



“Signs of Sustainability” 2013

Sustainable Tompkins, the premiere organization devoted to catalyzing sustainable development in our region, continually seeks the newest *“Signs of Sustainability”* in our community.

We invite our community to keep watch through 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 to help these new activists *“plug in”* and connect with other similar endeavors.

With all of us working together in different ways to resolve our shared sustainability challenges, we spur faster progress of this vital social movement.

Join us in acknowledging the great work of this year’s *“Signs of Sustainability”* in our community!



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2013 “Signs of Sustainability”

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New Sustainable Enterprise

Energy Efficiency

Four Points Energy Solutions is a new company specializing in energy consulting, energy efficiency, and savings.

Food Systems

3 Herons Brewing Company opened in Trumansburg, carrying a variety of local products.

Fruition Seeds provides organic seeds grown in the Northeast. Fruition takes pains to preserve the diversity of seeds by growing, saving, and rebuilding regionally adapted seed varieties

Randy Lacey and Diane Gerhart opened **Hopshire Farm and Brewery** to take their hobby of brewing beer and turn it into a part-time business.

The **Inlet Island Cafe** purchases organic produce and other high quality ingredients from local wholesalers and shops in the area. They offer sandwiches, soups, breakfast wraps, organic yogurt, 100% fruit smoothies, and more.

Neighborhood Pride opened at last, providing a much needed grocery store in the Northside of the City of Ithaca. Neighborhood Pride places a heavy emphasis on organic and local produce by working with local wholesaler *Regional Access*. Additionally, the store rents out a community commercial kitchen and has turned part of their store into a community meeting room.

Windy Mountain Produce opened last June. This family-run farm in Trumansburg provides fresh produce and a wonderful atmosphere.

Sustainable Community Development

Cayuga Lake Books is a new publishing house in Ithaca opened by author Edward Hower.

Aaron and Sarah Myers launched **Southern Tier Kayak Tours** (STKT) this year. STKT promotes stewardship of the region's navigable rivers and allows the people to feel a connection to the water.

Stylishly Frugal, an online thrift store, features stylish work attire for women at affordable prices. The site was started by two friends, Penelope and Lola, who believed that there should be inexpensive clothing solutions for women. The store carries both new and used clothing.

Sustainable Enterprise

Bloom, a finalist in the Downtown Ithaca Alliance's 2012 *Race for Space* competition, opened on the Commons this year. Bloom offers an artful, interior play space as well as a retail store specializing in ethically produced, US made clothing and toys for children as well as clothing for women. Bloom also offers a variety of fun classes for parents and children.

The **Cellar d'Or** is a family owned wine boutique that opened its doors in May, specializing in small production estate-bottled wines and ciders. The store was created with the mission of giving the customer a fun and informative experience. Cella d'Or believes you do not have to break the bank

in order to have the best quality. Cellar d'Or promises to celebrate the value of small production and to welcome a community of beginners and enthusiasts in an effort to share the best of Finger Lakes' wines and ciders.

Dressella's is a new boutique in Trumansburg that sells new and pre-owned dresses, as well as locally made make-up.

New Sustainability-related Organization

Food Systems

Students from SUNY Cortland collaborated with *Moving in Congregations, Acting in Hope* (MICAH) and *Sustainable Cortland* to create the new organization, ***Students for Local Foods***. The goal of the group is to teach other students about the importance of locally grown foods, how to cook these foods, where and how to buy them, and more.

Renewable Energy

Individuals from Caroline, Dryden, and Danby formed ***Solarize Tompkins SE*** with the goal to bring at least 30 new solar home installations to their towns during 2013. As of November 1st, the Solarize group has 102 contracts for solar electric systems at a total community power of 617 kW, and 32 contracts for solar hot water systems.

Social Activism

Understanding to Overcome, a new group in Ithaca, works to challenge racism.

Sustainable Community Development

Buffalo Street Bookmarks, one of the *Center for Transformative Action's* newest Project Partners, is a literary arts center housed at the community-owned bookstore *Buffalo Street Books*. *Buffalo Street Bookmarks* is dedicated to literary arts programming and community outreach activities.

The ***Community Clay Studio*** of Ithaca was created to offer a new public access studio that local students and townspeople can use to make pottery.

Cornell Engaged Learning + Research program opened last year. The EL+R program works with faculty, students, and community members to enhance teaching, research and scholarship, and community development.

CU [dis]connect was created by Cornell University student Rudy Gerson in hopes of encouraging the Cornell community to use face-to-face communication instead of relying on technology.

Erica Marx formed *Babycare Co-ops*, groups of 5 to 6 parents who collectively pay for a childcare provider for 3 to 5 hours per day for their children. The group of children meet at each coop member's house once a week.

To celebrate the memory of his late wife, Judy Dietz, Jerry Dietz founded the ***Just Be Cause Not-for-Profit Development Center***. The Center provides support for several local nonprofit organizations,

offering office spaces, a conference room, two-multipurpose activity rooms, wi-fi, a kitchen, and more.

Tompkins County saw four official **Little Free Libraries** (LFLs) open up around town this year. Linda Byard, Sharon Ynetma, Teresa Porri, and Ellen Bonn all started a Little Free tgy at their homes. These libraries are outdoor boxes made of wood, metal, or plastic that contain free books for exchange. Anyone can look and take a book, leave a book, or both.

After learning about a lack of school supplies in classrooms in Bolivia, Ithacans **Nichole Carrier-Titti** and **Chris Pothier** started the project "*Books for Bolivia*." So far, the group has delivered over 1,000 books to that South American nation.

POPSHOP was created by a group of Cornell students who desired to have a space to collaborate on projects and add an entrepreneurial component to their education. **POPSHOP** recently moved to a new, larger location in Collegetown.

Temporal: A Pop-Up Gallery provides established and emerging artists with a location dedicated to art to showcase their artwork. The goal of this temporary, moving gallery, created by **Caitlin Schickel** and **Pamela Lafayette**, is to put on monthly art shows in unrented storefronts and office spaces in Ithaca.

Tompkins Time Traders is a new local group where members exchange an hour of their time for an hour of another member's time, regardless of what skill they have shared.

Sustainability Education

The **Sustainability Center** opened in May, offering a gathering and meeting place where sustainable actions are recognized from around Tompkins County. This new location is an important central hub as more and more businesses and organizations in the Ithaca area are practicing sustainability. The Center also offers the *Sustainability Internship* program, now in its fifth semester of placing area students with local businesses and non-profits to work on sustainability-related projects.

Sustainable Operations

The **Argos Inn** opened this year in a restored 19th century mansion that incorporates modern sustainable technologies like low-voltage LED lighting and geothermal heating.

The **Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Cortland Downtown Partnership**, and **Sustainable Cortland** started the *Local To Our Core* initiative, aimed at building awareness of the benefits of buying local.

Dennis Caso opened a 250-square foot shop on the edge of Newfield called **Dennis' Homemade Ice Cream**. Behind the shop, Dennis has his first beehive. He plans to sell the honey and make an ice cream flavor that includes crushed honeycomb.

New Sustainability Program by an Existing Business or Organization

Energy Efficiency

The Rockefeller *Hall Window Weatherization Energy Conservation Project* at **Cornell University** has saved \$11,700 and 20 tons of carbon dioxide annually. Weather stripping and other window improvements were installed to refurbish over 270 historic windows.

The *Growth Chamber Phase One Energy Conservation Project* saves **Cornell University** \$19,000 and 580 tons of carbon annually. The chambers now provide energy efficient, properly controlled growing environments for plant research.

The *Energy Conservative Initiative Project* replaced *Blue Light* security lights all across **Cornell's** campus with LED fixtures that use 13 watts. This is one tenth of the energy usage of the metal halide lamps they replaced. This project saves \$6,200 and 40 tons/per year carbon equivalent annually.

Energize Ithaca and **ASI Energy** finished Phase 1 of the Downtown Ithaca District Energy/Combined Heat and Power feasibility study.

Although it is only a year old, the **Energy Corps** student organization has already saved Cornell University \$12,700 in energy costs. The club also actively advocates sustainability around campus.

Food Systems

Challenge Workforce Solutions began building the *Fresh Food Hub*, an innovative and sustainable model for a healthy local food system that aims to create 35 new integrated job opportunities in the Ithaca community.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Seneca County hosted a workshop to promote local brewing. This workshop offered an overview of all the necessary information to start a new farm brewery or cidery.

Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agriculture Educators have created a new website called "*Meat Suite*," designed to connect consumers with farms that sell locally produced, high-quality meats in bulk in a 9-county region of the Southern Tier. The website is designed to increase "*freezer trade*," or sales of bulk bundles of meat.

To encourage the public to save seeds, **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County** has held several seed saving workshops, swaps, and meetings.

The produce industry and the federal government have started to demand GAP certification - Good Agricultural Practices. In response, **Cornell National GAPs Program** and the **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County** hosted a multi-day workshop to teach farmers about GAPs, how it works, and how to create a food safety plan for farms.

Researchers from the **Cornell University Uihlein Sugar and Maple Research and Extension Field Station** discovered that using walnut and birch trees were viable options to make tasty syrup.

Crooked Carrot Farm scaled up production and began wholesaling its pickled vegetable products to local suppliers, such as *GreenStar*.

Experience! The Finger Lakes offers the *Farm-to-Table Wine and Cooking Class Tour* once each month throughout the year. The tour includes a wine tasting at a notable Finger Lakes winery, a local farm experience, and a cooking class with regional chef Samantha Buyskes.

Farmer Ground Flour held an event to celebrate the opening of their new milling site. Attendees were able to learn the age-old process of how flour is made and chat with millers and farmers.

The **Finger Lakes Beer Trail** created a map of craft breweries. The Beer Trail, which has been increasing in popularity, implemented a passport program to increase tourism along the Beer Trail.

The **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program** has expanded to start making "new fast food" healthy meals made with local, organic ingredients. The meals include many servings that are perfect for families.

The **Friendship Donations Network** launched *Neighborhood Food Hub* to make donating garden produce easier, and improve community access to fresh food. The Food Hub program raises awareness about the impact of home-grown food as it rescues lovingly-grown food from an untimely end at the compost heap.

The **Friendship Donations Network's** new *Holiday Food Hubs* make it easy to donate food to those in need within the community.

The **Ithaca Festival** hosted the "*Heart of the Finger Lakes: Tasting & Tapas Showcase*", asking area food producers to create a signature appetizer or tapas-sized dish made from locally grown products.

Kara Cusolito and Aaron Munzer have offered a full-scale CSA (Community-supported Agriculture) at **Plowbreak Farm** for the second year in a row. Last year, they had 35 shares, and this year they sold 50! People who buy shares from Plowbreak get weekly access to a wide variety of fresh fruits and vegetables and their advance purchase of the share helps support this local farm.

Science Cabaret hosted Stefan Senders in his discussion of "*Nice Buns: a Dissertation on the Erotics of Bread*." Senders is a baker and anthropologist who works at *Wide Awake Bakery*.

Ruth Williams, coordinator of the **Southeast Cayuga Lake Wholeshare** group, gave a presentation about the Wholeshare food buying club. Wholeshare is an online web based food ordering club that makes it easier to access organic and sustainable food by shopping as a group.

