



“Signs of Sustainability” 2008

Sustainable Tompkins, the organization devoted to catalyzing sustainable development in our region, continually seeks to identify the newest “Signs of Sustainability” in our community. For the past three years, Sustainable Tompkins’ board members have kept their eyes and ears open throughout the year to spot individuals and organizations emerging on the local scene, all doing their part to help advance community sustainability. Sustainable Tompkins highlights these efforts in order to help these new activists “plug in” and connect with others involved in similar endeavors. With all of us working together in different ways to resolve our shared sustainability challenges, we spur faster and deeper forward movement of this social movement.

The first year, at our Holiday Party in December 2006, we used a different format for this kind of recognition, displaying a few of what we considered “Signs of Sustainability” in our community in a slideshow pictorial format. Our aim was simply to raise awareness by offering a representative sampling of the great efforts by players in each of the sectors in our community: education, health care, transportation, sustainable enterprise, green building, government, etc. We were taken aback by the overwhelmingly positive reaction people had to learning just how many *others* were working in our community to co-create a better future. But we also received a little gentle criticism for *not* mentioning some of the other really great new efforts.

So last year, we created a more formal recognition program. Sustainable Tompkins recognizes examples of individuals and entities whose work during the prior year has been supportive of our organizational mission to promote the long-term well-being of our communities and region by integrating social equity, economic vitality, ecological stewardship, and personal and civic responsibility. Each year, Sustainable Tompkins acknowledges three categories of new “Signs of Sustainability” (*activities that started no earlier than December of the prior year*):

- A new sustainable enterprise
- A brand new program or non-profit organization supporting some aspect of sustainable development
- A new sustainable program element rolled out by an existing business or non-profit organization

At our December 2007 Holiday Party, we announced those we had noted as new “Signs of Sustainability” and issued award certificates to each honoree. That recognition was even *more* well-received. We note with delight that “Signs of Sustainability” award certificates proudly grace the walls of some of the businesses we honored last year. In 2007, we acknowledged a total of 43 “signs of sustainability” (9 businesses, 11 new organizations, and 23 new programs). But once again, we heard about numerous others we inadvertently overlooked.

We always knew the risk with our *ad hoc* approach was that a number of worthy entities might go unrecognized. So this year, Sustainable Tompkins enlisted the help of our community to make sure we are aware of all the new “Signs of Sustainability” that joined the local movement in 2008 – and *BOY*, did our community deliver! We are acknowledging more than **80** “Signs of Sustainability” this year. And we know that we *still* didn’t see or hear about all of the players who are hard at work making ours a more sustainable community.

It’s a great problem to have - to have *so* many great things going on in our community that we cannot possibly keep track of them all! So, looking ahead to 2009, we implore you to help us by being our “eyes and ears” throughout the year. Anytime this year, if you see a new “Sign of Sustainability”- or if you *are* one yourself - let us know! We’ve told you what we’re looking for –and if *you* think it’s a positive “sign”, we bet that *we* will, too!

We’ll keep the e-mail address for submissions open on our website all year long, so please send your entries for “Signs of Sustainability” to: sos@sustainabletompkins.org Thanks in advance for your continued support!

Sustainable Tompkins, PO Box 596, Ithaca NY 14851-0596

www.sustainabletompkins.org

New Sustainable Enterprise

1. **Jillian's Drawers retail store opened** at 114 N. Cayuga Street, augmenting the company's existing, very successful online business catering to the needs of parents seeking cloth diapers and other natural baby products. Jillian's Drawers is a certified Tompkins County Living Wage Employer and the organization offers a number of family-friendly employment practices to support their staff, many of whom are work-at-home moms. <http://www.jilliansdrawers.com/index.html> 607-272-1237
2. **Ecolibrium Financial Planning was started** by founding principal Greg Pitts as a fee-only financial planning and registered investment advisory firm which supports socially responsible investing and which has committed itself to the practice of sustainable business. According to Ecolibrium's website, [we] *"constantly strive to reduce the size of our footprint on the planet while increasing the positive impact we have in our community and in society."* <http://www.ecolibrium.org/Home.html> 607-227-1704
3. **Sustainable Transitions, Inc. started operations** this year. President Sean Vormwald assists businesses, higher education institutions, municipalities, and non-profit organizations with developing and enhancing their sustainability programs. Sustainable Transitions has been assisting Sustainable Tompkins with its marketing effort and has supported the educational programming work of the Green Resource Hub. Sustainable Transitions has been helping Mayor Carolyn Peterson roll out a city employee training program as part of the Local Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. www.sustainabletransitions.com 607-351-8013
4. **Ithaca Carshare took to the streets** in June. Ithaca Carshare is a locally-run non-profit service offering 24/7 access to a fleet of fuel efficient vehicles that has quickly grown to offer a fleet of 10 carshare vehicles supporting the mobility needs of more than 600 members. Executive Director Jennifer Dotson and assistant director Andy Goodelle report that 170 Carshare members have either decided not to buy another car or have sold their current car. Having vehicles located throughout Ithaca in areas easily accessible by bus and bike decreases the need to rely on personal cars, while supporting public transportation. It is anticipated that 2009 will mark continued growth for the Ithaca Carshare system. www.ithacacarshare.org 607-229-3210
5. **Garden Gate Delivery began operations**, offering its sustainable *"farm to family"* delivery service to bring grocery items from farmers and local food processors right to customers' doors. Owner Marlo Capoccia reports that Garden Gate Delivery lowers prices and removes delivery fees to help increase accessibility to local foods by members of the community who couldn't otherwise afford it, plus they waive delivery fees for pregnant families and families with new babies. Garden Gate Delivery has also donated time to deliver low-income shares on behalf of the Full Plate Collective. www.gardengatedelivery.com 607-342-6228
6. **Go Green Maid NY began offering services.** This environmentally-friendly, professional, residential and commercial cleaning service uses entirely Greenseal™ certified cleaning products. Owner-operator Heather Gowe reports that all cleaning equipment she uses features HEPA filtration and that she is going to undergo additional training to become a LEED certified commercial interiors service provider. www.gogreenmaidny.com 607-280-9069
7. **Manndible Café began operations** in the Albert R. Mann Library at Cornell earlier this year. Run by Ithaca business partners Pam Gueldner and Kathleen Pasetty, Manndible Cafe emphasizes local foods and sustainable practices. Highlights include organic produce from Dilmun Hill, the Cornell student run farm, and foods from other local farmers. <http://manndiblecafe.com/> 607-254-6206

