The College’s Institutional Plan was updated in spring 2008 with a two-year “Bridge Plan”. The Institutional Plan, first developed in 2001 through a long community stakeholder process, is our college's strategic planning guidance document. Implementation of the Institutional Plan is overseen by the Planning and Priorities Committee, an all-college representative body.

Development of the Bridge Plan - an effort headed by interim dean of graduate and professional studies Diane Gayeski - followed a community input period during which members offered suggestions on important aspects to update the Institutional Plan.

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Like its next-door-neighbor, the Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise, the Gateway project, designed by HOLT Architects, is also tracking to achieve LEED™ Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. One of the most innovative sustainability features of this building is its integration of ground-source heat pump technology to assist with building heating and cooling. Over the past year, thirty-six 500’ geothermal wells were bored into the bedrock around the perimeter of this structure. Water naturally warmed to a steady 55° by the earth’s crust will be drawn through heat exchange pipes into the building to alternately cool overheated air and to preheat outside cold air. Other features of this building’s high-performance sustainable design include natural ventilation systems that additionally cool incoming air by drawing it over a shade garden, and extensive reclamation and storage of rainwater for toilet flushing.

The Bridge Plan identified sustainability as a priority extending across all of these areas. The Bridge Plan acknowledges the recommendations of the Middle States self-study process to continue our efforts to promote learning about sustainability through our courses, operating practices, and technology.

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The Bridge Plan added a third directive for the campus to “explore ways to promote links between sustainability, good citizenship, and community service.”
Getting a Sustainable Head Start

Sustainability was the academic theme of this year’s Summer Institute, organized by Yolanda Clarke, director of Academic Enrichment Services. Each year the Summer Institute uses an academic theme to make the summer curriculum more cohesive and afford students a sense of continuity in their classes. This year’s Institute kicked off with a presentation titled “What is Sustainability and Where Did It Come From?” by climate change expert Dr. Jason Hamilton (photo inset) from our Biology department. Hamilton also served as faculty mentor and taught the theme course, “Sustainability: People, Connections, and Global Functioning.”

Marian Brown from the Provost’s Office was invited to offer a primer on green-collar jobs. The annual Summer Institute is a three-week preview of the College attended by about 50 pre-first-year students who want to enhance their success as Ithaca students. Participants engage in an academically intensive experience that introduce them to college-level classes, evening study hours and discussions, collaborative group work, and individual tutoring sessions. The Institute students learned about research, presentation skills, and teambuilding as they worked in small groups to investigate a sustainability-related topic, and then prepare and deliver a presentation to their peers and mentors at the end of the experience.

Show me the Money (maybe...)

Want to do some good and maybe get PAID for it? National Wildlife Federation’s Campus Ecology program awards fellowship grants to undergraduate and graduate students who are committed to reducing their campus’ carbon footprint. Projects include: greenhouse gas inventories, climate action plans, energy conservation and efficiency, habitat restoration, climate action gatherings and more. Grant awards: up to $2,000 for undergraduates; up to $5,000 for graduates. Fall deadline: October 1st. Additional submission deadlines throughout the year. For more information: visit www.nwf.org/fellows

Videographers: Climate Matters Video Contest
1Sky and Brighter Planet are inviting Americans to create powerful video messages that deliver a clear message to Washington: ‘We’re ready for strong leadership on climate change.’ Upload your 30- or 60-second video to the contest page on Vimeo.com before September 22, 2008 to compete for $4,500 in cash prizes. www.vimeo.com/climatematters For official rules: http://climatematters.brighterplanet.com/

Sustainable Classroom Renovation

Jeff Paddock from Facilities’ Planning, Design and Construction group reports that renovation of the three Textor Hall classrooms was quite sustainable. Contractors reused about 90% of existing building walls, floors, and ceilings, and they collected construction and demolition waste for recycling. The HVAC system has been upgraded to improve indoor air quality. Enhanced room lighting controls will save energy; occupancy sensors built into the dimming system in each room will automatically turn lights off when the rooms are not in use. The new auditorium style seating has recycled content steel in the frame, 50% recycled wood material in the seat backs and seats, and recycled polypropylene in the armrests. The seating is GreenGuard™ certified for minimal indoor air quality impact. The Interface carpet tile has 44.53% recycled content. The three Spectrum Industries SMART consoles are being reused; the manufacturer received the federal Evergreen Award for implementing environmental sustainability initiatives that include waste prevention, material recovery, recycling, and environmentally conscious product design.