The **Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale** in Ithaca, hosted by the Master Gardener program at Cornell Cooperative Extension, brought together over 30 area growers and 5 local garden groups to offer a huge variety of annuals, herbs, and specialty perennials in the largest garden fair in the region. This year, the Spring Garden Fair & Plant Sale accepted Food Stamps and SNAP payments for eligible food-producing plants and seeds.

Thomas Bjorkman led a Cornell team that developed a new broccoli plant ideal for the East Coast's hot, steamy summers. The *Eastern Broccoli Project*, based at Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, promises to bring sweet, crisp, local broccoli to Eastern farmers and

consumers. More locally grown broccoli will also save diesel fuel, generating fewer greenhouse gases.

The **Town of Dryden** website now features a *Virtual Farmers Market* to help people find high quality, locally produced meats, fruits, and vegetables. There is also a new map tool that enables you to easily find the farms nearest to you.

The **Town of Ithaca** website now features a list of agricultural products produced locally.

The **Trumansburg Farmers Market** started carrying a new type of drink called *NamasTEA*, similar to lemonade, but made from water infused with fruit, sweetened with maple syrup, and garnished with herbs. The NamasTEA is created by students from local schools.

For anyone who wanted to learn how to make bread, **Wide Awake Bakery** hosted *A Shortcourse on Breadmaking* for registered individuals.

Wide Awake Bakery also started "*The Crust Fund*," a breadsharing initiative. Customers can pay \$50 for 10 different bread pick-ups.

Green Building

The **Aurora Pocket Neighborhood** brings three new, highly energy-efficient, cottage-style houses to the Northside neighborhood. The homes feature bio-mass boilers, solar thermal arrays, and photovoltaic panels on the roofs.

Conifer Realty constructed a new housing project in Dryden called *Poet's Landing*. The apartments followed New York state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program guidelines and the company used green construction practices when they were built.

After two years, Fernow Hall has reopened at **Cornell University**. The building, which was shut down for renovations, now features a rain garden to control storm water runoff, a garden terrace for faculty and staff, and solar panels.

Ithaca's **Kitchen Theatre** achieved *LEED* certification for the green measures integrated into the design of the theatre renovation.

Magnolia House opened, offering 14 units of permanent supportive housing for women recovering from substance abuse. The exterior walls are covered with dozens of 16-inch wide sheets of copper siding. The copper is more durable and lower maintenance than brick or stucco. The house also incorporates natural materials and common spaces with gardens, is a project of *Tompkins Community Action*.

The **Trumansburg Montessori School** built an energy-efficient, one-room schoolhouse, with the goal that it would be a net-zero structure. It was built using recycled materials by local businesses, and community volunteers.

Land Use

The **4-H₂O Club**, part of *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkin's County 4-H Club*, gives youth the tools to monitor and study water quality. The students also complete other fun activities related to water.

Andrew Larkin of Upper Montclair, New Jersey, donated 12 acres of land in Caroline to the *Finger Lakes Land Trust* in memory of his father, Bud Larkin, a long-time Ithaca resident, former Ithaca Town Justice, community leader, and local business owner.

The **Caroline Wilderness Campus** was completed this year. The space, which began as knotweed, poison ivy, and mud, has been turned into an engaging learning space for children.

The **Cayuga County Office of Tourism** launched the *Sweet Treat Trail*, including producers of local baked goods, jams, jellies, honey, maple syrup, and more.

Ithaca became the site of the first public permaculture garden in New York State. The park was established by **Cornell Cooperative Extension Center**.

The **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County** organized *Mushroom Field Day*, featuring a morning workshop and afternoon walk. The workshop, led by Dr. Ken Mudge from Cornell University focused on shiitake mushroom cultivation, and the Wild Mushroom and Forest Health Walk was led by Dr. George Hudler from Cornell. The Day was sponsored by the *NY Forest Owners Association - Southern Finger Lakes Chapter*.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County held two edible landscape design sessions. In the first session, in March, they worked with neighboring families and organizations to come up with a plan for locations of new plantings and to educate about lesser known edible species. In the second, during April, they taught attendees about permaculture principles and worked out the details of the individual edible garden designs within the park.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County hosted the first "*Seedy Sunday*" this year. Seedy Sunday gives participants the opportunity to swap and share seeds with others. There were also talks and free workshops about seed saving and community saving libraries.

For National Poetry Month, **Cornell Plantations** added a self-guided poetry path in the Mundy Wildflower Garden.

Cornell University offered its first *Permaculture Design Certification* course in the Department of Horticulture.

Students from Cornell **University's Department of Design and Environmental Analysis** installed small gardens outside of Olin and Mann libraries, as well as Duffield Hall and the Physical Sciences Building.

Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a series of rural landowner workshops as part of a "*homesteading series*." Topics included how to get the most out of your woodlands, home resource conservation, and more.

An interdisciplinary team at **Cornell** created a free web-based tool to help farmers feed crops only as much as they need. The tool draws on local soil, crop, and weather data to determine how much nitrogen fertilizer is needed for corn. This excellent new idea is hugely helpful at eliminating wasted nitrogen. Team members involved were from the departments of *Crop and Soil Sciences* and *Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*.

Dewitt Middle School and **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County** hosted *Spring into Gardening*, a day of 20 workshops and classes.

Enterprise Product Partners donated 140 acres of wetlands just south of Seneca Lake to the *Finger Lakes Land Trust*. This patch of land is part of a larger area of wetlands that is known as an important bird area in New York State - waterfowl, songbirds, and bald eagles all use the habitat here.

The **Finger Lakes Land Trust** opened the Roy H. Park Preserve in May; this trail is the first link in the Emerald Necklace.

The **Finger Lakes Land Trust** is building a 500-foot board boardwalk between Dryden's Yellow Barn and Hammond Hill state forest, connecting the Roy H. Park Preserve and a *Cornell Plantations* area to the forests, creating an 8,000-acre block of public open space.

Greensprings Natural Cemetery was awarded a four-year contract by the *Natural Resources Conservation Service*, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "to develop and maintain grassland habitat as part of an upland bird habitat." Songbird species that might benefit from the improved grassland habitat include Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Grasshopper Sparrow, Upland Sandpiper and Short-eared Owl.

The **Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming** has opened a *Farm Enterprise Incubator* on ten acres of agricultural land at EcoVillage in Ithaca. The project is meant to provide resources and land to beginner producers who need affordable access to land to grow their enterprise.

WRFI Community Radio now features a **Groundswell Local Food and Farming Radio Show**. The show is on every third Friday of the month from 7 to 8 am.

The **Ithaca Children's Garden** created the *Ithaca Bulb Labyrinth Memorial Garden*, honoring babies who have passed away to promote healing for families.

The **Lansing Pathways Committee** opened a new nature trail leading to a little known waterfall. The quarter-mile-long *Emilie Jonas Falls Nature Trail* leads to a gorge below a 70-foot waterfall.

The **Lansing Town Board** approved a resolution in support of the state *Department of Environmental Conservation* proposal to turn the former Bell Station property into state forest land.

The **Nature Conservancy** has been looking after the Eldridge Wilderness Preserve in Danby. The organization recently installed new boardwalks, brochures, a kiosk, and an improved parking lot among other changes. The Nature Conservancy is an important organization fostering the preservation of natural areas around the country.

For Cyber Monday in 2012, the **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** offered a special online promotion of their *Empire Passports*. discounting unlimited vehicle access to New York state parks for all four seasons this year.

In an effort to offset carbon released during the manufacturing and installation of a playground, **Parkitects** designed trees into the play area plan.

Planning and Policy

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton introduced a new bill that encourages sustainable practices. The legislation proposes granting a \$5,000 tax credit to a homebuyer if they purchase a new home with

a *Home Energy Rating System* (HERS) of 50 or an existing home that has been renovated to 50% energy reduction. It will grant a \$7,500 tax credit for a HERS 75 new home or a renovated home with 75% reduction, and a \$10,000 tax credit for a *Zero-Net-Energy* home. This is an exciting proposal that incents building new facilities sustainably and renovating old buildings to be more sustainable.

In April, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced state funding for the *New York Climate Change Science Clearinghouse*. The Clearinghouse is a searchable online repository of scientific data and literature about climate change in New York. The database, accessible to the public, is used to inform research and policy decisions. Hosted by **Cornell University**, collaborators in the development of the database include *SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry*, the *Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use*, and the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA).

The **Downtown Ithaca Alliance** presented a special free presentation called "*Understanding the Value of Downtown Development*." The presenter was Joe Minicozzi, a popular speaker on city planning and smart growth in downtown areas.

The **Downtown Ithaca Alliance** held a public meeting to discuss downtown transportation demand management for the downtown business district.

The Greater Ithaca Activities Center hosted an event in August to discuss the possibility of participatory budgeting in New York. Several speakers presented ideas about how to make this process work; hopefully, residents will be able to have a greater impact on how public money is spent in their districts.

The **Tompkins County Legislature** passed a unanimous resolution that banned brine, a byproduct of hydraulic fracturing, from being used on county roads.

Several **Tompkins County departments** submitted nearly 50 pages of comments to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in regard to the draft regulations that would govern hydraulic fracturing in the state. The departments include Planning, Health, Water Resources Council, Board of Health, a working group of the Environmental Management Council, and a letter signed by 12 of the 15 County Legislators.

Town of Dryden planners, residents, business owners, and board members worked collaboratively to develop the *Varna Community Development Plan* which would encompass complete streets, mixed uses, and new residential opportunities, all integrated with open space. The Plan would be one of the first to incorporate the LEED Neighborhood Development rating system as a means of achieving sustainable planning and development.

The **Town of Ulysses** adopted a new Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The Plan has four major goals: to strengthen the agricultural economy; to improve public understanding of farming; to establish appropriate tax policies that support farming; and to enhance land policies to better protect farmland.

Recycling and Composting

CFCU Community Federal Credit Union offered free document shredding and recycling of old computer equipment and home electronics.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County held the *Schuyler County Agricultural Plastics Recycling Day* for farmers who needed to recycle their bunker cover, hay bale wrap, and other agricultural plastic materials that could not otherwise be recycled easily.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County added a new canning jar swap in addition to their annual plastic plant pot swap.

Since April 22, 2013, the **Cornell Store** has charged a plastic bag fee of 5 cents, generating more than \$1,500 in just five months. All fees collected are placed into the campus Green Revolving Fund, to support sustainability projects on campus.

Cornell University implemented a new reuse program called STACS (System for Trade and Auction of Cornell Surplus). The program, which will reduce landfill waste, is managed by Facilities Services' R5 Operations Department.

Frannie Haranin of State Farm Insurance hosted a *Prom Dress Giveaway* in April, collecting new and gently used dresses to give away to area girls for free.

Gay Nicholson began a reuse program around her run for Lansing Town Board, asking people to drop off their used H sign stakes to be repurposed for her campaign.

Greenstar Natural Foods Market gave away at least 1,000 reusable shopping bags last year.

In preparation for the holidays, the *Working Parents Affinity Group* at **Ithaca College** hosted a *Swap 'n Shop*, encouraging individuals to donate and take items that could be used as gifts for the holidays. All monetary donations were benefited to the campus *Caring & Sharing Fund*.

The facilities and maintenance department at **Kendal at Ithaca** has expanded their recycling collection to include metal, hardware, and other recyclable items. The department takes the materials to a local scrap metal buyer and then uses the funds to host quarterly family-style luncheons.