New Sustainable Enterprise, continued

8. **The Finger Lakes ReUse Center opened** in Triphammer Mall in November. Executive Director Diane Cohen reports that the ReUse Center is now accepting clean, quality used and surplus building materials, furniture, housewares, electronics, art and school supplies. The goals of the ReUse Center are to reduce waste by providing and promoting uses for materials otherwise thrown away, **to** move people out of poverty by creating living wage, skilled labor jobs and providing workforce training in reuse-related industries, and to educate people about the value of reusable materials and how to transform materials for practical and creative applications. <http://fingerlakesreuse.org/index.html> 607- 257-9699
9. **“Edible Finger Lakes” rolled off the presses** this Spring. According to the website of this new culinary magazine: *“Edible Finger Lakes is dedicated to celebrating and promoting the regional food scene, with a focus on the many farms, vineyards, culinary artisans, chefs and home cooks, farmers’ markets, food shops, country inns, restaurants and cafes. Our mission is to promote local foods and festivities and to persuade people...that fresh food from the area is the most delicious, exciting and healthy choice when it comes to the plate or the pantry. We want consumer dollars to stay close to home by supporting the local farmer, culinary entrepreneur and chef...”*
<http://www.ediblefingerlakes.com/content/> (607) 272-2510
10. **Ithaca Sound Maze opened** as Tompkins County's first corn maze and sound garden. This *'kinder and gentler'* style corn maze featured a number of interactive *'instruments'* and sound installations hidden throughout the maze. The concept of the Sound Maze was the brain-child of Christianne White, with instruments built by musician Walter White and metal artist David Mazzarella, created out of found and recycled materials collected at area farms and sites around the Tompkins County region. Among the unique instruments created for the Sound Maze was the *“Harrowphone”*, featuring broken teeth from a tine harrow; gongs created from parts of industrial dishwashers; and the *“Post-a-Phone”* made from standard 1” shelving posts. <http://ithacasoundmaze.com/> 607-227-6638
11. **Eco Properties Group was started** by real estate brokers Kate Richard and Shari Landsman from RE/MAX In Motion. The pair were the first agents in the Ithaca area to obtain their EcoBroker certification, the premiere green designation program for real estate professionals. Eco Properties Group collective was created with the goal to help increase the number of green homes on the market for immediate sale by working with the Ithaca Green Building Alliance and other local green building professionals. According to Kate Richard, the Eco Properties Group *“encourages homebuyers to consider retrofitting some of our beautiful older homes to keep their character intact but also to make them efficient and healthy for people and planet.”* www.EcoPropertiesGroup.com 607-277-1500
12. **Silicon Solar Inc. opened two branches** in Ithaca: its headquarters at Catherwood Road and its research and development office on Dryden Rd. Silicon Solar provides solar panels and integrated solar products including solar lights, solar cells, solar fountains along with residential home power kits at wholesale prices. Their services also include design and manufacturing of custom solar panel systems for residential and commercial applications consisting of photovoltaic and solar hot water heating technology. Silicon Solar hopes to make Tompkins County a major distribution center for solar thermal technology for space heating and domestic hot water production.
<http://www.siliconsolar.com/> 607-563-7865
13. **Green Café opened** on Dryden Road in Varna. This restaurant, which is affiliated with Silicon Solar, serves up organic coffee and free WiFi. Silicon Solar's vision for the Green Cafe is to have it become an education center for sustainable technology.

New Sustainable Enterprise, *continued*

14. **Pure Panes™ offers socially and environmentally responsible window cleaning services.** The cleaners used are certified green and Pure Panes uses only American made or fairly-traded equipment. Their advertising slogan: *“Your windows will sparkle as bright and clean as your conscience.”*
607-220-3583 Kevin or Angie www.purepanes.com

15. **Seneca Electronics & Energy Solutions, LLC goes online.** This local internet business offers digital electronics, energy efficiency and renewable energy products and technologies that are transforming the way we live and providing new solutions to old problems. Peter Bardaglio, president of SE&ES is working with members of EcoVillage at Ithaca to establish a Center for Sustainability Education. Two percent of every purchase from Seneca Electronics and Energy Solutions will be invested in this nonprofit education effort. <https://www.senecaelectronicsonline.com/> 607-387-4698