We’re still tabulating our current inventory of Ithaca courses with sustainability content, but we already count more than 200. During our last inventory in Spring 2005, we counted over 100 courses. A 100% increase in three years – that’s g-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-re-at!!

Librarian John Henderson maintains a really terrific Sustainability resource page: http://www.ithacalibrary.com/topics/sustain

Learn to Teach Sustainability

The Faculty Development Retreat for the Partnerships in Sustainability Education program at EcoVillage on August 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The retreat will include a fabulous lunch of local foods featuring fresh produce from West Haven Farm. The retreat planners will divide the time between updates and conversations about current projects and a mini-workshop on the pedagogy of sustainability education designed to be helpful to faculty in their course planning. This retreat never fails to be an inspirational start to the fall semester. By Friday, August 15th, please email Stephanie at education@ecovillage.ithaca.ny.us so the retreat planners know how many people will be there for lunch.

Get “Spotted”! Reuse your beverage mug for refills of soda or coffee in retail operations on campus and you may be handed a “Spotted” card to reward you with a free refill for your effort to minimize waste.
Sustainable Decisions

Take a Memo...

Staples Environmental Report for fiscal year 2007-08 calculates that through the College’s aggregate purchases of recycled-content office products instead of virgin equivalents, we saved 714 trees, more than 260,000 gallons of water, and an amount of energy equivalent to powering and heating more than a dozen homes for a year!

ZZZZZZZZZZZZT!

Figures on total campus electricity use from the end of fiscal year 2007 show our use to be down 3% from 2006. Several major re-lamping projects, upgrades to variable speed drive motors, and other energy-saving strategies are credited for the decline.

New Transportation Options Wheeled Out

Baby, you can drive my car...

Ithaca Carshare began operations in June, placing vehicles in the region. Along with the City of Ithaca and Cornell, Ithaca College supported the development of this local membership-based carshare program. Carshare members pay for their vehicle use by the hour plus a 20¢ mileage fee. Look for the first Carshare vehicle here on campus in its specially marked parking space next to the Park Center. Special student member rates are offered. Check out: www.ithacacarshare.org

Meep meep. Roger Casterline from Facilities Grounds and Transportation organized test drives of various smaller, fuel-efficient utility vehicles, including the MILES all-electric units and MAG 4-cylinder gas vehicles. Tests of other “right-sized” alternative vehicles are planned.

Don’t MAKE me chase you...

Public Safety has acquired a T3 Motion electric personal mobility vehicle for patrols. The T3 uses ~1.5kW of electricity and recharges in about four hours. Annual savings from using T3s over gas powered vehicles are estimated to be between $23,000 - $30,000! Watch for the T3 on campus – it zips along at ~20mph, easily traverses sidewalks, turns on a dime, and features LED lights.

Who’s in your neighborhood?

Have you met OSCAR yet? That’s OSCAR - as in the Office Supplies Collection And Reuse room - across the hall from the ITS office in Phillips Hall. Sign out the key to the OSCAR room and check out the available stock of new and gently-used items before purchasing new office supplies – you just might find everything you need for free!

Our 2007-08 solid waste stats show that more than 40% of our total waste stream was recycled, keeping these materials out of the landfill. We recycled 192 tons of office paper, 97 tons of containers, 89 tons of cardboard, 887 tons of trash (our third straight annual decline). 265 tons of compostable food waste were collected.

Waste Not, Want Not

You can review close-to-real-time energy use for many campus buildings at www.ithaca.edu/metering

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News Briefs

Watch for “Green Thumbs-Up” citations in the Kudos section of Intercom. Make sure we know about YOUR new innovations or activities that support campus sustainability. You could earn a “Green Thumbs-Up”! Read archived versions of each citation on our webpage under Community Outreach.

You’ll eat this up!

Dining Services announces a new menu option in all three dining halls. The Balanced Way offers plated portions of healthy, delicious whole foods and fresh preparations. Balanced Way meals contain less than 600 calories, with not more than 30% of those calories from fat, and at least 3 grams of fiber. Balanced Way plates feature 25% protein-rich foods, like lean meats, fish, dairy, tofu or legumes, and 25% whole grains and carbohydrates. The remaining half features fruits and vegetables.

Our campus Water Challenge was referenced in an Ithaca Journal article that was subsequently picked up by several national news outlets, including USA Today.