Kendal at Ithaca held its *Annual Shredding Day* to which staff were welcome to bring any personal documents they need shredded prior to recycling.

Mira's Bistro has started to accept used corks for recycling because cork tree orchards are endangered by encroaching land development.

Cornell University students created the Hydroponic Bottle Wall at Stella's restaurant in Collegetown. They mounted 24 wine bottles on a double-sided wall and fitted it with an exposed hydroponic growing system. According to one of the students, the wall is a "*microcosm of the growing trend of urban agriculture.*"

Running to Place Theatre Company held a Halloween sale of used costumes with proceeds benefiting their youth-led theatre program.

SewGreen saves unwanted fabric, yarn, and sewing equipment from the landfill. SewGreen fosters sewing education as a skill to build self-reliance and support youth development, job training, and consumer education. This year, SewGreen began a project to go bagless after learning that only two out of every ten customers needed to receive a shopping bag. The majority of customers either bring their own bag or allow their purchase to be bundled in fabric. SewGreen now sells reusable cloth tote bags, and is reusing donated bags instead of purchasing new ones.

At the beginning of the holiday season, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** in Candor hosted a holiday decoration giveaway. The public was invited to drop off unwanted decorations at the church and pick up new ones.

The **Tompkins County Environmental Management Council** proposed a county-wide ban on single-use plastic bags. The committee has also considered other ways that the county can reduce its plastic bag garbage.

Starting with 300 homes, **Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division** created a pilot program for the curbside pickup of food scraps. The County started the program to expand their composting efforts; *Casella Waste System* was awarded the contract for the pilot collection program.

To expand their food and yard composting services, **Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division** partnered with Trumansburg-based *Cayuga Compost* to purchase new equipment to increase the latter's capacity to process the additional collected organic material.

Wayne Myers found an old acetylene gas cylinder while cleaning the Nichols Pond in Spencer. He recycled this cylinder, and other found items, into a public sculpture of a butterfly that now graces the pond.

Renewable Energy

The **Cornell Chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics** collaborated with *Xraise* to host an *Aeronautics/Wind Energy Expo*. Participants were invited to design a wind turbine using inexpensive materials and to learn about how wind energy can be converted into electrical energy.

In 2012, **Greenstar Natural Foods Market** met 50% of its electrical needs with renewable energy and is anticipating that will reach 100% in 2013.

The robotics team from **Ithaca High School** sold recyclable LED lights as part of their fundraising for their trip to St. Louis to compete in an international robotics competition.

The **League of Women Voters** organized a public forum titled "*Renewable Energy: Global and Local*" about renewable energy potential. The panelists included Francis Vanek, lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering at *Cornell University*; Guillermo Metz, green building and renewable energy program coordinator at *Cornell Cooperative Extension*, and Jonathan Comstock, co-chair of *Energy Independent Caroline* and *Solarize Tompkins*.

Cornell University ecology and evolutionary biology professor **Robert (Bob) Howarth** co-authored a report titled "*Examining the Feasibility of Concentrating New York State's All-Purpose Energy Infrastructure to One Using Wind, Water and Sunlight*". Howarth found that New York State's

fossil fuel sources could successfully be converted to renewable sources by 2030. Doing so would stabilize electricity prices, reduce power demand, and create thousands of permanent jobs.

The **Tompkins County Legislature** authorized the county administrator to contract with Integrys Energy Services, through the *Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance* (MEGA), for the purchase of electricity through the end of 2013, with an option to renew for an additional year. Under this contract agreement, 100% of the county's electricity use will be offset by Renewable Energy Credits.

Social Activism

Musician **Bill Gregg** got interested in the controversy over climate change and started learning a lot of sobering information about the issue. In response, he began writing music inspired by climate change. These songs are important as they expose audiences to the real problems faced by our planet.

The **Caroline Agricultural Committee** held a potluck dinner with live music, a documentary, and a discussion, giving people the opportunity to speak with some of the candidates running for the Caroline Town Council about local agricultural issues.

After showing an encore performance of "*Dear Governor Cuomo*", **Cinemapolis** donated half of the proceeds from the event to New Yorkers Against Fracking.

The **City of Ithaca** responded to local youth demands and became the first east coast city, and only the second city in the world, to divest its financial holdings in fossil fuels. The divestiture call effort was led by the Green Umbrella student leaders.

The **Concerned Citizens of Covert** released results of their 6-month petition campaign for a ban on fracking. The group managed to garner support from 68% of the residents they contacted, and noticed this strong support continuing across party and demographic barriers.

The **Cornell College of Engineering** launched their "*Think Big, Live Green*" campaign. The college is hoping to cut the amount of waste it produces and significantly reduce its environmental footprint.

Gabby Wager (aka Gabby "Wild"), a second year Vet School student at Cornell University and committed conservation activist, partnered with conservationist, photographer, and author Robin Moore on a unique photography project. Because some species of amphibians not often considered beautiful are threatened by extinction, Gabby worked with two award-winning Hollywood makeup artists to transform her into one of these animals to raise awareness of their plight. The *Metamorphosis Campaign* photographs will be published in a book co-authored by Gabby and Robin later in the year.

Sponsored by **Gas Free Seneca**, a group of over 150 people protested against Inergy LP's plans to build gas storage facilities in the Town of Reading.

Gimme Coffee released its limited edition, organic "*Fracktivist Blend*" coffee to support anti-fracking activism. \$2 from every 12-ounce bag sold was donated to *Toxics Targeting*, raising over \$2,000.

Thanks to **GreenStar Natural Foods Market**, bus ticket prices were considerably cheaper for individuals attending the *Ban Fracking Rally* in Albany. Greenstar paid the full cost of one bus,

making tickets cheaper for everyone, providing more scholarships for low-income and younger activists, and enabling more people go to the rally. In total, 4 buses, with over 200 citizens from the Ithaca area, went to the event.

GreenStar Natural Foods Market has taken an official anti-fracking stance.

Ithaca College Environmental Society organized 25 students to attend *Power Shift*, a major youth conference about environmental and social-justice groups in the name of the climate crisis.

The **Seneca Lake 12** are a dozen brave individuals who were arrested for blocking the gate of an existing Inergy gas storage facility. These people are: Marjorie Rodgers, Richard Jones, Michael Dineen, Melissa Chipman, James Amato Borra, Katarina Anya Anderson, Kathleen Alvey, Sandra Steingraber, Jack Ossont, Darmaye Marley, Nathanael Tenorio Miller, and Dennis James Fox.

The *City of Ithaca* responded to local youth demands and became the first east coast city, and only the second city in the world, to divest its financial holdings in fossil fuels. The divestiture call effort was led by the **New York Green Umbrella** student leaders.

The **New York Green Umbrella** hosted "*Visualize Resistance!*", a rally to resist fracking. The day featured many popular anti-fracking speakers and a basic organizer training by *Shaleshock*.

Students in the **New York Youth Against Fracking** group attended the *Forward on Climate* rally in Washington DC.

To educate their fellow students about the issue of hydraulic fracturing, students in the **New York Youth Against Fracking** group made an appearance on *Nick News* on the Nickelodeon Network.

13-year-old **Olivia Boulter** decided to use her talents to save wild birds. She created 500 drawings of birds and gave them to people who donated to the Audubon Society, raising \$150,000. From there, she was invited to speak on morning news programs, won numerous awards, met with congressmen and senators, and wrote a children's book.

Writer, activist and scientist **Sandra Steingraber** started the website *thirtydaysoffrackingregs.com* to help individuals understand the New York Department of Environmental Conservation's new draft regulations on hydraulic fracturing within the state.

The **Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association** sued the state Department of Health in an attempt to force that agency to release documents related to the Health Commissioner's review of hydrofracking impacts on human health.

Sunbeam Candles, which supports a statewide ban on fracking, allowed their employees to take 15 minutes each work day to submit comments on the proposed New York State regulations on hydraulic fracturing.

The **Tompkins County Legislature** urged a ban or moratorium on high-volume horizontal hydrolic fracturing in New York state. The Legislature is asking the governor and state legislature to enact legislation that would ban fracking for natural gas in New York or, if there can be no ban, to place a two-year moratorium on the drilling practice in the state. So far, there is a ban in Tompkins County, but the legislature is working hard to expand this policy to the entire state.

The **Tompkins County Legislature** endorsed a bill in the state Legislature to allow Tompkins County to raise the mortgage tax, generating more in revenue for the county each year. Approximately \$500,000 of the new revenues will go to TCAT to support the transit service providers increased costs.

Town of Ithaca Supervisor Herb Engman signed the *Resilient Communities for America* agreement, a sign-on letter for mayors and county leaders to pledge to create more resilient cities, towns, and countries and to share their challenges and struggles with other local governments.

Sustainable Community Development

Students in the Ithaca College "**Brand Design and Communication**" class redesigned *Sustainable Tompkins'* display posters as part of a class project. Working with Sustainable Tompkins staff, students learned about local community sustainability efforts as well as how to work with non-profit clients.

The former **ABC Café** opened for one day this year as a "*pop up*" kitchen to raise funds for the *Gardens 4 Humanity* program. The Cafe was previously an iconic vegetarian restaurant and music venue in Ithaca. The day was filled with good food and local music.

Carmen Guidi led efforts to build the *Second Wind* complex in Newfield, comprised of six transitional homes for men who decide to move away from the Jungle (the city's secluded encampment for people living on the fringe of homelessness). Guidi hosted a fundraiser barbecue at the construction site to help pay for the building materials.

The **Caroline Extravaganza Tour** was a self-guided tour highlighting farmers and gardeners cultivating a sustainable lifestyle. Half of the proceeds went to support Cayuga Pure Organics' rebuild of their beanery.

The *Ithaca Mozart Project* was a classical music series hosted by the **Carriage House Café**. Musicians from Ithaca College and Cornell University worked with performers and scholars *Nicholas DiEugenio* and *Mike Lee* to present a collaborative concert featuring special instruments replicating those of Mozart's world. Tickets for each event were donated to a varying mix of Ithaca-area charities.

The **Carriage House Café** and **Fine Line Bistro** offered special fall dining promotions to raise funds for the *Finger Lakes Meat Project*, an agricultural development project at *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County*. Both restaurants are longtime supporters of the local meat movement.

The **Cayuga Radio Group** launched *Cans Along Cayuga*, a canned food drive held during the Ithaca Festival parade.

Collegetown Yogurt Crazy donated 20% of the day's proceeds to the *4-H Urban Outreach Program* at *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County*.

Volunteers from the **Community Science Institute** started collecting baseline water data on waterways in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier. If hydraulic fracturing is legalized in New York, the data will be used to determine the changes that occur in the waterways under this practice.

Finger Lakes LandLink was developed to allow landowners who wish to have their used acreage farmed now can be matched with farmers who need to access land. This project was created by **Cornell Cooperative Extension South Central NY Agriculture Program** and the *Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming*.

"*When Pigs Fly: Flights of New York State Pork, Wines and Beers*" was a local foods event to benefit the *Meat Locker Pilot*, part of the *Finger Lakes Meat Project*, which **Cornell Cooperative Extension** designed to increase livestock production and "*freezer trade*" meat sales by removing barriers to consumer bulk meat purchases.

The **Engaged Learning + Research** program at Cornell and the student-run *Knitting Club* hosted a *Service Learning Showcase* featuring students, student organizations, staff, and faculty that have been working with local and global communities.