New program or non-profit organization supporting sustainable development

1. **Community Building Works! undertakes local construction projects.** Community Building Works! builds community capacity by providing green, affordable housing, locally and internationally, using volunteer labor. For every house CBW! builds in our community, it commits to building one in a developing country. CBW!'s use of volunteer labor empowers the community to address its affordable housing needs, empowers individuals by teaching them valuable job skills, and supports a sustainable business model. Community Building Works! volunteers have provided manpower for local construction projects in conjunction with Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services.
<http://www.communitybuildingworks.org/> 607-319-0113
2. **Farm Pond Circle intentional community planted 1,000 trees** as a reforestation project. Jack Jensen and Sheila Squier of Community Building Works! envision Farm Pond Circle as a 20-home, low-impact community in Lansing similar to EcoVillage, with two ponds, a communal park-like area in the center, and a walking path around the perimeter with tree barriers designed to block wind and provide solar shading. The first four homes are anticipated to be built by Community Building Works! and sold to families in the Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Service program. Jack Jensen 607-319-0113
3. **White Hawk EcoVillage completed its first home** this summer. Steve and Laura Woinoski's 1,250sf sustainable home in Danby is the first of what is envisioned as an intentional community consisting of single-family and multi-family units, totaling about 30 family households when complete.
<http://www.whitehawk.org/> 607-330-2609
4. **The Center for Local Food & Farming has formed.** This new initiative will enhance and expand educational opportunities at West Haven Farm at EcoVillage by engaging key local institutions, outstanding farmers, and diverse funders, to create the nation's first hands-on training center for sustainable local food systems with formal linkages to multiple institutions of higher learning. The Center will offer programs of study for high school, college, and nontraditional students; aspiring and established farmers; educators, community organizers and entrepreneurs; researchers, policymakers and professionals; food business leaders and food service providers. Programs will emphasize hands-on training that complements the educational opportunities available through partner institutions.
Joanna Green jg16@cornell.edu
5. **New Roots School received its charter and \$600,000 startup grant** from the New York State Education Department. According to founding principal Tina Nilsen-Hodges, *"New Roots Charter School, opening September 2009 downtown, will be one of the first fully-integrated models of sustainability education nationwide. New Roots Charter School will empower young people as citizens and entrepreneurs that create just, democratic communities and thriving green economies that restore the natural world, featuring community-based learning that supports students in solving real-world problems. New Roots is a sign that educational leaders in New York State recognize the need to redesign education for sustainability, and their recognition of Ithaca as a leader in this endeavor."*
<http://www.newrootsschool.org/> 607-339-1849
6. **Local First Ithaca formed** and announced the beginning of their 2008 Local First Holiday Celebration, a seven-week campaign of fun and engaging events to encourage and challenge the community to spend their holiday dollars locally. The newly-formed organization is the Ithaca area's first on-going "buy local" initiative in support of local business and a "living" economy. Over 40 independent local retailers have joined the effort to promote and celebrate Ithaca's unique businesses. <http://www.localfirstithaca.org/>

New program or non-profit organization supporting sustainable development, continued

7. **Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative was created** to establish a model for cross-sector partnerships for high-leverage climate action initiatives. The goal is to demonstrate the measurable strategic advantages gained by establishing and mobilizing a coalition of community leaders, including higher education institution leaders, who are committed to finding mutually-beneficial synergies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The primary focus of this initiative over the next two years will be major energy efficiency projects in Tompkins County, NY that will significantly decrease electricity consumption. <http://www.secondnature.org/SNPrograms.html> 607-387-4173
8. **Finger Lakes Environmentally Preferred Procurement Consortium formed. New York's first community based, multi-sector consortium formed this year to promote environmentally preferred products and services.** Consortium includes representatives from City of Ithaca government, Cornell University, Ithaca College, TC3, Tompkins County government, Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce, and T-S-T BOCES. The Consortium seeks not only to promote human and environmental health, but also to stimulate the economic vitality of the region through the use of the consortium's significant collective purchasing power. Committing to procure environmentally preferred products also strengthens the markets for these items, supports local suppliers, and encourages the development of "green" manufacturing within the region. Kat McCarthy, coordinator Tompkins County Solid Waste 607-273-6632
9. **Dryden Renewable Energy Workgroup** formed to explore energy conservation activities and possibilities for integration of renewable energy technologies into municipal, residential and business buildings. Guest speakers have included Taitem Engineering, e-vanhee geothermal solutions, Ithaca Wood Heat, Energy Independent Caroline, and the Dryden High School Sustainability Club. Projects implemented include Cornell Cooperative Extension's "Save Energy, Save Dollars" program and a NYSERDA energy audit of the Town Highway Buildings. <http://www.davidmakar.com/drew> 607-342-3009
10. **MINGA at Cornell University is convened.** MINGA is a new group designed to get organizations at the university with missions and projects related to the Millennium Development Goals to collaborate in pursuit of quality of life improvements. MINGA's organizers hope to encourage Cornell's student body to integrate social equity, economic vitality, ecological stewardship, and personal and civic responsibility both in Tompkins County and abroad via the Millennium Development Goals. "Minga" is a word borrowed from the Quechua language which means, "The coming together of a community to work for the betterment of all." Tareq Haidary (th286@cornell.edu)
11. **Dryden High School Sustainability Club started** in the Spring of 2008. The faculty coordinators are Dryden HS science faculty Travis Crocker and Karen Taylor and the group has outside advisors and student officers. The Club has developed a sustainability speaker series, inviting outside speakers in to expand the members' understanding of various sustainability-related issues. <http://www.dryden.k12.ny.us/Schools/DHSSite/HomePage> 607-844-8694
12. **Cornell Lab of Ornithology initiates a sustainability task force.** Through its extensive networks of birders around the world and the development of online reporting tools, the Lab of Ornithology is a unique position to help citizens and scientists monitor and mitigate the impacts of climate change. More locally, the "Lab of O", as it is familiarly known, has initiated a Cornell Lab of Ornithology Group for Sustainability - or CLOGS - to address global climate change issues through research, education, and conservation efforts. CLOGers work to implement operational solutions like van pooling, composting/recycling, investigating options for energy efficiencies and encouraging "bike-to-work" days. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/netcommunity/Page.aspx?pid=708> 607-254-2145

New program or non-profit organization supporting sustainable development, continued

13. **CBORD Group “Green Team” formed** in August 2008. The team meets weekly to brainstorm ideas on how CBORD employees can effect positive environmental change. The “Green Team” strives to promote more efficient consumption of energy and material resources at CBORD and to encourage employees to make environmentally sound decisions outside the workplace. Although the team is new, its members have already made changes in the CBORD Ithaca office: switching to biodegradable shipping materials, installing a water-saving faucet in the men’s room, and starting a drive to reduce paper use. They continue to explore ways to make ecologically smarter decisions.
<http://www.cbord.com/about/green/> 607-257-2410

14. **The Neighborhood Mini-grant Council was created** to evaluate applications for Sustainable Tompkins’ new program of small grants for resident-initiated projects in Ithaca's mixed income neighborhoods. Council members are, by and large, up-and-coming leaders from the neighborhoods who bring great dedication and savvy to the task. Members also follow up to support the success of these projects, whether it's an energy audit at a housing project, a much-needed basketball league, or a new children's garden and local foods cooking program. Sustainable Tompkins mini-grant program coordinator Elan Shapiro recognizes and thanks all the council members for being agents of hope and empowerment: Neisha Butler from the TC Workers Center; Phoebe Brown, Jodie Washington and Butch Westlake from Mutual Housing Association; Michael Bell, Pastor of AME Zion Methodist Church; and Anthony Gallucci who works with the PTA of Beverly J. Martin school, Challenge Industries, and the Workers Center.

