

# Keeping it Green

SUNY Cortland Sustainability Office

Fall 2022

## Vote 2022



### Sustainability Office

Each November registered voters are offered the opportunity to vote a new set of elected officials into office. Tomorrow, Tuesday, November 8 is the mid-term election cycle. While that may not be a specific sustainability related or green living news topic, by being informed about the policy positions of the candidates and VOTING for candidates that favor sustainable policies allows you the opportunity to advocate for those policies with your vote.

We are not advocating that you vote one way, or another, but we are encouraging you to show up to the poles and vote this election day.



This issue of Keeping It Green offers two 'Letters to the Editor' from NYPIRG Interns Samantha Healey and Emma Gutowski

The Ballot this year will offer voters a unique opportunity to decide how our state handles the issue of our ever-changing environment. On the back of your ballot Voters will be asked whether or not to approve the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022. Your ballot will read: "To address and combat the impact of climate change and damage to the environment, the 'Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022' authorizes the sale of state bonds up to four billion two hundred million dollars to fund environmental protection, natural restoration, resiliency, and clean energy projects. Shall the Environmental Bond Act of 2022 be approved?" You will have to decide "yes" or "no".

Reallocation of state money means more funding for sustainable, well-paid jobs in the burgeoning environmental protection sector of our economy. The Bond Act is poised to also tackle pollution, conserving the state's abundant natural resources and wildlife, and ensuring our communities will be resilient in the face of a changing climate.

However you choose to vote on the ballot proposal, it will leave a lasting impact on New York's environment and economy. Be sure to flip your ballot on November 8th and have your voice heard.

NYPIRG Interns



## America Recycles Day

This November 15, take a moment to recognize how you recycle during your typical day to day activities. Is it second hand, or do you need to work to recycle? Recycling has a huge impact across many sectors of our economy as well as protecting natural resources within our environment. Here in the U.S. we have come a long way since 1960, when most people only recycled about 6 percent of their waste. Now, Red Dragons recycle about 20% of all waste. We have a goal to increase our diversion rate to 75% by 2045. Effectively you only 'throw-out' 25% of your trash and the other 75% has been reduced, reused or recycled.

## NY State Bottle Bill

Bottles and cans come into our lives frequently as college students, but not enough of us take advantage of the Bottle Bill. Enacted almost 40 years ago, the Bottle Bill allows New Yorkers to redeem some empty beverage containers for 5 cents back, and yet the recycling rate of redeemable bottles in our state is only about 5-6%. The plastic and solid waste crisis isn't going away, but we can make a dent by revamping the Bottle Bill.

If you've ever returned bottles, you'd notice that the machines don't accept all recyclables. New York, as of now, only accepts carbonated soft drinks, beer and other malt beverages, mineral and soda water, and wine cooler containers. The updated Bottle Bill would allow New Yorkers to redeem carbonated soft drinks, beer and other malt beverages, mineral and soda water, and wine

cooler containers. Plus, we all know that a nickel now doesn't compare to what it was worth 40 years ago, so groups like NYPIRG are advocating for the deposit to be doubled.

Without modernizing the Bottle Bill, solid waste will continue to pile up in our state and not enough New Yorkers will take part in recycling programs to make a difference. The bigger, better Bottle Bill is a critical part of reducing carbon emissions, increasing recycling rates, establishing accessible redemption centers, and adding thousands of additional jobs to New York.

There is no time to lose when it comes to bettering our environment for our generation and those that follow. With the election right around the corner, our elected officials need to start talking trash and guide us out of the state's solid waste crisis. Support modernizing the Bottle Bill by signing NYPIRG's petition to make these necessary changes that will benefit all New Yorkers and our environment.

You can also find the link through SUNY Cortland NYPIRG's Instagram (@sunycortlandnypirg). Take action today!

NYPIRG at SUNY Cortland Interns

## NEW – Sustainability related courses

In Spring 2023, SUNY Cortland will be offering two new sustainability related courses.

Jackie Dyke within Recreation and Leisure Studies is offering a 1-credit gardening course.

Qwynne Lackey within Recreation and Leisure Studies is offering a 1-credit Birding course.

Ken Cohen within Recreation and Leisure Studies is offering a 3-credit Eco-tourism in Hawaii course during Spring Break 2023.

  
**RED IS GREEN**

If you have a question or comment about sustainability at SUNY Cortland, an idea for a story, or a sustainability-related event you want to share, connect with us at [Sustainability@Cortland.Edu](mailto:Sustainability@Cortland.Edu)