

Keeping it Green

Notes from the SUNY Cortland Sustainability Office

December 2021

HeatSmart CNY



Sustainability Office

HeatSmart CNY is an outreach program in the Central New York and Finger Lakes Region promoting energy efficient heating and cooling systems for residential and small commercial customers. The program is community focused and community driven with many volunteers helping to share their own experiences with energy efficiency improvements within their own home. One such volunteer and contributor is retiree Rick McClure. McClure, a retired academic tutor from SUNY Cortland's Learning Center, will be hosting a virtual tour of her home with her husband on Sunday December 12, 2021 from 2 – 3 pm.



The HeatSmart CNY brings together incentive programs from local utilities, National Grid and NYSEG (as an example), to lower the upfront costs associated with some of the recommended energy efficiency measures. They also review local contractors and establish a baseline for what experience and expertise available contractors have with the energy efficiency measures so home owners have to do less leg work on finding qualified contractors.

The main focus of the program is to start with a comprehensive home energy audit. This may sound costly and complicated, but all of this work is funded by the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), some of our own SUNY Cortland Graduates may even be the person who performs the audit on your home. Once the audit process is complete (takes about 90-minutes) the qualified contractor will review your results and develop recommendations to consider. These recommendations will start to add up, but they will be set up in a way for you to understand what provides you with the best investment to improve comfort within your home and lower your energy bills. Typically, one of the main items to improve is weatherization and insulation, the less heat you lose through leaky doors and poorly sealed attic space, the less heat you need keep you warm. The next recommendation may include newer technology like Heat Pumps. Heat pumps use electricity and the refrigeration process or carnot cycle, to pull heat from the outside air on cold days to warm your home. The

continued

RED IS GREEN

HeatSmart CNY, continued

McClure Residence has a ground coupled heat pumps system, so they pull heat from the ground to warm their home, further improving the energy efficiency of their home.

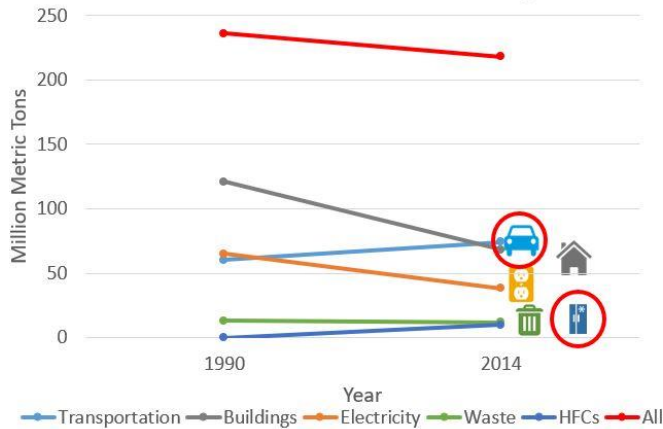
To register for the HeatSmart CNY virtual event, and learn more about the program, please visit their website at the following links:

<https://heatsmartcny.org/>

Register for the virtual event on Sunday December 12 from 2 – 3 pm [here](#).

Sustainability Survey

New York State Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 1990-2014



Sustainability Office

Last week the Sustainability Office emailed out the 2021 Sustainability Literacy and Carbon Intensity Survey to all students, faculty and staff. If you haven't taken the time to complete the survey, please do so now. This is a great way for the University to see the trends and understand how to improve our outreach and engagement, as well as hear directly from you on what programming we should enhance or expand.

Students who complete the survey by the end of the day Friday December 10 can enter a raffle to win 1 of 10 \$20 gift cards to Cortland Auxiliary Books Store.

If you have any questions about the survey, or are curious about the results, please contact the [Sustainability Office](#).

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

Plan for the Winter

Facilities Operations and Services

As we sprint to the end of the Fall Semester, Facilities Operations and Services encourages everyone to plan ahead during the winter break. Starting on December 20 Facilities will be setting back temperatures in all campus buildings to conserve natural resources during times of lower occupancy. You can help conserve energy by being prepared and adaptable to the lower building temperatures, consider a cardigan.