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business

- 1. Tompkins County Solid Waste receives “Go Green County of the Year” national award.** In October, at the Go Green Summit in Syracuse, Tompkins County was honored for its innovative “Go Green Initiative” program, adapting principles of the national movement. The program unites parents, students, teachers, staff and administrators to create a culture of environmental responsibility in schools throughout Tompkins County. National “Go Green initiative” founder Jill Buck hopes that Tompkins County’s success will serve as an example to other county environmental and solid waste coordinators nationwide. “We’ve seen schools registering in Tompkins County all year long on a very regular and consistent basis... because of your county’s commitment to make the Go Green Initiative part of your plan and process.” Linnett Short, Tompkins County Solid Waste 607-273-6632
- 2. TCAT pilots 50-cent off-peak fare.** This summer, TCAT introduced an off-peak fare on all routes. The reduced “off-peak” fare was good between 10AM to 3PM, after 6PM, and all weekend. The original offer was to end at the end of August, but due to overwhelmingly positive customer response, the program was extended to the end of October. Joe Turcotte, TCAT’s General Manager, said, “We wanted to do our part to help people in these tough economic times. This is a great opportunity for people to use our safe, high quality, reliable and efficient system even more!” In late August, TCAT reported a 33 percent increase in off-peak hour ridership, which partially offset the cost of reducing the fare. www.tcatbus.com 607-277-7433
- 3. Cornell University Agriculture Experiment Station announces a renewable bioenergy initiative.** Through the leadership of Associate Dean Mike Hoffmann of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs), Cornell’s Agriculture Experiment Station is developing the Cornell University Renewable Bioenergy Initiative (CURBI). CALs researchers and operations staffers are assessing the feasibility of an onsite-bioenergy facility that can contribute to Cornell’s heating and electrical needs and also provide a laboratory for research and education. CURBI aims to develop workable, mixed-waste bioenergy systems, including anaerobic digestion, direct combustion, and pyrolysis (a form of burning biomass and other inputs in the absence of oxygen) that produces heat, syngas, and produces biochar, a beneficial soil amendment. This integrated system will be the first of such systems and can serve as a demonstration site. <http://www.cuaes.cornell.edu/index.cfm> 607-255-2552
- 4. Cornell passes a “green building” policy.** Through the sustained efforts of the Green Building Oversight Committee, the Cornell Board of Trustees passed a major new policy requiring all new buildings and renovations over \$5 million dollars (which is nearly all building projects) to achieve LEED Silver and to be a minimum of 30% more energy efficient (aiming for 50% more efficient) than national ASHRAE energy code. This means that today all twelve of Cornell’s largest construction efforts are pursuing LEED certifications and in total over 90% of the total VALUE of Cornell’s new construction projects in the planning, design or construction phases will be seeking LEED Silver certification and 30% increased energy efficiency or better. John Kiefer and Steve Beyers (GBOC co-chairs) 607-255-6633
- 5. Connect Ithaca hosts THE PODCAR CITY Conference.** This international conference, the first of its kind held in North America, was held in October. This international gathering of international stakeholders was an initiative of the Institute for Sustainable Transportation and the Advanced Transit Association. The conference offered an open and creative debate on what Podcars (Personal and Group Rapid Transit) are and how RPT systems can contribute to sustainable cities and regions. Connect Ithaca held an open public session at the State Theatre to explain how a podcar system might contribute to re-creating Ithaca as an EcoCity. <http://www.connectithaca.com/>

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

6. ***“Lighten Up Caroline”* program delivers 1,400 CFLs.** 100 volunteers went door-to-door to distribute energy-saving compact-fluorescent lightbulbs to all 1,400 households in the Town of Caroline on Saturday, April 19. A project of Energy Independent Caroline, the replacement with a CFL of that many incandescent bulbs is projected to collectively save residents \$70,000 in energy bills and reduce carbon emissions by over 800,000 pounds. <http://www.townofcaroline.org/energyindependent/>
7. **SewGreen *“Sew-Ins”* create more than 1,000 Caroline Bags.** Sewing enthusiasts contributed over 1,000 reusable tote bags to a collaboration between SewGreen and Energy Independent Caroline to create *“Caroline Bags”*. The home-sewn bags, made from all reused or existing materials, were specially designed to hold an energy-saving compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) and informational literature about energy conservation. Sew-ins were held throughout the Ithaca community and countless community members sewed for the cause. SewGreen delivered 1,010 bags, each uniquely beautiful, to *“Lighten Up Caroline,”* which made up the rest with reusable bags from a supermarket chain. <http://www.sew-green.org/> 607-277-7611
8. **SewGreen Student Board of Directors provide leadership.** Through Elan Shapiro’s *“Sustainable Communities”* course at Ithaca College, an undergraduate team took on the role of Student Board of Directors for SewGreen. The four students accepted leadership roles and worked to promote SewGreen’s sustainability mission. In addition to providing valuable insight and guidance, they organized a publicity event and reuse workshop on campus. Using their knowledge of campus organizations and networks, the student board has helped SewGreen make new and strong connections to the Ithaca College community that promise to be long-term and lasting. <http://www.sew-green.org/>
9. **Park Foundation announces The Sustainable Ithaca grants program.** This new program is focused on providing support in the following topical areas: green buildings; transportation; smart growth; natural systems; sustainable institutions and green consumerism; energy and climate change; toxic threats; education; and communications and leadership development. According to executive director Jon Jensen, *“the goal of this program is to help Ithaca become the most sustainable city of its size in North America.”* http://www.parkfoundation.org/program_areas.php 607-272-9124
10. **Tompkins County Planning develops the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.** The draft plan element, developed by county planners Ed Marx, Katie Borgella, and Leslie Schill, is slated for vote on adoption by the Tompkins County Legislature in mid-December. If approved, this plan element presents specific policies and actions to address the broad range of issues related to energy and greenhouse gas emissions. The guiding principle of the comprehensive plan element is that *“The Tompkins County community should reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency, transition to renewable sources of energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”* <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/compplan/index.htm> 607-274-5560
11. **2-1-1 Tompkins began** this year, offering community service information and referral services on a toll-free basis 24 hours a day 7 days a week. This free service of the Human Services Coalition provides information on housing, transportation, food, health care, employment services, recreation programs, and volunteering. The service is available in several languages besides English, including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Burmese. www.211tompkins.org 877-211-8667 or dial 2-1-1
12. **Ryan’s Towing Service uses biodiesel in its fleet of tow trucks.** The biodiesel is made from used vegetable oil taken from restaurants which is then converted into fuel. The biodiesel sells for about \$2.50 a gallon, making it much cheaper than regular diesel fuel. Pete Neff, Manager 607-273-6949