The **Cornell Sustainable Campus** office hosted a pre-basketball game pizza party to discuss the merging of sustainability with sports. The event featured Ovie Mughelli (two-time pro-bowl NFL player and eco-athlete) and Alice Henly (three-time NCAA champion of the *Natural Resources Defense Council*).

Cornell University's Athletics & Physical Education staff donated \$5,000 to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier to support the Food Bank's BackPack Program in Tompkins County.

The **Downtown Ithaca Alliance** seized the opportunity to repurpose the plywood construction barriers on the Ithaca Commons, inviting artists of all skill sets to each decorate a panel, creating a temporary art exhibit.

Elizabeth Henderson (organic farmer, author, and social justice advocate) hosted *Food Justice for All*. The program taught participants about *Food Justice Certification* and how to create a workplace that has a comprehensive approach to justice and equity.

Finger Lakes ReUse created the new *ReSET (Skills and Employment Training)* program to provide training in marketable job-skills to individuals seeking new career opportunities. There are two tracks: *ReSET Tech* (computer technology) and *ReSET Construction* (construction and green building techniques.)

The **Finger Lakes Running and Triathlon Company** hosted a shoe drive to benefit Hurricane Sandy victims.

Music For A Season, Music For A Reason is staged at the **First Unitarian Church of Ithaca** four times a year with proceeds from the evening's sales going to a specific cause.

Friendship Donations Network and **Wood's Earth Living Classroom** organized a late season apple picking event. The apples picked were distributed to Ithaca City Schools' lunch and snack programs and Friendship Donations Network programs.

Get Your Green Back Tompkins and **Local First Ithaca** sponsored this year's *Secondhand Shopping Treasure Hunt*, which incited participants to visit all the area used consumer goods and clothing stores.

GiveGab unveiled its online, social network system to connect non-profits, schools, and business with interested volunteers. The site allows for efficient promotion of events, programs, and

opportunities in the community and provides an important base from which volunteers can plan their important work.

The **Great Local Foods Network** pledged \$5,000 as a challenge grant to encourage community support for *The Meat Locker Pilot Project*.

In a first-of-its-kind cooperative agreement, **Greensprings Natural Cemetery** established a special burial area for *EcoVillage at Ithaca* residents. The close-knit EcoVillage community sought a burial ground where their members could be buried together, and their shared land preservation goals made Greensprings a natural choice for EcoVillage members. The agreement sets aside a contiguous section of sixty gravesites in the Bobolink Meadow for the exclusive use of EcoVillage residents. EcoVillagers have jokingly referred to the new section of Greensprings as "*the EcoVillage Fourth Neighborhood*" (the first three being at EcoVillage itself), and as "*EcoVillage Underground*".

Students in the **Groton High School Drama Club** sold kazoos during their performances of "*The Music Man*." The money raised was donated to the *Tammy Twitchell Crafts Foundation Inc.*, an organization that aids families of children with cystic fibrosis.

In remembrance of the lives lost in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, **Heron Creek Cards and Gifts** donated a percentage of its sales during the teachers' Winter Recess celebration to the *Brain and Behavior Research Foundation*.

Ithaca College junior and senior art students presented *Collectanea*, a self-made, self-curated art show of their own work, featured a wide variety of work from fifteen artists.

The **Ithaca College** and **Cornell University chapters of Big Brothers Big Sisters** teamed together to host a "*Battle of the Bands*". Two of each school's student bands performed in concert, with proceeds donated to the *Ithaca Youth Bureau*.

The 2014 graduating class of Musical Theatre and Acting majors at **Ithaca College** presented an afternoon of music to benefit the nonprofit "*Wheels for Women*" which benefits the residents of the *Sakhi Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence* in Kerala, India.

The **Ithaca College Dining Services** team donated just under \$1,000 to the *Food Bank of the Southern Tier*. The money, collected in their dining and retail operations, supported the *BackPack Program*, providing healthy foods to children at risk for hunger during weekends and holiday breaks.

Ithaca College Dining Services hosted "*Food Frenzy: For Your Community*." This event allowed members of the campus community to sample fresh, sustainable food options, while also educating them about hunger in Tompkins County. Guests were encouraged to donate to the *Food Bank of the Southern Tier's Backpack Program*. Event organizers met their fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the program.

The 2012 "*Readers' Writes*" theme in the **Ithaca Times** was "*Mother Nature*." The issue called for readers to submit theme-related stories, poems, drawings, and photographs.

8-year-old **Jade Evener** runs a lemonade stand to raise money for the *Tompkins County Friendship Center*. She operates her stand on Fridays in front of *Ag Trac* in Genoa, where her mom works.

Jonathan Black organized a fundraiser to raise money for Haitian relief, raffling off a dream vacation in the Caribbean.

The **Lansing Youth Services** hosted its annual spaghetti supper fundraiser to benefit their free after-school programs for Lansing Middle School students. Many of the LYS programs are focused on the arts, community service, and sustainability.

Through its *Community Oil Change* program, the **Maguire Family of Dealerships** donates money from oil changes every month to a different local charity. Each customer pays \$10 for their oil change and all proceeds go to that month's designated charity. The Maguire Family of Dealerships have raised thousands of dollars for different charities in the Tompkins County area.

Community members in the town of **Newfield** hosted a community café event in June, inviting all community members to a free, locally-produced meal and a discussion centered on the theme of "*Nourishing our Children, Families and Community*".

A working group led by Cornell faculty fellow **Norm Scott** designed a framework of sustainable approaches to revitalizing and transforming New York State's urban and rural communities.

The **Nutritional Wellness Center** in Ithaca provided community members with the opportunity to support their own health while supporting others' nutrition as well. The Nutritional Wellness Center offered in-depth initial consultations aimed toward helping people get healthy through good food with all proceeds from the nutritional consultations donated to **Healthy Food for All**.

The 6th annual **Renata Wadsworth Pottery Holiday Studio Sale** benefited the *Healthy Food for All* program. The sale included work made by Renata Wadsworth, Lola Love Pottery, and Sarah Veak.

The **Rescue Mission** opened *Court Street Place*, a residence program providing ten permanent, supportive housing units for homeless and at-risk men, helping them transition into their own individual place.

Science Cabaret hosted a "*Cocktails for the Climate*" fundraiser to benefit the *Climate Ready Climate Smart* conference; the event featured themed cocktails and music by *Colleen Kattau*.

SewGreen and **ACT Collective** collaborated to sew drawstring backpacks to distribute to needy children in Haiti. SewGreen hosted a "*Sew In*", inviting volunteers in to help sew the bags.

The **Sustainability Committee of Kendal** donated to Sustainable Tompkins' Earth Day 2013 event.

Tompkins County is temporarily providing the gallery space for free for the new *Sustainability Center*, which opened in May.

In May, the **Triphammer Marketplace** began having local farmers and artists display their products every Friday.

Vikki Armstrong installed the "*United Lethargist Leisure Library*" outside of her house. This mini free library is a small wooden house built primarily from recycled materials by her husband, Dave Davies. The house holds books which people can borrow and in turn, a space to leave a book in exchange.

Wood's Earth opened their new office space in the the *Just Be Cause Center for Nonprofit Development*, joining other nonprofits housed there working on food issues, education, theater, and childhood cancer family support.

In May, **WSKG** opened a new office in the historic Clinton House in Ithaca. This regional public broadcasting network is excited to build its presence in Ithaca with Account Executive Rebecca Potter and Innovation Trail reporter Matt Richmond based here.

Student organizers with the **Youth Outreach Undergraduates Reshaping Success** (YOURS), an after-school program where student volunteers work with children from three mobile home parks in Freeville, held a rock climbing competition to raise money to support the program.

Sustainability Education

The **4-H Plant and Environmental Sciences Team** hosted a workshop called "*All About Corn*" for young people from age 5-18 to explore many aspects about corn.

Cornell University ISCOL Intern **Ashley Kossakowski** presented a webinar titled "*Best Management Practices at Liquid Natural Gas Fueling Stations*" for the Environmental Defense Fund; she discussed minimizing methane emissions in such fueling stations.

ASI Energy presented to the *New York State Business Council* and more than a dozen large utility executives on the positive benefits of combined heat and power and district energy.

Ed Wilson and Herb Dwyer of **ASI Energy** co-led a workshop at the Syracuse Center of Excellence's 13th annual symposium titled "*Combined Heat and Power: The Pathway to a Secure Energy Future in NYS.*"

Anthony Guarneri of *ASI Renovations* provided the members of the *Landlords Association of Tompkins County* with weatherization training.

Cornell University's **Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future** hosted "*Overcoming Dogma and Prophecies of Doom to Save Nature.*" The lecture featured Peter Kareiva, chief scientist at the *Nature Conservancy*.

The **Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future** and **Cornell University Press** hosted "*Fracking and the Future of Global Energy: Golden Age or Dark Age?*" The panel discussion featured Tom Wilber, author of *Under the Surface*, and Seamus McGraw, author of *End of Country*. Cornell University professor Wendy Wolford of the Atkinson Center moderated the discussion.

The Cornell **Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future** funded a multidisciplinary study to see if a healthy diet helps lead to a healthy environment. The study found that "*the environment would benefit if the carnivorous U.S. population ate a more vegetarian-focused diet that included egg and milk products.*"

The **Becker/Rose Café Series** organized the lecture "*Sustainability as a Policy Objective for Developing Countries: Opportunities and Risks.*" The lecture's speaker was Mark Conostas, a Cornell University professor and a former policy advisor to the government and consultant to major governmental organizations.

The **Becker/Rose Café Series** organized the lecture "*Sustainable Habits for Healthy Eating*" given by David R. Just, Cornell University professor and the director of the *Cornell Center for Behavioral Economics in Child Nutrition Programs*.

Binghamton University held a sustainability workshop with the goal of helping local leaders develop a sustainability agenda that fits their particular economic and environmental circumstances.

The **Burt House Friends Center** hosted "*Holistic Medicine and Social Change*" featuring speaker Dr. Angel Pichardo Almonte. The event was in Spanish and translated into English, and co-sponsored by numerous other organizations, including CUSLAR (Committee on U.S.- Latin American Relations), Ithaca Health Alliance / Ithaca Free Clinic, Ithaca Monthly Meeting Peace Witness Committee, CULTURA! Ithaca, Latino Civic Association, Cornell University Global Health Program, and Cornell Engaged Learning + Research.

Cayuga Heights Elementary School held its third annual *Go Green Fair*. This event aims to teach young students about the importance of "*reduce, reuse, recycle and rebuy*". There were fun educational stations and hands-on activities to make sustainable learning exciting.

The **Center for Transformative Action** and the **Cornell University Graduate School** co-sponsored an educational event by Annie Leonard, the creator of "*The Story of Stuff*." The event featured a film screening, and lecture and discussion by Leonard on changing personal consumption habits.

Cinemapolis showed the documentary "*They Call it Myanmar: Lifting the Curtain*," directed by Cornell physics professor *Robert Lieberman*, and edited at the local *PhotoSynthesis Productions*. The film has been well-received worldwide and has been screened in several international film festivals.

The **Finger Lakes Running and Triathlon Company**, **Cayuga Ski and Cyclery**, **Old Goat Gear**, and **Cinemapolis** teamed to bring the touring portion of the *Telluride Mountain Film Festival* to Ithaca. There were two main compilations of films shown: environmental and sport/adventure.