Check out FUSE for articles on campus sustainability from student points of view: http://fuse.ithaca.edu/tags/sustainability/

ICView also tags stories covering campus sustainability: www.ithaca.edu/icview/tags/sustainability/

Members of a Cornell University adult education architecture class came to campus on July 29th for guided informational tours of the sustainability features of and design processes for the School of Business and the Gateway projects.

TCAT Bus Passes are on sale at the Bookstore. The College underwrites about 30% of the price of these student passes. 10-ride pass: $10.50 Monthly pass: $31.50 Unlimited student semester pass: $120.00

Aaron Munzer ’08, now a staff reporter for the Ithaca Journal, wrote a great two-part series on the climate neutrality and campus sustainability efforts of Ithaca College and Cornell University.

Check out the whole wall of reusable beverage mugs and water bottles at the Bookstore, including SIGG aluminum bottles and special IC-logo Nalgene bottles.
Get Involved

Here are just a few of the many sustainability-related campus groups that will welcome your involvement:

**Students for Sustainability**  
www.ithaca.edu/biology/sfs  
Promotes principles of sustainability through education and action on campus and the community.

**Ithaca College Environmental Society**  
www.ithaca.edu/ices  
Promotes environmental awareness and responsibility on our campus through education, activism, and stewardship.

**Business Sustainability Ambassadors**  
www.BusinessSustainabilityAmbassadors.com  
Aims to foster sustainable enterprises through real world discovery and the sharing of information.

For more organizations to join, visit the Center for Student Leadership and Involvement.  
http://www.ithaca.edu/involvement/

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All Aboard!

Sustainable Community Challengers is a brand new Ithaca College “Jumpstart” program for first year students. Under the expert guidance of Mark Darling, supervisor of Recycling and Resource Management, SCC program coordinator Sarah Brylinsky ’09, and sustainability intern Nathonn Bates ’09, three dozen “Sustainables” will explore some of the environmental, sustainable, social and community activities in the greater Ithaca area. On Friday, August 22, the Sustainables will board the “Bioregional Bus Tour” and circumnavigate Cayuga Lake, making stops at the Lake Source Cooling plant, organic and conventional dairy farms in Cayuga County, the Audubon Wildlife Center in Savannah, Sheldrake Point Winery, Taughannock Falls, and EcoVillage at Ithaca. On Saturday the 23rd, the “Sustainables” will take to the local streets, using TCAT to get about and learn more about downtown Ithaca.

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Convocation Marks a New Start

**Con-vo-ca-tion** (noun): a large formal assembly of a college community.

Convocation is the time when we formally welcome our first-year students into our IC community. The Community Picnic immediately follows the ceremony - watch for the sustainable features of this large event on the Quad, which will host over 3,000 people!

Get a free reusable beverage mug as you enter the picnic. These mugs are made from 100% recycled-content plastic.

All plates, cups, napkins, and eating utensils are fully compostable.

Opt for the healthier food options, especially whole wheat rolls and locally-grown, seasonal fruits and vegetables and cookies from the new Balanced Way menu (see page 3).

“Zero Waste” collection stations are staffed by IC Environmental Society (ICES) volunteers and Resource and Environmental Management Program Reps to help you correctly separate your waste materials.

Check out the sustainability learning activities on the Quad.

Listen for an important announcement during the picnic. No, we’re not telling what it is….

We maintain an active sustainability list-serve to advise members about campus and community events and activities of interest, and to facilitate discussion among members about sustainability topics. Our listserv is open to any and all members of the Ithaca College community as well as to any others interested from the Ithaca community and the academic community. To join our “sustainability friends” listserve, simply send an email to: majordomo@lists.ithaca.edu with the following text in the body of the message: subscribe sustainability

The annual Princeton Review survey of colleges and universities included questions about campus sustainability for the first time this year. Ithaca College – again cited as one of the 368 Best Colleges - received a “green” rating of 91.

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News Briefs

**Sustainability at Ithaca** will be on display on September 19th at the City of Ithaca Employee’s Picnic. Sustainability is their event theme.

Ithaca College is a sponsor of the International Podcar City: Ithaca, the sustainable transportation conference, from September 14-16. What is a “pod car”, you ask? Listen for more information about this concept as we get closer to the conference. It’s a waaaaaay cool idea!

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We’re on the Web!

A pdf version of this newsletter can be downloaded from the Sustainability at Ithaca website at  
www.ithaca.edu/sustainability

This newsletter has been produced on recycled paper.