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

13. **Historic Ithaca adds the category of “Green Preservation” to its 2008 Preservation Awards program.** Every year, Historic Ithaca presents awards for sensitive restoration and preservation projects within Tompkins County. Historic preservation is, by definition, a green practice, but Historic Ithaca seeks to recognize people in our community who are embracing our history *and* protecting the environment. <http://www.historicithaca.org/> 607-277-3450
14. **Four Ithaca Restaurants commit to “Take Back the Tap.”** Four local restaurants have joined the Food and Water Watch’s national effort to protect America’s water resources and are helping to educate consumers of the environmental and health benefits of tap water. Restaurant owners who join the movement make the pledge that their business will eliminate the sale of still bottled water, switch to serving only municipal tap water, and will help educate customers about the benefits of tap water over bottled water. The four participating restaurants are:
 - a. **Moosewood Café** has been a strong supporter of local farmers and local products since its inception. According to co-owner, Laura Branca, *“We have always served Ithaca tap water, investing in a filtration system six years ago and doing away with bottled water. Even though we recycled the bottles, it still seemed irresponsible. In our continuing efforts to minimize our ecological footprint, we now serve filtered carbonated water as an alternative to bottled sparkling water. We even remind customers on our menu that tap water is more eco-friendly.”* <http://www.moosewoodrestaurant.com/> 607-273-9610
 - b. **Joe's Restaurant**, according to owner Jamie Ciaschi, *“exclusively serves filtered and chilled tap water instead of bottled spring water. Ithaca is a very eco-friendly town and serving tap water is another small way to show support for the environmental awareness that our town embraces.”* <http://www.joesithaca.com/> 607-256-3463
 - c. **Lucatelli's Ristorante** owner Carmen Lucatelli stated, *“We here at Lucatelli's Ristorante do not serve bottled water [and have] never sold bottled water. A reason we don't sell bottled water is because of the price to carry it. Why pay the money when I can get the same product from a tap?”* <http://www.lucatellis.com/> 607 273-0777
 - d. **Blue Stone Bar & Grill** owner and chef Douglas Gruen also committed to *“Take Back the Tap.”* <http://www.bluestoneithaca.com/> 607-272-2371
15. **The Cancer Resource Center renovated a run-down Victorian house.** With the help of many volunteers and donations, including a grant from NYS to use sustainable “green” materials, the CRC purchased the structure in the commercial district of West State Street and restored it inside and out to serve as its new service center and organizational headquarters. The CRC even received a donation of a Victorian period garden. According to director Shawn Galbreath, *“We did all this keeping in mind who we serve (and our general community). Internally, the [CRC staff] are incredibly conscientious about recycling, dropping the use of most plastic, and reusing or re-purposing supplies to set an example about the environment and cancer prevention.”* <http://www.ibca.net/index.php> 607-277-0960
16. **The Sciencenter holds “The Great Dry-Off” competition.** With an eye toward further reducing the Sciencenter’s environmental footprint, the museum held a public “dry-off” in early Fall during which museum visitors tested new high-efficiency hand dryers, and then cast their vote for their preferred method of drying their hands in the museum’s public restrooms. Sciencenter executive director Charlie Trautmann said, *“We’re eager to get the community involved in helping us find ways to get greener in all aspects of the museum’s operations and programs.”* www.sciencenter.org 607-272-0600