The **CoLab Hive** hosted "*The Next Economy Now*" workshop, giving participants the opportunity to learn from a pioneer in progressive business design about a few of the most important trends in the Next Economy and how these trends can be applied to the sustainable operations of a company.

The **Community Science Institute** hosted a talk titled "*Trumansburg and Taughannock Creeks: What's in Your Watershed?*" The event, focused on the importance of baseline water quality as it relates to hydraulic fracturing, was cosponsored by the *Finger Lakes Clean Waters Initiative*, *Hector Clean Waters*, the *Cayuga Lake Watershed Network*, *Back to Democracy*, and *Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association*.

The staff from the Ithaca nonprofit **Community Science Institute** authored a featured article in the journal *New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health*. The article was titled "*Community-Based Risk Assessment of Water Contamination from High-Volume Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing*."

Cornell Cooperative Extension presented a two-day conference, "*Organic and Sustainable Gardening in a Warmer Planet*", in which leading Cornell researchers offered informative sessions

on practical tools for successful gardening in the face of extreme weather events and a warmer climate.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County partnered with the *City of Syracuse* and *New York Water Environment Association* to present the *2013 Climate Challenge Symposium, "Preserving Water Quality in a Changing Climate."* The session included informative talks from experts in the field on the impacts of climate change on water quality.

The **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County's Horticulture Program** hosted a garlic growing workshop and roundtable. After, there was a panel discussion with several representatives from local farms.

Paul Marcellus presented *"The Art of Beekeeping - What's All the Buzz About?"* The lecture, which focused on the basics of beekeeping, supply sources, and management practices was hosted by the **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County's Horticulture Program**.

The **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County** hosted a film screening and discussion focusing on the documentary *"Mother Nature's Child."* Panelists included staff from *Primitive Pursuits* and *Earth Arts*.

Hosted by **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County**, *"How to Buy Local Meats"* taught attendees the differences between various terms such as *"grass-fed"* and *"organic"* when buying meat from local butchers. The class also provided an introduction to some livestock farmers who raise local meat, and information about the new *"Meat Suite"* database.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County hosted *"Solar Power 101,"* a panel discussion featuring Guillermo Metz, green building and renewable energy program coordinator at CCETC, and Anne Stork, environmental studies professor at Ithaca College.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County partnered with educator *Chrys Gardener* to offer a three-part series about gardening with a special focus on seed saving.

The *Cornell Lab of Ornithology* and the *Cornell Department of Landscape Architecture* partnered with **Cooperative Extension Center of Tompkins County** to hold a session on how to use the online program called *YardMap* to create a more bird-friendly habitat in your neighborhood.

The **Cornell Department of Natural Resources** held a *Naturalist Weekend* at the Arnot Forest in June to teach participants about animals, plants, and general ecology. This fun and educational event was an excellent way to connect with people about the importance of different types of ecosystems and how to preserve them.

Cornell Garden-Based Learning, *Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute*, *Cornell Cooperative Extension*, *Ithaca Children's Garden*, and *Home Green Home* co-hosted a talk by Jonathan Bates, contributing author of *"Paradise Lot: Two plant geeks, one-tenth of an acre, and the making of an edible garden oasis."*

Cornell Institute of Public Affairs and the *Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs* at Syracuse University hosted this year's co-curricular CIPAMaxwell conference titled *"Making Markets Work for the Poor."*

Cornell Plantations started the *Plantations Environmental Education Program for Sustainability* (PEEPS) geared toward students ages 14-18 who want to work in a "sustainable backyard" and take part in community outreach activities.

The **Cornell University Horticulture Department** is participating in the *Food Dignity* project, which is studying the local foods movement and how communities are contributing to food security. Part of the project has measured how much produce was grown in Ithaca and Dryden community garden plots.

A group of students from **Cornell University's Outdoor Education** department traveled to Belize during their spring break for a service trip. The students visited a school in Garifuna to introduce children to various gardening activities.

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences organized a series of discussions titled "*Local Development for Adaptation and Mitigation for Climate Change: Strategies and Experiences*" featuring several notable speakers. This series was held in conjunction with the *Humphrey Fellowship Program*.

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences introduced a new *Environmental Science and Sustainability* major, which will include 35 professors from more than 15 departments.

Cornell's Laboratory for Intelligent Machine Systems created trackers for birds that are packed into miniature backpacks. These trackers help plot changes in bird migration patterns.

Dan Segal of the *Plantsmen Nursery* held a discussion about sustainable landscaping. The program was sponsored by *Finger Lakes Progressives*.

David Slown Wilson and **David Currie** taught the webinar "*An Integrated Community Development Strategy for the 21st Century*," which was hosted by the organization, *Wealth Creation and Rural Livelihoods*. Wilson is a SUNY Distinguished Professor of Biology and Anthropology at Binghamton University and Currie is the Executive Director of the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition.

The **Dorothy Cotton Institute** held a *Citizenship Education Program* (CEP) for activists and emerging new leaders in the Tompkins County community who want to take effective, non-violent action for social change. CEP offered participants an interactive workshop and tools and skills needed for social change.

Speakers for an Ithaca forum focusing on fracking's potential health impact on animals included Cornell University Molecular Medicine Professor **Dr. Robert Oswald** and veterinarian **Dr. Michelle Bamberger**. **Dr. Adam Law**, a local physician, environmental activist, and co-founder of the organization Physicians, Sciences, and Engineers for Healthy Energy, was also present to describe investigative methodologies for evaluating acute and chronic effects of fracking on human populations.

Every month for about half of the year, the **Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition** (DRAC) organized the "*Solar Tour Dryden*." Each month featured an open house at a different home where the homeowner had made some kind of energy improvements to their homes. The tour gave individuals the opportunity to talk with the homeowners to discuss the measures taken and to ask questions.

Elaine Wethington, a researcher and professor from the *Cornell Aging and the Environment Initiative*, studied the effects of natural disasters on the elderly. The results showed that older people are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

Cornell's **Energy Team** and **Statewide Consumer Education Program for Residential Energy Efficiency** teamed to sponsored a webinar titled "*Residential Lighting: New Technologies & Efficiencies*". The webinar focused on recent changes in lighting technologies and products and LED lighting products for the residential market.

The **Finger Lakes Trust** and the **Halton family** invited interested landowners and town representatives on a guided hike through the Halton's private property in Danby. The fun and informative hike included discussion of the ecological and economic benefits that woodlands provide, threats to their future, and some actions landowners can take to conserve their woodlands.

The **Finger Lakes Native Plant Society** presented a talk by Cornell University professor **Tom Whitman** on the challenge of maintaining biodiversity in areas heavily impacted by human activity.

Permaculture expert **Ben Falk** presented "*Homestead Resiliency: Principles in Practice*", based in part on his recent book. The talk was hosted by the **Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute**, with *Cornell Garden-based Learning*, the *Ithaca Children's Garden*, and *Gardens 4 Humanity*.

Finger Lakes ReUse Center began hosting a second offering of the *Ithaca Fixers Collective*. The collective is now open twice each week to anyone who has things to fix, wants to help fix items, and/or wants to learn how to repair items.

The **Food and Health Network of South Central New York** held a community forum to explore the Food and Safety Modernization Act. During the forum, participants learned about two of the regulations proposed by the Food and Drug administration: the Produce Safety Rule and the Preventive Controls Rule.

The Cornell **Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition Group** and the Cornell **New World Agriculture and Ecology Group** co-hosted the free, public film series "*Foundations of Food in Community*."

Food, Agriculture, and Nutrition grads and the **New World Agriculture and Ecology Group** at Cornell offered a panel presentation and discussion called "*Soil as Foundation for Health and Resilience*". The panelists explored soil as a critical foundation for health and resilience of farms, people, communities, and the planet.

For the third year, **Greensprings Natural Cemetery** partnered with the Spring Field Ornithology class offered by Cornell's *Laboratory of Ornithology*, taught by professor Stephen Kress. Class field trips visit the Arnot Forest on weekends, but in recent years, some field sections stage their forest field trips from Greensprings, to take advantage of Greensprings' open meadows making for easy birdwatching and the abundance of spring birds, like migrating White-crowned sparrows and nesting birds like Bobolinks, Eastern Towhees, Brown Thrashers, and Indigo Buntings.

GreenStar hosted the workshop "*Where Food, Social Justice, & Media Meet: Critical Thinking with our Kids*." The workshop was led by Sox Sperry from *Project LookSharp*, who discussed how to teach children about what we eat and how our food choices affect the world. GreenStar held a

class to engage kids in reflective discussions about what we eat and how our food choices impact a sustainable and secure food system.

EcoVillage at Ithaca hosted a public lecture by **Greg Pahl** about renewable energy and its benefits. Pahl is the author of "*Power from the People*," a book which offers ideas on how American communities can plan, finance and produce their own local, renewable energy.

Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and **Alternatives Federal Credit Union** teamed to offer a *Farm Business Planning Course* for beginning farmers.

The **Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming** held their first *Homestead Farmers & Gardeners Gathering* to help people learn about serious homestead-scale producers.

Guthrie Ithaca Office health care providers launched a "*Walk with a Doc*" program in which physicians met with walkers to encourage them to be more active.

The **Handwerker Gallery** at *Ithaca College* hosted an exhibit that exposed the complex story of the Marcellus Shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania. The event featured six photographers and their stories of traveling through the state and listening to local stories about the project.

To celebrate their 50th year anniversary, **HOLT Architects** hosted a gala event featuring speaker Edward Mazria of the nonprofit organization *Architecture 2030*, who spoke about the need to transform the building sector to significantly reduce its carbon emissions.

The **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** of Cornell University hosted "*Climate Change in Adaptation and Mitigation: Three Experiences Around the World*." The discussion featured three expert speakers from around the world who each had unique experiences with climate change.

Ian Shapiro, Theresa Ryan, Florence Bayeve, and **Dominick DeLucia** from Taitem Engineering led a workshop titled "*Replacing Heat with Variable Refrigerant Flow Heat Pumps*" at the Syracuse Center of Excellence's 13th annual symposium.

The **Ithaca Children's Garden** offered a hands-on workshop on how to create stickworks led by renowned sculptor Patrick Dougherty. Dougherty's visit to Ithaca was made possible by the *Cornell Messenger Lecture Series*.

The **Ithaca Children's Garden** hosted a class called "*Off the Page... and Into Your Hands*", led by a group of *Cornell Outdoor Education* students, to teach kids hands-on, garden-based learning activities.

Ithaca Children's Garden held two new events this past summer. The *Make Stuff: Play and Create in the Garden* event allowed people to come create, tinker, and build in the garden. The *Creatures of the Garden: Habitat Adventures of ICG* event gave people the opportunity to meet, touch, and learn about the creatures living in the garden.

The **Ithaca College Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences** and **Gerontology Institute**, and staff at **Longview** partnered to create the *R.I.S.E. (Retirees in Service to the Environment)* program, involving seniors living at Longview in a training program to become effective environmental stewards. Students involved with the Ithaca College Natural Lands volunteer stewards program assisted with the training of the senior participants.

Ithaca Generator launched its new educational program, consisting of fun classes, clubs, and projects.

