. Have the screen turn off after 3 minutes, and turn computer off at night.

DITCH SCREEN SAVERS

Screen savers are fake news. They do NOT save energy. Sad.



LEAD



Sustainability skills are
key for future careers

Whether your future job includes suits or solar panels, sustainability knowledge is one of the best investments you can make in your career

46% of large firms have hired sustainability professionals in the last 2 years

In 2016 there were over 4.5 million sustainability jobs hiring in America

49% of CEOs say sustainability is one of their top strategic priorities, and 36% said it was an essential part of their company brand

Facts taken from
McKinsey&Company
2016 CEO Global Survey

LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

730+

SUSTAINABILITY CLASSES

You can learn the foundations of climate change and sustainability no matter what your major. The David R. Atkinson Center maintains the sustainability class list. We recommend:

ALS2000: Leadership for Sustainability
BIOG1250: How Cornell is Changing the World Through Climate Leadership

40+

STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY CLUBS

Get engaged. With so many organizations, you are sure to find one to fit your passion!

14+

SUSTAINABILITY FOCUSED COMMITTEES

Join a President's Sustainable Campus Committee focus team, or look for other opportunities to take on a leadership and decision making role on the sustainability listserv.

50+

SUSTAINABILITY JOBS ON CAMPUS

Work at Dilmun Farm. Join the Campus Sustainability Office. Intern with the Climate Solutions Center or Sustainable Dining. Get real world, hands-on experience right here.

SPEAK UP & LISTEN

VOTE... AND RUN FOR OFFICE

Get involved in student governance on campus. Vote in regional, state, and federal elections - elect leaders and vote for issues that matter to you and our collective future.

STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE

A sustainable future is one where Black Lives Matter, gender equality is a right, LGBT individuals are protected, and people of all faiths live without fear. To build a sustainable future, we must understand today's systems of oppression & inequality, and actively begin to dismantle them in order to build a just and livable future for all.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

A sustainable future starts with you. Every day, motivated and knowledgeable student organizations drive Cornell's sustainability efforts. Whether designing and building solar houses, growing organic food, or raising awareness about environmental policies, students continue to work toward a brighter and greener future.

Aguaclara
Alana Intercultural Board
Alternative Recycling Cornell
Amnesty International At Cornell
Anabel's Grocery
Beekeeping Club
Big Red Bikes
Black Students United (BSU)
Climate Justice Cornell (CIC)
Cornell Birding Club
Cornell Energy Club
Cornell Environmental Collaborative (Eco)
Cornell Organization For Labor Action (Cola)
Cornell Outing Club
Cornell Sustainability Consultants
Cornell Thrift
Cornell University Sustainable Design (CUSD)
Cornell Vegan Society
Dilmun Hill Student Organic Farm
Ecology House
Engineers For A Sustainable World (ESW)
Epsilon Eta
Environmental Law Society
Farmers Market At Cornell
Friends Of The Gorge
Food Recovery Network
Greeks Go Green

Guiding Eyes For The Blind
Haven: Cornell's LGBTQ Student Union
Herpetological Society
Hortus Forum
International Justice Mission Cornell
Islamic Alliance For Justice
Native American Students At Cornell (NASAC)
Prison Reform And Education Project (Prep)
Snodgrass And Wigglesworth
Society For Natural Resource Conservation (SNRC)
Student Assembly Dining Committee
Student Assembly Environmental Committee
Sustainable Enterprise Association
Sustainable Global Enterprise
Take Back The Tap (TBTT)
The F Word
Wastenot!
and many more...

KEY EVENTS

FALL
EcoFest
Sustainability Dinner
EnergySmackdown
Sustainability Leadership Summit

SPRING
Green Athletic Game
Recyclemania
Sustainability Month
Springfest / Earth Day

PEOPLE HEALTH & JUSTICE

LEARN

HOW TO THINK BIG LIVE GREEN

SLEEP, SPEND TIME OUTSIDE, AND ASK FOR HELP

In order to create a healthy world, we need to start with our own self-care. Reach out for support during stressful times, prioritize sleep, and put down electronics for awhile. Turn to your community when times are tough: we are all here to help each other succeed.



Resources at
health.cornell.edu
caringcommunity.cornell.edu

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

Sustainability means creating a just, healthy world for everyone. How can you listen, act, and learn in solidarity and practice to show that people of all nations, class, race, religion, abilities, and sexual orientation matter during your time at Cornell?

THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

CORNELL ENDED A CONTRACT
WITH NIKE IN 2017 WHEN THE
COMPANY FAILED TO MEET
FAIR LABOR STANDARDS

Who assembled your computer - do they make a fair wage? Purchase Fair Trade goods and seek to understand how people are affected by the products and services you consume.

FOOD

- Reusable to-go containers are rolling out across campus
- Compost your leftover food scraps & napkins in green and yellow bins (and in any on-campus residential community.)

CORNELL DINING ROCKS!

Cornell Dining is working hard to make eating on campus more sustainable. 26% of produce purchases & 90% of dairy come from within 250 miles of campus. Additionally, 45% of our food budget goes to purchasing locally or sustainably sourced food.





CORNELL
THROWS AWAY

1,000,000+

DISPOSABLE
CUPS A YEAR

- Cornell University tap water is clean, fresh, and delicious. Fill a reusable bottle with tap water instead of buying bottled water.
- Keep showers short. A two-minute reduction in your daily shower time can save 10+ gallons of water!
- Using less electricity also consumes less water. At Cornell, water is used as we generate electricity for the campus.

WASTE

Cornell's waste is in your hands.
In 2017, each Cornellian generated
820 pounds of waste.



Recycling

All recycling goes in one bin. Materials that can be recycled include: paper, cardboard, mixed paper, aluminum, glass, and plastic #1, #2, and #5).

Recycling **must be clean** with no visible food residue. Use a napkin to wipe clean, then compost the napkin.

Learn all the rules:
recycle.cornell.edu



Compost

Only food scraps, napkins, and paper towels go in the compost. These materials become used in gardens and farms around campus!



Reduce, Reuse, or Landfill

What can't be recycled or composted goes to the landfill. Before you buy something brand new OR throw it out, can you get it reused?

Learn how to upcycle your stuff with Cornell Thrift club, give stuff and get stuff at Ezra's Closet - a free trade/reuse station on campus. And, donate goods or shop the Dump & Run event in August, and donate in May!



TRANSPORTATION

Leave your car at home. Ithaca Carshare is a local carsharing company, and ridesharing apps like Zimride and Lyft can fill in the rest.

Use Big Red Bikes - your bike sharing program on campus. Check out a bike from one of 5 stations, bike across campus. Never have to worry about maintenance again.

Campus2Campus bus is a NYC to Cornell direct campus bus. Special buses also run during student breaks from campus to major cities in the country.

MOVE



Stay active! Walking our beautiful campus is fast, good for you and good for the planet. Take time to explore.

BIKE



Dozens of bike racks on campus make it easy to bike & park anywhere. You can put a bike on any TCAT bus. Always wear a helmet!

BUS



All new students receive a free bus pass their first year. TCAT is also free to all students after 6pm and on weekends.



SUSTAINABLE CORNELL

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

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