

Keeping it Green

Notes from the SUNY Cortland Sustainability Office

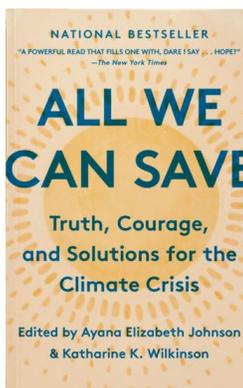
October 2021

The Crisis is here, what action will you take?

Sustainability Office

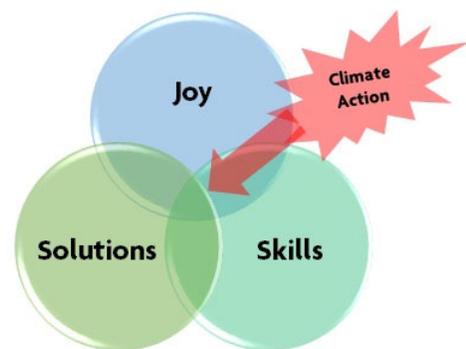
As if things couldn't get any worse than 2020, so far, 2021 has consistently proven to be a challenge to 2020. We have the COVID-19 Delta Variant, we have wildfires in the west, we have flooding in the east, and have had a mixture throughout the central U.S. At this point, it seems like any three people you ask have either been directly impacted by Climate Change, or they know someone who has been impacted by Climate Change. The impacts may vary, but the situation remains the same.

There is a big problem, pathways to action go beyond local and even national efforts. So where do we begin?



After reflecting on the mosaic of contributors included in the book, All We Can Save, edited by Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson, it is clear, there is something everyone can do. Perhaps that is the main message and story to tell. No one should feel left out of the climate crisis, and not feel there is place to help and support solutions. Sadly, we often feel that

our individual action won't amount to much, or there are so many things to do, we feel overwhelmed by the challenge. But that can be seen as a strength of climate action. There is so much to do, you can do what you like. You can do what brings you the most joy. If we don't make the effort of addressing the Climate Crisis enjoyable, then the likely hood of any of us actually acting remains low. So, to counter inaction, we need to lead with joy.



The next consideration is what skills do you bring. What are you good at? What magic can you share? You do not need to be a climate scientist to help. We need all of us. We need all of our skills to get to where we need to be.

There is no "Magic Bullet" that will solve the climate Crisis, but rather "Thousands of Magic BBs". Different solutions take different skills. For instance, climate action policy and advocacy is an area where the most support is needed. Did you know that the number one reason why there is limited understanding about what to do about the climate crisis is because we don't talk about the climate enough?

continued

RED IS GREEN

Taking Action on Climate, continued

Let's start to talk about the climate crisis. Discuss how it has perhaps impacted you, or someone you know. The more we share our story, the more we realize action is needed now. Take some time to consider: what brings you joy, what skills can you share, and what solution do you feel compelled to address? Connect with likeminded individuals or clubs interested in the same solutions, ask them what help they need, communicate what you can bring. Share with others why this is important to you. Keep moving forward.

Connect with a Green Representative



Myia Tyler, All-Campus Green Representative

As a campus Green Representative, it is our responsibility to promote sustainability to students across campus. I've been a Green Rep for a few years now and I enjoy sharing relevant topics to faculty and peers concerning the environment; some of which come from our own training each semester. This year, one focus of our training happened to be recycling. While most of us are familiar with and probably try to recycle consistently, we might not realize the extent or complexities of recycling. When looking through a large lens, we as a country sent our recycling to China for many years, until they no longer allowed us to do so, based upon the fact that materials were not recyclable at all, but garbage. Many of us don't realize what can or can't actually be recycled, but that can also depend on the recycling rules in your county. For example, in Cortland county, only

plastics that have a top or lid can be recycled. That item must be cleaned, and the top thrown away before recycling. Smaller items like medicine bottles are not accepted due to their size, despite some being marked as recyclable. Glass must always be separated, to avoid being broken and ultimately being sent to a landfill. What I took away from this training was this: check your county's rules for recycling and spread the word for others to do the same: make your recycling count!

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

FREE

No Coupon Necessary

Water filling stations throughout campus provide fresh clean (cold) water without the microplastics and chemicals found in many single use bottled water.



Events and Announcements

October 12 – 3pm – [Model Garden Dedication](#)

Model Garden is located in front of Cornish Hall and across from Memorial Library



October 20 – November 22 – Carbon Footprint and Sustainability Literacy Survey



October 23 – [Youth Climate Action Day](#)



October 24 – Crop Walk – form a team [here](#)



If you don't want to form your own team, join one of the 13 other teams already registered!

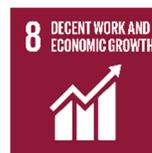
October 25 – 7:00pm - GreenFlix Film – Understory:
RSVP [here](#)



Three women set sail on a 350 mile expedition through Alaska's vast Tongass National Forest to explore how clearcut logging in this coastal rainforest could affect wildlife, local communities, and our planet's climate. A film produced by Elsa Sebastian and directed by Colin Arisman.



October 27 – The Intersection of Environment and the Criminal Justice System. Event will be hosted by Bridge Cortland, additional information to follow.



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