

***September 2022***

continued production of fruits and vegetables. Over 900 lbs were collected and composted last year in the pilot program. This year we are looking to expand this program. Additionally, the SSC has played a pivotal role in the establishment of the new Athletics Student Sustainability group focused on increasing sustainable practices among a

The amount of single-use plastics coming out of dining services and used during Orientation continues to be a major concern and a bad reflection on Colgate. We hope to further work with Chartwells and the Associate Dean for First and Second-Year Experience to find solutions and implement programs to reduce the amount of plastic pollution at Colgate and the disconcerting optics they create.

We also need to further integrate waste minimization and recycling programs into the residential commons.

*Specific goals include:*

Eliminating single-use plastics at all orientation events in 2023.

Educating all new students on waste minimization and recycling by working within the residential commons.

Further incorporate sustainability into Link-staff training.

Providing orientation materials through electronic i

## Alumni Engagement

### **Progress:**

*Sustainability Walking Tour.* This past year, the Office of Sustainability created a new walking tour of campus that highlights Colgate's sustainability features including green buildings, Bicentennial tree plantings, landscaping practices, commitment to carbon neutrality, heating plant, and Community Garden. Over 100 alumni joined the walking tour or classroom lecture during the 2022 Reunions. Additionally, local high school students and Colgate employees through the Wellness Program have all enjoyed the new walking tour as well.

Strengthen connections with alumni by organizing an annual sustainability event with one or more of the Professional Networks or with the Alumni Council.

Colgate's curriculum and co-curriculum include many offerings that relate to sustainability including academic courses, co-curricular programming, internships, and diverse aspects of student life. In Academic Year 2019-20, 12.4 percent of Colgate's courses were either sustainability-focused or sustainability inclusive. The goal is to continue to expand the concept and pedagogy of sustainability and climate change into Colgate's formal curriculum and co-curricular experiences.

Attracting and supporting truly outstanding students, faculty, and staff  
Strengthening Colgate's academic enterprise  
Enriching the student experience

## Sustainability in the Curriculum

*Faculty Teaching Table.* The Curriculum Subcommittee of the Sustainability Council serves as a bridge between faculty and students, as such the group works with both populations in different settings. To support faculty teaching sustainability within their curriculums, we host a yearly dinner for 1st and 2nd-year faculty at the beginning of the fall semester. In August 2022, the Curriculum Subcommittee hosted nine new members of the faculty at this dinner. We had representatives from History, Computer Science, Biology, Romance Languages, and Art and Art History at this dinner and had a rich discussion with a lot of detail as to how to incorporate sustainability within their classes.

*ENST 390: Community-based Environmental Issues.* This project-based *Service Learning* class

is a required course for all students in the Environmental Studies program.











*Environmentally Preferable Purchasing.* In March 2021, the Office of Sustainability in partnership with the Purchasing Office completed and distributed guidance for Environmentally Preferable Purchasing at Colgate. This guidance helps to ensure that the goods and services that Colgate buyers purchase balance cost and quality while exerting a positive influence on our environment and human health and well-being. The guidance can be reviewed [here](#).

*Pap e*



students to engage in sustainable behavior and think consciously about waste on campus. Over 100 utensil kits were distributed and feedback forms were administered before and after the semester so we can improve the program going forward.

Increase the purchase of sustainable food and beverage by 15% from our 2021 baseline by 2025.

Determine a food waste tracking system and implement programs to reduce food waste by 15% by 2025.

Eliminate one-time-use disposable plastics (including biodegradable plastics) in Dining Services and all catered events by August 2025 to align with plastic-free and zero-waste goals.

Complete a sustainability audit of dining-related water and energy consumption and work to reduce water and energy usage by 5% by 2025.

Complete the Relocation of Colgate's Community Garden. The Office of Sustainability hopes to work with Facilities and others to renovate the house on the property to use for year around programming. The garden also needs a greenhouse and shade pavilion to

62 ~~of our move.~~

Colgate owns 2,167 acres of land of which over 550 acres include the campus proper, 1,250 acres are forested, and 199 acres are on agricultural land. The campus proper includes Colgate's buildings on upper, middle, and lower campus, Taylor Lake, the Seven Oaks Golf Course, and 3,492 inventoried trees. The Chenango Valley provides a scenic backdrop for Colgate's beautiful campus and historic stone buildings. According to the 2010, 2014, and 2015 editions of the Princeton Review, Colgate was ranked #1 for having the most beautiful campus in the country. Being excellent stewards of this land le rabui he ratlo ei ei eiC r

62 percent of campus trees are native to North America of which 52 percent are native to New York

Campus trees produce 58 tons of oxygen each year and sequester 22 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in new growth

Campus trees mitigate over 82,000 cubic feet of water runoff annually helping to reduce flooding during heavy rain events.

Campus trees remove 1,215 lbs of pollution each year

*Grounds Maintenance Benchmarking and Tracking Tool.* Facilities in partnership with the Office of Sustainability have begun the process of collecting data for the amount of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and de-icing chemicals used on campus. Benchmarking and tracking these practices is a helpful first step to maintenance that balances labor, cost, safety, aesthetics, and environmental impacts.

*Land and Forest Stewardship Website.* In order to help communicate the value of Colgate's forests and trees, the Office of Sustainability created and compiled a new website highlighting the benefits and attributes of Colgate's landholdings.

<https://sites.google.com/colgate.edu/colgate-tree-and-forest/home>.

Complete forest carbon inventory by July 1, 2024.

Establish a Soil Testing and Tracking Program.

Pursue Tree Campus Higher Education Certification Through the Arbor Day Foundation.

Explore Opportunities to Remove an Additional Five (5) Acres Out of a Weekly Mowing Regime by July 1, 2024.

Achieving carbon neutrality in 2019 was a major accomplishment and milestone. Maintaining Colgate's commitment to carbon neutrality, however, requires ongoing investment. Colgate must continue to find creative and innovative solutions to finance campus projects that will reduce energy and resource consumption while lowering operating costs over time.

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Improving the campus & the environment

*Green Revolving Loan Fund.* Over this past fiscal year, Colgate committed to investing in two new projects financed by the Green Revolving Loan Fund. The conversion of natural gas from fuel oil in 100 Hamilton Street and 88 Hamilton Street. This brings the total number of projects financed by the Green Revolving Loan Fund to six. At the end of Fiscal Year 2022, the cumulative savings amounted to \$912,530 and the ending balance was \$1,040,130. The amount of greenhouse gas emissions avoided to date is 2,332 MTeCO<sub>2</sub>.

*Recycling Bins from the Keep America Beautiful Campaign.* Colgate received a grant from the Keep America Beautiful campaign to provide over 100 new recycling

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Program Coordinator, Pamela Gramlich. On August 1, 2022, Julia Sparks took over this role and hit the ground running. Julia has been doing a tremendous job and has been a valuable new addition to the Colgate community.