If you are leaving campus during this time, please spend a few minutes before you depart to make sure accessory equipment is shut down and turned completely OFF where practical to reduce [phantom electricity loads](#). These items include typical office equipment (desk lights, scanners, printers, monitors) as well as other personal office items (coffee pots and microwaves). Be sure all windows and doors are closed snugly to prevent drafts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Customer Service at x2100.

Donation Collection Reminder

Green Reps / Residence Life & Housing

When students head home in the next few weeks, please don't add to the trash. What is no longer a use to you may be useful to others. In the spirit of 'reuse' and minimizing our waste, please consider donating items as you are preparing to move out. Each residence hall will have a donation collection box located near the lobby, starting Friday December 10 through the end of finals week. Look for signs and other notices within your residence hall.

On Campus Collection - Please consider donating:

Donation Collection, continued

- Non-perishable food items
- Laundry soap
- Paper goods
- Dishes, silverware
- Excess school supplies, notebooks, pens & pencils
- Sheets, blankets, towels
- Lamps, toasters, and other household items
- Sports equipment
- Clothing

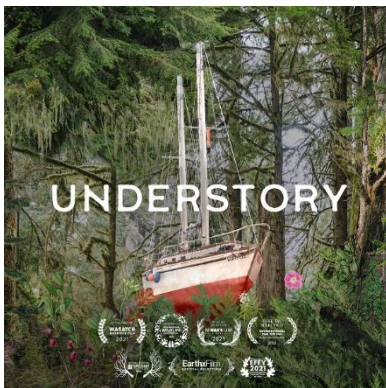
On campus food collections supports local pantries, including the Cortland Cupboard. Other items collected on campus go to help the SUNY Cortland Child Care Center and the Cortland community.

If you live off-campus, there are options for you too! Please bring your items for donation to the Cortland ReUse Store located at 245 McLean Rd in Cortland. Their phone number is 607-543-4010 and website: <https://cortlandreuse.org/> Items may be dropped off for donation during their regular hours: Mon: Closed, Tue-Sat: 10am - 4pm. Sun: Noon-5pm

Off-Campus Collection to [Cortland Reuse](#):

- Dishes, silverware
- Excess school supplies, notebooks, pens & pencils
- Sheets, blankets, towels
- Lamps, toasters, and other household items
- Sports equipment
- Furniture
- electronics

Understory



Last Stands, Elsa M Sebastian and Sustainability Office

In October, Sustainability Office hosted the fisherman, and activist, Elsa M Sebastian to share the film UNDERSTORY. The film about the Tongass, made in collaboration between Last Stands and Wild Confluence

Media, is now available to stream for free on the Last Stands website. Last Stands has released the film on Tuesday December 7 because they want to help encourage engagement with the US Forest Service's public process for restoring Roadless Rule protections to the Tongass.

As you may know, the US Forest Service has opened a public comment period for the Tongass. They're asking the public to weigh in on their plan to restore Roadless Rule protections for 9-million acres of the Tongass National Forest. This is your chance to send a clear message to the US Forest Service, and political leaders: the public supports protecting the last stands of ancient trees in the Tongass. Your comments will go on the record, and dissuade future administrations from attacking the Tongass and other public lands preserving them for ecological and carbon sequestration.

Please consider submitting an individual comment to the US Forest Service., links to do so are available at:

www.TongassFilm.com

Events and Announcements

December 9 – 4 pm Edible Food Forest Planning

Sustainability Office and Garden Advisory Committee are seeking community input on plans for an Edible Food Forest. This virtual session is open to all. Share your interest in biology, diversity, sustainability and food systems.

WEBEX-Link is [here](#).

Meeting number: 2633 491 6569

Password: aWXGaHg4e23