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

17. **Northeast Elementary School and Northeast Kids Count implement the "Go Green Initiative."** Beginning in the middle of October 2008, after an assembly led by Kids Count students, the school started a compost program to reduce lunch and classroom trash. According to Laura Boll Peifer, Director of the Northeast KIDS COUNT non-profit after-school program, *"By composting lunch trays, food, and milk and juice cartons, the lunch time trash has been slashed by more than half. In addition, the after-school students are collecting classroom compost bins at the end of the day. This has drastically reduced school trash, and has also inspired students to take these habits home and teach their families about recycling, composting and reducing waste."* 607-257-9400
18. **Performance Systems Development offers two Performance Systems Academy programs.** The *"Green Collar Jobs on the Horizon"* one-day event was geared for youth counselors advising students on the future potential for "green collar" jobs. The two-day *"Building Science Fundamentals"* training session supported the needs of instructors at technical schools or high-school teachers looking to prepare their students for "green collar" jobs. As Conrad Metcalfe, VP of Operations for PSD said, *"Green collar jobs are here to stay, and present a great opportunity for students interested in making the world a better place. Green collar jobs cannot be outsourced abroad, nor automated into factories. They represent a wide range of positions that will eventually infiltrate the entire job market."*
<http://www.psdconsulting.com/academy.html> 607-277-6240
19. **Ithaca College Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise receives LEED Platinum certification.** This facility, designed by the renowned architecture firm of Robert A.M. Stern, houses the School of Business, whose faculty are revising curricula to incorporate more sustainability content and to take advantage of the functioning of the building itself as a teaching tool, demonstrating energy and resource conservation and design that supports collaborative teamwork.
<http://www.ithaca.edu/business/> 607-274-3940
20. **Special Olympics annual fundraiser has "Keen on Green" theme.** The fundraiser for the Ithaca Area 17 Special Olympics group featured green activities, and offered *"staycations"* in local hotels and recreational facilities and green products as raffle prizes. Among the prizes were solar outdoor lights from Home Depot, and a gift certificate from Home Green Home.
<http://www.specialolympicsny.org/SoutherTier/news.php> 800-836-6976
21. **Gardeners' Pot Swap was held.** Conceived of and coordinated by Monika Roth, Extension Educator for Agriculture Programs at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, the Pot Swap was held over the weekend of June 28- 29th. More than 350 people participated in the Swap, either leaving or taking pots. Collected pots completely filled two 14' panel trucks. The collection was taken to be ground up and recycled into I-beam nailer boards used in large construction projects worldwide. Because of positive public support, the Pot Swap is now expected to become an annual event at Cooperative Extension.
<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/> 607-272-2292
22. **Ithaca City School District uses compostable lunch trays and implements a composting program.** Dale McLean, director of ICSD Child Nutrition Programs, and South Hill parent Pam Wooster approached the school administration about a pilot program to replace Styrofoam trays with compostable trays and implementing a companion food waste composting program. Before this program was implemented, Ithaca City Schools threw out approximately 4,300 Styrofoam trays everyday, which - over 180 school days - equaled 774,000 trays per year. That volume, equal to about 15 school buses, went into the landfill every year. The compost pilot was a huge success, the school's cafeteria trash declined by 65-70%. <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/>

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

23. **Tompkins Cortland Community College signs the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment.** In March, the TC3 Board of Trustees approved a resolution supporting the signing of the commitment and with his signature, President D. Carl Haynes joined more than 500 other college and university presidents agreeing to take steps to move each institution toward climate neutrality. *"The College has already started practicing some of the things this commitment calls for,"* said Haynes, noting new construction on campus has utilized energy conservation measures. *"In many ways, we are already trying to do our part. Signing this commitment is the next step in formalizing those practices throughout the College."* <http://www.tc3.edu/> 607-844-8211
24. **TC3 hosts Green Collar Career Fair.** Victoria Zeppelin, director of the Tech Prep program for CollegeNow@TC3, partnered with Sustainable Tompkins event coordinator Jan Quarles to develop the region's first *"Green Collar Career Fair"*, held in TC3's new Field House on November 5th. More than 500 students and faculty from 20 area high schools bused in to meet with representatives of 40 *"green"* companies to learn about career opportunities. Students learned about jobs in the sectors of renewable energy, local foods, green building, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, reuse and recycling, and green products. Attendees also learned about the efforts of a number of local sustainability-related organizations serving as catalysts for change in our community. Through the generous support of a number of sponsors, this Fair was open to area high school and college students and the general public at no charge. <http://www.sunyccc.edu/collegenow/> 607-844-8222 Ext. 4311
25. **Danby Hamlet Planning Steering Committee leads a community revitalization planning process.** A steering committee of town planners has been exploring how best to revitalize the hamlets of Central and West Danby, seeking to answer such questions as how does Danby ensure the preservation of natural areas while encouraging economic development? How can the hamlet manage traffic and mass transit to allow for a safer and more attractive pedestrian environment? How can it improve its water system and encourage business and tourism. The public was invited to drop in and offer suggestions. Formal presentations focused on outlining a vision for each hamlet, culminating in a recommended revitalization scenario. <http://town.danby.ny.us/> 607-277-0799
26. **The Main Street Gallery presented the "Go Green" art installation** online and physically at their Groton gallery from June 12 - July 20, 2008. The aim of the original exhibition as well as the online exhibition was to let the public voice their concerns about the environment. Artists and the general public worldwide participated by sending in drawings or photographs along with handwritten or typed *"eco-comment"* in any language about the environment. Plans are being made for the *"Go Green"* installation to become a touring exhibition. According to Gallery owners Roger and Adrienne Bea Smith, *"Through people power, the message "Go Green" will be unstoppable."* www.mainstreetgal.com 607-898-9010
27. **Paul Yaman Construction held an "Energy Fair" for its customers** over two weekends in November, offering seminars and demonstrations on insulation products, solar hot water systems, primers on *"saving money on and in your home"*, green construction, and offered information on NYSERDA funding programs. <http://www.paulyaman.com/> 607-277-0171
28. **Cornell Cooperative Extension forms an Environmental Issues Program Committee.** CCE-Tompkins offers programs tailored to fulfill local needs and interests on a variety of environmental topics through workshops, consultations, community forums, publications, satellite teleconferences, and volunteer opportunities. The Program committee will advise new Environmental Issues program leader Sharon Anderson. <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/> 607-272-2292