Ithaca Generator hosted a free workshop for teens about the power of LEDs at the Tompkins Public Library. Ithaca Generator members taught the workshop and discussed how they use light and science to create art and other useful products. The workshop allowed teens to create their own projects that they were able to take home.

Ithaca Sound Maze hosted Syracuse musician Zeke Leonard to lead a canjo workshop in which attendees learned how to make and play an instrument using regular, everyday objects.

Jon Young, a birder, tracker, naturalist and author from *Primitive Pursuits* published "*What the Robin Knows*." The book combines indigenous knowledge, the latest research, and the author's own experiences to learn more about our connection the robin, nature, and ourselves.

Josh Dolan from *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County* worked with *Ithaca Community Radio/WRFI* to develop the "*The Practical Earthkeeper*" program.

As part of the biweekly *Climate Community* webinar series, **Liz Walker**, executive director of EcoVillage at Ithaca, and **Ed Marx**, commissioner of planning and sustainability for Tompkins County, hosted the webinar titled "*EcoVillage at Ithaca - Principles, Best Practices & Lessons Learned*."

Hosted by **Lora Hine**, **Xanthe Matychak**, and **Katie Moring**, the *Women's Technology Workshop* taught participants how to create two fun projects: a three-wheeled vehicle and a squishy circuit.

Mann Library hosted the Ithaca premiere of "*Symphony of the Soil*" as part of its ongoing "*Connected Minds, Resilient Communities*" program. The film was cosponsored by the *New World Agriculture and Ecology Group* and the *Food, Agriculture and Nutrition Group*.

Maria Klemperer-Johnson from *Double Dog Timberworks* hosted "*Carpentry for Women*", a six-day intensive class. Attendees learned the basics of carpentry, working with and preparing for other skilled craftspeople, house design basics, sustainable design, and more.

The **Master Forest Owners** and **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County** hosted the "*Yates County Forestry Workshop: Ensuring Healthy Forest Regeneration*." The workshop is to help the public learn how to make their woodlots successfully regenerate themselves.

Michael Burns, co-founder of the *Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute*, hosted a workshop at the *Just Food Conference 2013* focused on ideas and strategies used by permaculture-trained gardeners, farmers, and community activists to produce healthy food and sustainable landscapes.

In May, the Visitors Center at the **Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge** hosted Kim Bostwick as a speaker to talk about birds and climate change. Kim is active in science outreach as it relates to the global climate crisis, and uses her scientific knowledge and communication skills to make climate change more palatable for a wide variety of audiences. An important part of her talk was creating a five-point plan that individuals can use to respond to climate change. Her work is inspirational and very important for educating many people about the challenges that our planet is currently facing.

The **Museum of the Earth** created the new exhibit, "*Expanding Oceans*," using art to educate the public about climate change and its effects, specifically rising ocean levels.

The **Museum of the Earth** opened a new glacier exhibit, allowing visitors to climb through realistic glacier and lift ice cores, feeling the chill of glacial ice, and seeing how human interference and climate change has been affecting glaciers.

The **New York Green Umbrella** held an 8-week youth social movement training program called the *Summer of Solutions Ithaca*. The youth leaders coordinated a series of trainings, readings, and discussion groups.

New York Passive House hosted an open public 'meet-up' at the *Tompkins County Public Library* including a two-part discussion about the principles of Passive House and of foam-free building assembly design.

The **New York Youth Against Fracking** organized a showing of "*Dear Governor Cuomo*" followed by workshops for youth under 18 about sustainability and community organizing. Speakers and workshop leaders included *Sandra Steingraber*, Mayor *Svante Myrick*, Tompkins County Legislator *Nate Shinagawa*, Town of Caroline Supervisor *Dominic Frongillo*, college students from the *New York Green Umbrella*, and *Iris Bloom* from *Protecting Our Waters*.

The **People Advocating the Use of Sustainable Energy** (PAUSE) organized an educational event titled "*Meeting our Energy Needs with Conservation and Renewable Energy*." The event began with a showing of the locally produced film "*Empowered*", followed with a panel discussion with people involved with that documentary including film director *Shira Golding Evergreen*, producer *Suzanne McMannis*, *David Means*, *Annie Korman*, *Carolyn Kreisel*, *Sarah Highland*, *Lily Gershon* from the *Dacha Project*.

The *Cornell Plantations* held a Fall Lecture Series in which **Peter H. Raven** spoke about conserving species in a changing world. He discussed how the living world is at serious risk and shared strategies that allow for the survival and the perpetuation of Earth's living systems.

The **Piggery** hosted a workshop about the history of the pig, sustainable pastured farming techniques, and an in-depth demonstration of how to break down a pig.

Kfir Mendel of *TwoWolves.org* presented a workshop titled "*Using the Whole Animal*" to teach adults how to honor the animal by utilizing all of it. The workshop was coordinated and sponsored by **Primitive Pursuits**.

Mentors Tim Drake, Jed Jordan, and leadership coach Corinne Eisenman from **Primitive Pursuits** hosted "*Mapping the Mentor's Journey: A Workshop for Farmers and Farm Educators*." The workshop included engaging exercises, discussions, and activities to teach farmers how to mentor others. The workshop was a collaborative effort between Primitive Pursuits and *Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming*.

The new year is a great time to declutter your house, and last January, **Robin Schwartz** helped people do just that. She held a five-class workshop series to help participants learn how to declutter and organize their homes. One of the workshops was offered through the Human Services Coalition.

Ithaca native and Cornell alum **Sara Garner** brought her New York City high school students to Ithaca for an intensive one week trip. During the trip, she and others taught the students how to harvest maple syrup from trees.

Director of Human Resources for the City of Ithaca, **Schelley Michell-Nunn** hosted a viewing of the documentary "*Race: The Power of An Illusion*". This powerful film series explains many myths about racism and racial identity and provides an excellent starting point for a dialogue about these important issues.

SewGreen created new classes to teach knitting to beginners. learning about off-loom weaving, and how to make simple curtains.

Hosted by Cornell alum **Shanna Ratner**, a number of local organizations and businesses collaborated to offer the "*Inclusive Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods: The Wealth Creation Approach*" learning event.

Mark Witmer, program manager for **Solarize Tompkins Southeast**, and **Guillermo Metz**, Green Building & Renewable Energy Program Coordinator with *Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County*, conducted a webinar in which they discussed the development and implementation of the Solarize model and its successes.

Project Look Sharp faculty member **Sox Sperry** published an article on media literacy education as part of the food justice movement. His article was featured in [GreenLeaf: The Newsletter of Greenstar Cooperative Market](#).

Master stonemason **William Keokosky** has built numerous stone houses and made church renovations. Keokosky held **Stone Home School** workshops in June and August to teach people how to build four different types of stone walls and master the fundamental tools and techniques necessary to construct a stone house, garden wall, patio, or walkway.

To educate their fellow students about local food, the **Students for Local Foods** organized an educational series titled "*Get Fresh!: Eating Your Way to Health*". The six workshops in the series centered around the benefits of eating locally, as well as how to buy local food, and how to prepare the food.

Students for Local Foods sponsored a series of sustainable lunches and promotional workshops intended to give SUNY Cortland students a taste of regionally produced foods and educate them about the importance of eating local.

Swidjit, the online social network tool, hosted "Ithaca Loves Local: The Economics of Community". The event highlighted the tools, trends, and ideas that are shaping the new economy and laying the foundation for a hopeful future.

Tompkins Cortland Community College is creating new academic programs that focused on sustainable farming and food systems. They plan to use a farm in Dryden and a restaurant in downtown Ithaca to give students hands-on experience working in sustainable ways.

The **Tompkins County Public Library** featured an exhibition called "*Animalia in Art*," in which six local artists used beastly imagery in their drawings, prints, and photographs. Artists included *Karen Allaben-Confer, Dede Hatch, Craig Mains, Jenny Pope, Margaret Reed, and Sylvia Taylor*.

Tompkins Time Traders held an event to teach the community about time banking, an affordable and just way of exchanging goods and services.

Cornell University professor, **Tom Whitlow**, hosted a talk on the challenge of maintaining biodiversity in areas heavily impacted by human activity.

The new organization **Understanding to Overcome** hosted a showing of the three-part PBS documentary: *"Race: The Power of an Illusion"* at the State Theatre. The first night of the event, which was introduced by Cornell University President *David Skorton*, attracted about 450 attendees.

The **Union of Concerned Scientists** hosted a lecture at Cornell University by *Jeff Deyette*, author of the Boston Globe bestseller, *"Cooler Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living."* The book provides readers the information how to approach dramatically lowering their carbon emissions.

The **USGBC New York Upstate Chapter** collaborated with the *Finger Lakes Institute* to host *"Storing the Storm: Rainwater Collection Why & How."* The workshop discussed the benefits of rain barrels and how to build them.

The **Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum** in Auburn hosted a talk titled *"Perilous Lives of Frogs and Newts."* Kevin Zippel, an amphibian expert, described the decline in frog and salamander species around the world.

WRFI Community Radio's Morning Show with *Jim Murphy* featured a segment discussing the various efforts to increase solar-power installations in Tompkins County. Guests included *Guillermo Metz* from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, discussing *Solarize Tompkins SE*, *Suzanne McManus* from *Solar Tour Dryden*, and *Art Weaver*, founder of *Renovus Energy* and President of *Weaver Wind Energy*.

Sustainable Enterprise

For those wishing to grow their own shiitake mushrooms at home, **Agroforestry Solutions** sold local logs inoculated with mushroom spores. All wood was harvested sustainably from forests where cutting was performed to improve forest health.

The Cornell University **Athletics department** hosts an annual garage sale where they sell gear from almost all Cornell varsity sports.

The **Cortland Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Cortland Downtown Partnership**, and **Sustainable Cortland** started the *Local To Our Core* initiative, aimed to build awareness of the benefits of buying local.

Crooked Carrot Farm began offering an online ordering system for customers to order their organic vegetables and herbs.

The **Green Resource Hub** launched the *Finger Lakes Green Plus Initiative*, an intensive training and assessment program for local businesses and organizations interested in adopting a "triple bottom line" approach to business. FLGPI licenses the national Green Plus certification assessment tool to help businesses and organizations measure their sustainability performance.

GreenStar Market started carrying a new line of locally made hair-care products produced at *Fresh Hair Salon* in Trumansburg. These items are created with non-stripping, plant-derived ingredients. The product line, called *Plume*, and is vegan, wheat-free, and cruelty-free.

GreenTree Garden Supply has expanded their sales to include *GreenTree Soil Products*: sustainable, professionally formulated, and handmade soil goods.

The ***Ithaca Journal*** is now hosting "*ShopLocal*" on their website, giving users the ability to compare prices, products, and the inventory of local stores from the web.

Main Street Farms expanded into Cortland this year. Their new farm takes a more traditional approach to farming and plants the plants in the ground. The new location has an on-site farm stand, a low-income community supported agriculture program, a teaching kitchen, and educational programming.

The ***Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce*** and ***CFCU Community Credit Union*** partened to develop the CFCU Chamber Advantage Program. The program allows Chamber members and their staff to take advantage of and promote premiums and discounts on goods and services that range from the arts to restaurants.

The ***Tompkins County Public Library*** hosted a workshop titled "*Social Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise*" led by David Campbell.

Sustainability Events

AWP, a leading creative agency in Ithaca, solicited ideas from innovative not-for-profit organizations for a special summer project. The intent was to support organizations planning to bring about positive change in the community.

To encourage people not to go to the mall, the ***Brooktondale Community Center*** hosted "*Shoppers Last Stand*," a mall-free day featuring local artists, crafters, a snack bar, and live music. During the evening, the Slaterville Fire Department hosted a fundraising auction and gift basket raffle to support the fire department and ambulance company at the Slaterville Spring's fire hall.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County hosted the *Gardener's Trail* event featuring free hands-on activities, samples, and tours at eight locally owned garden centers and nurseries.

The Agri-Economic Development Mini-Conference comprised a series of workshops for landowners and farmers with lectures and paneled discussions hosted by regional experts. The event was co-sponsored by the ***Cortland County Business Development Corporation***, ***Cortland County Farm Bureau***, ***Cortland Chamber of Commerce***, ***Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County***, and the ***Soil and Water Conservation District***.

EnergyTeachers.org hosted the *Green Dollhouse Challenge*, in which different individuals and groups created toy buildings that exhibit sustainable concepts. This is a part of the organization's ongoing educational efforts to expose K-12 students, families, youth groups, and professionals about energy usage and sustainability practices.

The ***Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance*** presented the "*Big Splash Sustainability Fair*" for the first time this year, merging world class music and the sustainability movement.

The **Finger Lakes Land Trust** hosted *Celebrate Cayuga Lake*, an event to celebrate the lake in our shared backyard.

Finger Lakes ReUse held *Celebrate ReUse!*, an event meant to inspire visual artists and community members to continue shifting the paradigm and take reuse to a new level. *Celebrate ReUse!* was an art exhibit and community celebration of reuse - all artwork in the exhibit was comprised of recycled and found materials.

The **Food Bank of the Southern Tier** hosted "*Mark Bittman at The Kitchen!*", a lunch event where Bittman, a New York Times columnist and cookbook author, cooked lunch. Attendees bought tickets for the event and proceeds were donated to the Groton Food Pantry.

The **GrassRoots Sustainability Team** sponsored "*Rock the Plan*" for a free concert event intended to raise awareness and support for the "*2030 Plan*", a "*vision for how New York State can switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy by 2030.*"

The **Ink Shop Printmaking Center** hosted an art exhibition in their store titled "*No Land Escapes*" featuring the work of six accomplished printmakers in the New York and northeast area.

The *Fire & Ice Festival*, organized by the **Ithaca Children's Garden**, featured environmental snow and ice art. The event was offered in partnership with the *US Fish and Wildlife Service*, *Cornell University*, and *Earth Play*, with funding from the *Tompkins County Tourism Program*.

Primitive Pursuits hosted an evening with **Jon Young**, author of "*What the Robin Knows*" and legendary birder, tracker, and naturalist.

Local First ithaca brought Judy Wicks, co-founder of the *BALLE* (Business Alliance for Local Living Economies) to Ithaca for conversation and a book signing. Wicks' recently published book is "*Good Morning, Beautiful Business: The Unexpected Journey of an Activist Entrepreneur and the Local Economy Pioneer.*" Wicks is a "*serial entrepreneur*" who founded Philadelphia's landmark White Dog Cafe, and along with launching *BALLE*, created Fair Food, an organization that aims to build a sustainable and humane local food economy.

To celebrate the opening of the new exhibit, "*Our Expanding Oceans*", the **Museum of the Earth** featured a lecture and reception with Dr. Orrin Pilkey and Mary Edna Fraser. Pilkey co-authored "*Global Climate Change: A Primer*" for which Fraser contributed batik artwork.

The **Merrill Lynch** office in Ithaca hosted a seminar series about sustainable investing at the Tompkins County Public Library. The first presenter in the series was Neil Orlofske from Calvert Investments; the second presenter was Paul Hilton from Trillium Asset Management.

The *7th Annual Black History Month* hosted its international poetry and essay contest with the theme: "*How to promote food justice and healthy eating in impoverished communities.*" The contest, organized by **Olivia Armstrong**, was co-sponsored by *Greenstar Community Projects*, *The Moonlighter Press*, *Alternatives Federal Credit Union*, *Sustainable Tompkins*, and *Rainbow Healing Dance Center Inc.*

A FUN-raising party was held at Hector's **Red Newt Winery** to celebrate and protect the Town of Hector from natural gas drilling.

The *March Against Monsanto* is a global protest movement promoting real, safe food and the avoidance of genetically modified food products. **Ruth Williams** organized the local march and peaceful protest and petition signing event in front of two larger grocers.

Science Cabaret enlisted local community leaders and members to reenact historic Climate Change talks in an event titled "*What Role Will You Play Dealing with Climate Change?*"

Snug Planet and **Ironwood Builders** hosted "*The Low Energy-Use Home: A Symposium for Building Professionals.*" The symposium offered opportunities for professionals to learn, discuss, and network with industry professionals about reducing energy consumption.

The *first International Youth Arts and Culture Festival* offered a multicultural event for youth organized by youth and an official Public Service Center alternative to Cornell's Slope Day. The Festival is a project of **SoLuna**, an organization working towards cultural awareness, education and preservation. Co-sponsors for the IYAC Festival included: *Cornell Public Service Center, Ithaca Youth Bureau, Multicultural Resource Center, Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Creating Dreams Movement's #Team Unity, Lehman Alternative Community School, New Roots Charter School, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County, and the Natural Leaders Initiative.*

The **Southside Community Center** hosted "*Demystifying Ramadan*", an event centered around a shared meal followed by an overview of the month of Ramadan. The organizers hoped to dispel misconceptions about Ramadan and encourage acceptance and embrace of our differences and similarities.

SUNY Cortland observed a Sustainability Month in June, holding conferences, festivals, lectures, and celebrations that brought members of the community together and educated people on sustainability.

The **Town of Dryden's Recreation Department** hosted its first *Snowman and Sculpture Building Contest*, giving awards in three categories: biggest, most creative, and most Dryden spirit.

The **YMCA** hosted a screening of "*Forks Over Knives*," a documentary about processed and organic foods. After the film showing, Amie Hamilton, director of the *New York Coalition for Healthy School Food*, held a question-and-answer session.

Sustainable Operations

All **CFCU Community Credit Union** buildings and property are now tobacco-free zones. The credit union initiated the policy to coincide with the Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout.

Early Bird Farm installed a green water system in their new garden center. Rain water collected from the eaves is directed into underground water tanks for future use for irrigation.

In 2013, **Ithaca Children's Garden** provided 6 weeks of themed camp programs (with 22% of families on scholarship), installed a beautiful, community-built outdoor kitchen, piloted the "*Families Grow Together*" program in which low income rural families are supplied with materials to grow food at home, laid the groundwork for the first multi-generational, youth-designed Edible Forest Garden in a public garden, and established new partnerships with *GIAC, Southside Community Center*, and a 4-year partnership between ICG and *GreenStar Cooperative for Healthy Kids*.

Joey Gates and **Crow Weaver** created a solar stage, which is a unique innovation that uses solar energy to amplify sound on stage. The system collects sunlight from three solar panels, and musical performers can use this power to create a totally green performance!

Kaya Donaj-Keys is a fine arts graduate of Alfred University and a designer for Comet Skateboards of Ithaca. Donaj-Keys translated Pheobe Aceto's Ithaca Festival design for printing. He individually screen-printed a special art piece clothing line using water-based, non-toxic dyes onto American made gear.

Taitem Engineering is helping Cayuga Pure Organics size their room air conditioner for their replacement beanery. Taitem's design department is running cooling load calculations to appropriately size the unit in order to cost-effectively keep the building below 50°F all year.

The **Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce** is challenging our business community to commit to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy with the *Tompkins County ReBusiness Chamber Challenge*. The winner of the Challenge will receive a year of 100% green-sourced electricity. The Chamber's ReBusiness Challenge is supported by the *ReBusiness Program at Tompkins County Solid Waste Management Division*.

Transportation

Bruce's Pit Stop started offering environmentally friendly motor oil as an option to their customers getting their oil changed.

As part of their *Passes to Self-Sufficiency* program, **Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga Counties** offered semester-long bus passes and gas vouchers to lower-income students who live in Tompkins County interested in continuing their education. This new program was funded by a grant from the *Community Foundation of Tompkins County*.

Ithaca Carshare added five Prius Cs to their fleet. These cars get the best mileage in their fleet!

Purity Ice Cream installed a Level II electric car charging station that people stopping at Purity can use for free.

Taitem Engineering opened up their ChargePoint electric vehicle charging stations to Ithacans. For \$1 per hour, users can charge their electric vehicle and park their car as they run errands around Ithaca. A percentage of the energy generated for the station comes from Taitem's solar array.

For six years, the **Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit** (TCAT) has broken ridership records. Last year, ridership increased by 4.7 percent.

Recognition

Energy Efficiency

ASI Energy was named a partner of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's *Combined Heat and Power Partnership*.

The US Department of Energy announced its partnership with **ASI Energy**, *Energize Ithaca's* project manager, to offer project technical assistance for Phase 2 of the Downtown Ithaca District Energy/Combined Heat and Power feasibility study.

Cortland Research LLC was one of five Central New York companies to receive a state grant of \$50,000 to commercialize "*green and clean*" technologies. They are using the grant to commercialize an energy conservation system that provides data and autonomous control for reducing energy cost.

Four **Cornell PhD students** won competitive prizes in a nationwide Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) poster and video competition. The students hold prestigious NSF IGERT grants in the areas of Cross-Scale Biochemistry and Climate (CSBC) and Earth-Energy Systems, programs supervised by ACSF faculty fellows. Lauren McPhillips, Armanda Roco, and Janet Barclay-representing Cornell's program in CSBC submitted the video "*From Microbes to Landscapes: Improving Greenhouse Gas Models*." A video by Geoffrey Bomarito, "*How and When Metals Fail*," profiled research underway in Cornell's Earth Energy Systems program. The two videos were among 25 winning selections from students in IGERT programs across the country.

Cornell University was awarded the 2013 *Global District Energy Climate Award* for creating a combustion turbine with a heat recovery steam generator.

Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services was honored as one of four builders nationally to receive the 2013 U.S. Department of Energy's *Challenge Home, Housing Innovation Award*. The award was received in recognition of the technological innovation incorporated into the design and construction of Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services' Holly Creek Townhomes in Ithaca.

Food Systems

Challenge Workforce Solutions received a \$450,000 award from the *Regional Economic Development Council*. The award will be used to create the *Finger Lakes Food Hub*, a production facility that collaborates with local farmers and provides them with services to expand their markets.

Cornell University received a \$500,000 award from the *Regional Economic Development Council*. The award will be used to renovate Stocking Hall to expand Food Processing and Developing Resources by establishing a production area that can be used to transform raw materials into packaged products such as yogurt, beverages, and cheese.

A number of regional restaurants, wineries, and other food and drink makers received first place or top nominee awards in the **2013 Finger Lakes Foodie Awards**. These included the *Ithaca Farmers Market*, *Lively Run*, *Bet The Farm*, *King's Garden Vineyard*, *Red Newt Winery*, *Suzanne Fine Regional Cuisine*, *The Copper Oven*, *Hazelnut Kitchen*, and the *Aurora Inn*.

12-year-old **Gimme Coffee** has been named the *2013 Macro Roaster of the Year* by Roast Magazine. Gimme was judged on their sustainable practices, employee education and the quality of their coffee. This is one of the highest awards in the specialty coffee industry.