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

29. **Cornell Cooperative Extension boosts local foods** to build community health, food equity and farm viability. Every year, CCE strives to source food for everyday operations, programming and special events from area farms. In 2008 these collaborative efforts produced many notable achievements including the expansion of CCE's Fall Harvest Festival to include a local foods lunch featuring traditional recipes from around the world, and a series of four gourmet dinners at area farms to fund CSA shares for over 100 low-income families in the community. The farms involved with the farm dinners and subsidized CSA share program are Full Plate Farm Collective (Stick and Stone Farm, Remembrance Farm and Three Swallows Farm), Early Morning Farm, Sweet Land Farm, Three Sisters Farm, West Haven Farm and Kestral Perch Berries. <http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/> 607-272-2292
30. **Northside Apartment Complex undergoes weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades.** As a result of a three-way partnership between the Ithaca Housing Authority, Tompkins Community Action's Energy Services group, and the NY Division of Housing and Community Renewal (HCR), work is underway to weatherize and increase energy efficiency in Northside's seven two-story townhouses. In October, HCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen remarked after touring the project, *"Seeing the results of our work, meeting the housing advocates who work so tirelessly, and hearing from the residents whose lives are changed for the better by the work we do is perhaps the most rewarding and gratifying part of my job."* <http://ithacaha.org/>, <http://www.taction.org/EnergyServices/ESMainPage.htm>
31. **West Hill Civic groups team to address sustainable transportation issues.** Members of the Ithaca West Hill Community and the West Hill Civic Association came together to investigate sustainable transportation options and strategize ways to make roads more biker-friendly and reduce residents' reliance on gasoline-powered vehicles. <http://iwhcommunity.org/>
32. **Ithaca Common Council votes for support of a federal carbon tax.** In February, the Ithaca Common Council voted in favor of a resolution urging federal and state officials to support a federal tax on carbon emissions. According to the framers of the resolution, the motion was the first mark of support for the initiative from a local government across the nation. The Council voted 9-0-1 in favor of the resolution, which supports imposing a federal tax on carbon emissions as an alternative to implementing a national cap on carbon emissions. The cap would impose a limit on carbon emissions and require businesses to purchase pollution allowances from the government in order to exceed the set cap. <http://www.ci.ithaca.ny.us>
33. **Sylvester Johnson advocates for a carbon tax.** Through his website, writings and public presentations, Johnson, who drafted the carbon tax resolution sent to Ithaca Common Council, has been a tireless and vocal advocate for a federal carbon tax. www.climatehealth.net
34. **Ithaca Bakery remodel retains original terrazzo flooring.** After the dust settled on the extensive remodeling that the 80+-year old Ithaca Bakery building on Meadow Street underwent this year, we are delighted to note that the good folks at Brous & Mehaffey kept the original terrazzo floor in place. The wonderful original inlay design that spells out *"Ithaca Bakery"* is now completely visible in the new expanded dining area and sales floor. And we note, with more space, the addition of more local products to the store shelves. <http://www.ithacabakery.com/pages/home/home.php> 607-257-2255
35. **Eagle Envelope receives "green certifications."** Eagle Envelope in Trumansburg has received Forest Stewardship Council Certification, Rain Forest Council Certification, and Green-e Wind Power certification, meaning that all its products are printed with 100% NYS-generated wind power. www.eagleprint.com 607-387-3195

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

36. **Environmental Justice Film and Speaker Series offered by “Roots & Shoots.”** The stated purpose of this student organization at Cornell University is to foster an understanding and appreciation of our natural environment, and to work towards positive change. Members raise awareness of environmental issues through educational campaigns and encourage people to act to address these problems. Roots & Shoots maintains a strong focus on the connection between the environment and society, valuing education, particularly experiential learning, as one of the most powerful tools to make constructive change.
<http://rootsandshoots.cornell.googlepages.com/home>
37. **F&T Distributing makes compostable serviceware available to the public** at their retail storefront on Royal Road in Ithaca. F&T has been supplying compostable food service products on a wholesale basis to a number of local organizations, but now is making some these same products available to the general public. Tony Prudence 607-273-3811
38. **Angelo’s Dry Cleaners expands its pickup/dropoff points for their non-toxic dry cleaning service**, including the Ithaca College Bookstore. Owner Jim Kellogg says he decided to make the switch from using the typical dry cleaning chemicals like perchlorethelyne (also known as *perc*), believed to be linked to certain cancers, to better protect his employees and customers. Kellogg uses a hydrocarbon machine that takes longer to dry clean the clothes but is worth the longer time because he’s not using the same harmful chemicals. 607-273-6941
39. **Tompkins County Legislature passes a permanent tax exemption on solar energy systems.** The Tompkins County Legislature voted to permanently exempt residential solar energy systems equipment and installation service from local sales and use taxes. This local tax exemption on residential solar energy systems, which has been in effect since 2005, will become permanent.
<http://www.tompkins-co.org/legislature/> 607-274-5434
40. **The Green Buildings Open House and Tour expands to two days**, with half of the homes open on Saturday, and half on Sunday. This year's tour featured 27 homes in Tompkins, Tioga and Schuyler Counties. Homeowners and/or green building professionals were on site to answer questions and describe their green building. Cooperative Extension and the Ithaca Green Building Alliance are local organizers for this annual event held by the Northeastern Sustainable Energy Association in conjunction with the American Solar Energy Society’s National Solar Tour.
<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/tompkins/environment/greenbuildings/tour.htm> 607-272-2292
41. **Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services builds its second LEED Gold home.** INHS builds new, energy efficient houses designed to fit into their neighborhood, like the new LEED Gold-certified home on 301 Madison Street that was part of this year’s Green Buildings Tour. *“INHS has been focused on sustainability for a long time; we are best known for “recycling” houses in Ithaca for 30 years. INHS participated in the LEED for HOMES pilot project to help develop a national standard for green building. We want to show that housing can be affordable, attractive and resource efficient. This is only the second LEED Gold certified affordable single family house in New York (INHS built the other). This is our second Gold project; four others are in the works. INHS plans to build all of its single family new construction projects to these standards.”* <http://www.ithacanhs.org/> 607-277-4500
42. **Fitzgerald Brothers Bus and Limo Company use biodiesel to fuel their tour buses.** Mike FitzGerald heads this family-run business in Geneva NY that operates Finger Lakes Winery Tours throughout this area, annually transporting hundreds of visitors to visit our local wineries. One FitzGerald Brothers tour bus runs solely on biodiesel and others run on biodiesel blends, depending upon the season.
<http://www.fingerlakeswinerytours.com/> 315-828-6289