High Point Farms, LLC in Trumansburg has received the *Animal Welfare Approved* certification for their eggs and beef; their pork already has the certification. **B&Y Farms** in Spencer also received this certification this year. These standards correspond to the humane treatment and feeding of farm animals being raised for consumption.

President Obama's inaugural lunch featured several New York foods and drinks, including the 2010 Tierce Dry Riesling, made by three Seneca Lake winemakers: **Johannes Reinhardt** (Anthony Road Wine Co.), **David Whiting** (Red Newt Cellars), and **Peter Bell** (Fox Run Vineyards.)

Ronnie Coffman, a Cornell plant breeder, was recognized with the inaugural *World Agriculture Prize* awarded by the *Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences*. Coffman has spent his career ensuring that people with scarce resources have access to the agricultural science they need in order to produce crops best adapted to the challenges they face.

Green Building

The Human Ecology building at **Cornell University** was named *College/University Grand Prize Winner* by College Planning and Management magazine.

Land Use

Brett Chedzoy of Angus Glen, a multi-generational beef farm, has been named the *Conservation Farmer of the Year*. The award was presented by the *Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District* for Chedzoy's farm practices that protect soil and water resources.

The **Cornell Plantations' Natural Areas** program received the 10th annual *Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Award*.

The garden outside of **Cornell University's Mann Library** has received certification by the *Sustainable Sites Initiative*, a comprehensive and prestigious national rating system for assessing the sustainability of built landscapes. The garden was built by the 2009/10 class, "*Creating the Urban Eden*," taught by Horticulture professor *Nina Bassuk* and Landscape Architecture professor *Peter Trowbridge*.

The manager of Ithaca's Tractor Supply store, **Robert Fox**, appeared on an episode of "*Tough Grit*." The show combines rural-lifestyle experts with competitive team challenges.

Planning and Policy

President Obama nominated **G. Peter Lepage**, the Harold Tanner Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University, to the *National Science Board*.

U.S. Senator **Kirsten Gillibrand** helped to secure a \$200,000 grant to clean up the Ithaca Falls Overlook. This money will be used to create a public park and fix environmental contamination in the area.

Recycling and Composting

The Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council funded the expansion of ***Tompkins County's composting program*** with \$200,000.

Tompkins County received a \$200,000 award from the Regional Economic Development Council to purchase machinery and equipment to make infrastructure improvements to expand a food waste composting facility, creating five jobs.

Renewable Energy

Francis Vanek's textbook "*Energy Systems Engineering*" has been ranked as the most commonly used textbook for courses on renewable energy in the United States. Vanek is a senior lecturer in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cornell University. His writing and teaching at Cornell is firmly grounded in solid science and aligned with his commitment to sustainable living. Vanek currently lives in Ithaca's Ecovillage and is active in the Ithaca community, promoting the use of renewable energy and alternative means of transportation.

WavElectric was one of five Central New York companies to receive a state grant of \$50,000 to commercialize "*green and clean*" technologies. They are using the grant to develop and test a wave-energy converter prototype.

Social Activism

The ***New York Youth Against Fracking*** won the *Artists Against Fracking* short video contest sponsored by Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon. The group was started by students at the Lehman Alternative Community School and featured the students' performance of the song, "*You've Been Fracked.*"

Writer, scientist, and activist ***Sandra Steingraber*** was named *Treehugger's 2012 Person of the Year*. Sandra is most well-known for her passionate anti-fracking activism.

Sandra Steingraber, distinguished scholar in residence at Ithaca College, received an honorary doctorate from the *State University of New York School of Environmental Science and Forestry* for her work on environmental health and science.

Sustainable Community Development

The ***City of Ithaca*** received a \$1.8 million award from the Regional Economic Development Council to complete the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the surface of the Ithaca Commons, and to replace and upgrade all of its underground utilities.

Steve Penningroth and the ***Community Science Institute*** were awarded the 2013 David A. Morehouse Award. The institute is an Ithaca-based nonprofit that offers water quality monitoring training, data collection, and lab analysis for local residents concerned about water issues in their creeks and lakes.

Cornell University has been named one of the nation's top non-profit employers for executive women by the *National Association for Female Executives*. Cornell received its award based on its hiring and retention of women, access to and use of programs that support women's issues, and advancement and the presence of women among Cornell executives.

L Enterprises LLC received a \$344,000 award from the Regional Economic Development Council to be used to conduct environmental due diligence needed to move forward the redevelopment of the former Emerson industrial site in Ithaca.

The **Town of Caroline** received a grant of \$37,000 from the Park Foundation to be used for *Solarize Tompkins Southeast*.

The **Town of Lansing** received a \$2.5 million award from the Regional Economic Development Council to construct a waste water collection system and treatment plant, which will enable the development of a Town Center.

Sustainability Education

Abraham Francis, a biology major at Cornell University, was awarded a scholarship to attend the *National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education*.

The **AguaClara team** at Cornell was awarded an EPA "People, Planet, and Profit" (P3) award for their "*Stacked Rapid Sand Filtration – A Robust Filtration Process For Sustainable Drinking Water Infrastructure*" project, devising an innovative municipal water treatment system for use in Honduras. The team is now improving the design to reduce the energy and water required for maintenance, lower capital and operating costs and simplify daily operation.

The **Cornell student team** working on the project titled "*Pyrolytic Cookstoves and Biochar Production in Kenya*" received an EPA "People, Planet, and Profit" award. Their project addressed the problem that current cooking methods in the developing world cause substantial greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation and diseases. The students designed and evaluating a cookstove that uses pyrolysis, a process that scorches solid fuel without oxygen to produce heat for cooking in rural Kenyan homes. The more efficient and cleaner process uses a variety of fuels and produces biochar that can be used to enrich soil.

Ecologist **Dan Auerbach** was selected as Cornell University's inaugural NatureNet Fellow. According to Nature.orgs website, Auerbach "*explored and implemented methods for water fund assessment and prioritization to help determine where and how conservation investment should be made to yield the greatest returns in water quality and quantity.*"

Groundswell Center for Local Food and Farming received the United States Congress Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Tom Reed. Groundswell was recognized for their efforts in educating and empowering people to develop sustainable livelihoods through offering organic farming workshops.

The locally produced documentary "*Empowered*" has been accepted to the *Environmental Film Festival* in Washington DC. The film, created by **Shira Golding Evergreen**, was created to spread the word about Tompkins County's embrace of renewable energy and sustainability.

Spencer-Van Etten Middle School won a Green Globe in the *Terracycle Green Globes Video Contest* in the category, "*Collect, store, and ship.*" The students won a trophy and 50,000 Terracycle points that they could use for cash for their school.

Sustainable Operations

Cornell University earned a Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for its comprehensive assessment of campus sustainability using their STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) rubric. This is Cornell's second AASHE STARS Gold rating.

HOLT Architects was named one of the best places to work in Central New York. HOLT employs a socially and environmentally responsible approach to their work by establishing sustainability as a core principle of their design.

Ithaca College earned a Gold rating from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education for its comprehensive assessment of campus sustainability using their STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System) rubric. This is IC's second AASHE STARS Gold rating.

The **Ithaca College Center for Print Production** received *Forest Stewardship Council* certification, meaning that all print jobs produced on FSC-certified papers can bear the FSC logo.

Transportation

On behalf of the **City of Ithaca**, Mayor and longtime Ithaca Carshare member Svante Myrick received the award for the "*Best Small City for Carsharing*" from *International CarSharing Association* president Wilson Wood.

The **Tompkins County Zimride Coalition** has won the fourth annual *Transportation Initiative of the Year* award from the *Tompkins County Environmental Management Council*.

MILESTONES

2013 marked the 15th year of the annual **AIDS Ride for Life** event that supports the Southern Tier AIDS Program. The 335 riders raised \$231,000 this year!

The **Cayuga Lake Wine Trail**, the nation's oldest wine trail, celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. CCE-TC has funded and developed countless programs in our region and throughout New York State to benefit the environment and our community. *(For proof: check out the number of CCE listings in this book!)*

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the **Falls Restaurant & Tavern** which often uses fresh, local, and healthy ingredients. They also frequently give back to the community by donating food, labor, and money to local school groups and other organizations.

The **Finger Lakes Independence Center** celebrated 25 years in Ithaca this year! The center allows people with disabilities to have the chance and resources to achieve their goals in life.

The **Great Chili Cook-Off** celebrated its 15th year anniversary by adopting the theme "*Giving Back.*" Sponsored by the *Downtown Ithaca Alliance*, the event organizers set a goal of \$5,000 to raise for hunger programs which would be matched 100% by an anonymous grant received by the *United Way of Tompkins County*.

HOLT Architects, the award-winning, socially and environmentally responsible architecture firm marked its 50th anniversary.

The **Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair** celebrated its 10th year of providing the community with the opportunity to support dozens of local non-profit organizations and programs. Over \$400,000 has been donated through the Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair since 2004, all going directly to participating non-profits.

Ithaca Carshare turned five this year! Ithaca Carshare is a transit-oriented service, offering self-serve access to vehicles when needed, without the ongoing high cost of ownership. Carshare now has more than 1,000 members and a mixed fleet of 25 vehicles.

The annual **Law Enforcement Bike School** celebrated its 20th anniversary this year! The Bike School, held at Ithaca College, is a five-day course covering a variety of topics related to law enforcement using bicycles. Students learn in the classroom and also outdoors during practical application exercises.

Mann Library hosted its 5th annual Local Fair, showcasing efforts supporting fair and equitable local economies.

The **Museum of the Earth** celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

The **Sciencenter** celebrated its 30th year anniversary with a weekend of fun activities representing their milestones since 1983, popular features, and physics experiments.

SewGreen celebrated its 5th anniversary this year. The organization recycles yarn and sewing materials to make new goods, sells donated cloth and sewing notions, leads sewing and crafting classes, and repairs sewing machines.

The **State Theatre** of Ithaca celebrated 1,000 performances this year. The celebration included a free *Vitamin L* concert and the world premiere of the new music video "*Step Up! Speak Out!*"

The **Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative** celebrated its fifth anniversary of helping the county move forward in three major areas of climate protection: public awareness, mobilization of existing organizations, and new collaborative ventures.

Many, many thanks to our "*Signs of Sustainability*" interns this year:

Jessica Santos '15, Ithaca College
Meagan Krieger, Cornell University

We couldn't have done this without you!

So, just how many ***“Signs of Sustainability”*** did we spot this year?

There are **420** citations this year, representing the efforts of more than 630 individuals, businesses, organizations involved in making ours a more robust, resilient, sustainable community.

How does this year “sign” count compare to prior years?

		new sustainable enterprise	new sustainability organization	new activity by existing business or program	milestones	recognition
2006	36				-	-
2007	42	8	11	23	-	-
2008	82	15	14	53	-	-
2009	134	12	12	110	-	-
2010	214	21	22	171	-	-
2011	328	33	23	235	9	28
2012	347	21	10	271	7	38
2013	420	13	18	327	16	46
total	1,603					

Milestones and *Recognition* categories added in 2011

Congratulations – and thank you! - to all these
“Signs of Sustainability”.

If *your “sign”* was not on our list, we are truly sorry.

Please make sure that we know about any sustainability efforts you undertake next year.

Contact us at:

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