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

43. **Sister2Sister event has sustainability theme.** Every spring, *sister2sister* brings together approximately 80 middle school girls, and 40 adult and teen volunteers for a day of learning, empowerment, and fun. The theme of this year's event was "*Girls Growing Up Green*" and focused on building individual awareness of sustainability. Sandra Steingraber gave a talk titled "*Living Downstream: Saving the Environment, Saving Ourselves*," followed by interactive workshops in reuse and how to reduce carbon footprints. The zero-waste event featured a local and healthy foods lunch, and each participant received a reusable tote made from recycled materials. Sustainable practices were woven into every aspect of the event and have been adopted as the standard for future years.
<http://www.getlouder.org/bbbs/wordpress/> 607-257-3268
44. **"Gorges Green" Expo expands to two days.** At this year's Ithaca Festival, the annual sustainability exhibition - this year christened the "*Gorges Green*" Expo - was held over two full days with locations at both the Commons and at Stewart Park. At the "*Gorges Green*" Expo, Festival attendees were invited to check out what's on the horizon for renewable energy, urban forestry, re-fashioning, green building, eco-friendly travel, organic foods, and sustainable businesses.
http://ithacafestival.typepad.com/ithaca_festival/ 607-273-3646
45. **Downtown Ithaca Alliance adopts the theme of "Celebrating Sustainable Community".** Under the leadership of executive director Gary Ferguson, the DIA authorized a significant shift in Ithaca's public art program - making it the first in the country to explicitly focus on the arts as a force for creating sustainable communities. The DIA sent out a call to artists across the country, inviting proposals for Art in the Heart of the City 2008. As a result, three works were installed on the Commons that expressed the artists' perceptions of how art can convey themes and visions for sustainable community.
<http://www.downtownithaca.com/> 607-277-8679
46. **"Green Conferencing Initiative" is part of the American Astronomical Society's (AAS) Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) conference** hosted this year by Cornell University. The DPS conference is the largest annual conference that focuses on the planetary sciences, typically attracting about 800 attendees from around the world. This year's "*Green Conferencing Initiative*" looked to minimize the environmental impacts of various aspect of the conference, including minimizing waste, offering local and organic foods, encouraging use of alternative transportation, and purchasing clean energy offsets. At the conclusion of the conference, the attendees voted to "*green*" all future AAS conferences.
<http://greenconferencing.astro.cornell.edu/index.php>
47. **The Southside Children's Garden was started** last spring through a partnership of Southside Community Center, Sustainable Tompkins, Cooperative Extension, LACS, and IC and Cornell volunteers. By summer, Southside summer camp kids were growing tomatoes and collards and by fall, kids from GIAC's after school program were planting kale in a cold frame to see how long they could eat from it, and bringing home to their families helpings of pesto and salsa they had prepared. The garden empowers kids with a vision of "*healthy food for all*", a foundation of just and sustainable communities.
48. **The City of Ithaca provides sustainability and energy conservation training for all employees.** In conjunction with the City's energy performance contract with Johnson Controls, the Human Resources department has begun to roll out its Sustainable Energy Education and Communication (SEEC) program. All city employees are required to undergo this training designed to give them a better understanding of sustainability. www.cityofithaca.org 607-274-6501

New Activity or Expansion of Program by an Existing Organization or Business, *continued*

49. **Talking Circles on Race and Racism ripple outward.** These Talking Circles, sponsored by the Multicultural Resource Center, began two years ago with mixed groups of whites and people of color who met three or five times, expertly facilitated by Laura Branca and Kirby Edmonds, to create deep dialogue and understanding about the systemic wound of oppression and racism in our community and our larger culture. This past year the circles have greatly expanded, thanks to the facilitator trainings of former circle participants who are now leading Talking Circles. The dialogue and healing work of the circles have helped to build an essential foundation for a healthy community by bringing together our usually divided worlds and creating community social capital where previously there was potential and existing animosity. <http://www.multicultural-resource.org/> 607-272-2292 ext 135
50. **The GIAC Intergenerational Garden has become more than a garden.** The pre-teen gardeners who got to know the senior gardeners ended up getting work shoveling walkways for their elders in the winter. The tomatoes, peas, greens, and edible flowers the gardeners grew were used in their cooking classes and in GIAC's "50-Served" dinner program. The garden project, now in its second year, is also represents the inspiring working partnership between GIAC, Sustainable Tompkins, and Cooperative Extension. This fall, the after-school gardeners started a third planting bed and they will soon be using GIAC's new kitchen for their cooking adventures. www.ci.ithaca.ny.us 607-272-3622
51. **Ithaca City School District installs photovoltaic (PV)-powered lights** along the walkway between the high school and Boynton Middle School next to the football field. These lights were installed as part of the district-wide Bond project. The GreenWay solar lights were recommended to the district by the construction management firm of Welliver McGuire Inc. These state-of-the-art solar powered lights feature super-efficient bright white LED light sources with 5-day battery back-up. These lights are approved by the international "Dark Sky" association as minimizing light pollution. The layout was designed by Hunt Architects, Engineers and Landscape Surveyors out of Horseheads. <http://www.icsd.k12.ny.us/> Paul Alexander, ICSD Facilities and Operations 607-274-2213
52. **Cayuga Medical Center adopts more sustainable vision and strategic plans.** Cayuga Medical Center's Board of Directors recently adapted the organization's vision statement to incorporate a sustainability theme: "We will provide the progressive leadership in healthcare that ensures the future social and economic well-being of our community." Achieving greater sustainability has been integrated into Cayuga Medical Center's new strategic plan. CMC plans to conduct a commercial energy audit, develop an energy efficiency plan, and will also carry out a feasibility study to evaluate alternative energy sources. Other strategic planning components include the development of an organization-wide recycling and composting program, continued investment in "green design", and further exploration of environmentally preferred purchasing. <http://www.cayugamed.org/> 607-274-4011
53. **Greensprings Natural Cemetery becomes a Certified Wildlife Habitat™**, receiving this designation from the National Wildlife Federation. In order to qualify, the Greensprings Board had to document what they are doing to provide food and water sources, places for cover and places for raising young for the wildlife species resident on the property. Along with providing beautiful natural permanent resting places for humans, Greensprings' goal is to return most of their property to a classic old-growth forest. The Board plans to mow the rest of the land every three years or so to benefit certain bird species that need open meadows. <http://naturalburial.org/index.php> 607-564-7577