

Office of Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability Bulletin

Inside this issue:

New news	1
Carpooling and car share update	2
New Pre-orientation session	3
Exercise classes on campus	3
Local produce options	4
NYSERDA programs	5
Get Involved	6

News from the Green Scene

UAlbany Shuttle Runs on Hybrid Power for the Summer Routes

The UAlbany bus fleet got greener this summer. Three more hybrids were added to the fleet in June. This brings our total to five. The buses were part of a federal stimulus grant received by NYSERDA on behalf of the Clean Cities Coalition, of which UAlbany is a member.

This summer, all the bus routes are being run with our hybrid buses. You can spot them by the “H” before the number on the front and side of the bus and the sign on the back. (See left). Enjoy the quiet and cleaner ride!



Members of UAlbany Parking and Mass Transit, including Rose Dorsman, Director and Mike Koch, Transportation Supervisor, accept delivery of our newest hybrids.

Check out the video on the hybrids made by Brian Zell, one of our drivers:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x342t2f7w1M&feature=email>

University Hall goes carbon neutral

University Hall is the first building on campus to achieve carbon neutrality through the purchase of green power and carbon offsets.

The energy and electricity usage for the building was calculated based on past use. Then the emissions related to travel, waste, water and other factors was estimated based on numbers from our overall campus carbon footprint.

The purchase included a portion of New York State wind credits which will be used to fund developing wind farms throughout the state.

In total, 470 metric tons of carbon were offset. This is equivalent to planting 174 acres of trees or taking 160 cars off the road.

So next time you see University Hall, think green!

Changes to Carpool and Car Share Program

Carpooling

As part of our alternative transportation offerings, campus members are able to sign up for our carpool matching service and car sharing programs.

The carpool service is managed by the Capital District Transportation Committee and is called IPool2. When you go to their site, www.IPool2.com, and register using your UAlbany email address, you are automatically entered into our pool. There are currently 54 members and the more members, the better chance of making matches!

It is free to sign up and the program comes with a guaranteed ride home (GRH). That means that you will get a ride back home in case of any emergency that occurs during work when you are commuting and don't have access to your car; or if your carpooling partner needs to leave unexpectedly.



There have been a couple of changes in the guaranteed ride home program. The number to call is now (518) 482-8822. When you call, you will be asked your GRH number so be sure to register for this when you sign up for IPool2. There is a tab at the top of the site to access the GRH link. Once you register, you can find your GRH number by going to "My Page" and looking below your name and email address. You don't need to carpool to qualify for the GRH, bus riders, bikers and walkers are eligible to use this as well. But you still need to register on IPool2 and the GRH program before using the service.

Did You Know That?

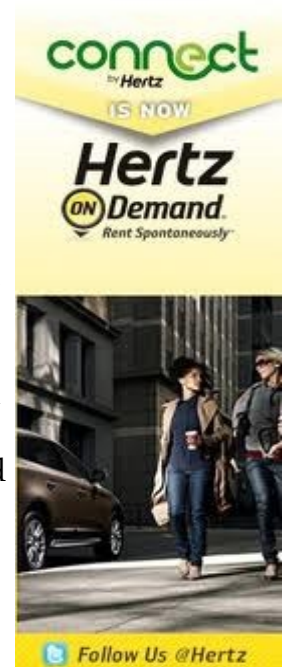
- 73% of our employees and 39% of our students drive alone to campus on a daily basis.
- With gas at \$3.85, it costs the average UAlbany employee over \$1,000 per year to commute to work.
- Over 40% of commuters live along a CDTA bus route.
- Carpooling even one day a week can reduce your driving cost by 20%.

Car Sharing

Our car sharing service is entering its second year and it's back with a new name. It is now called Hertz on Demand. The new

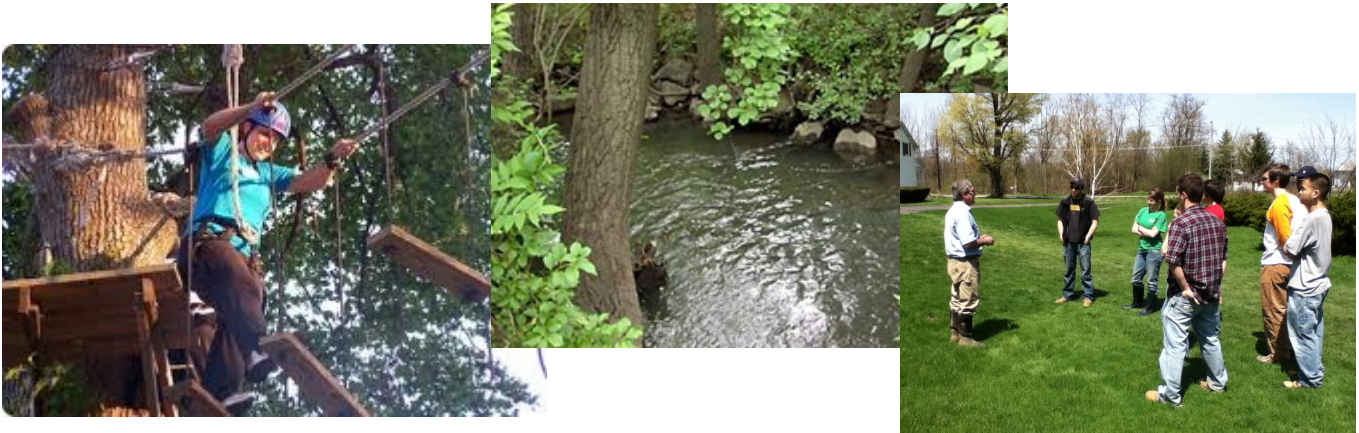
website to register and make reservations is www.hertzdemand.com. All current memberships remain intact but make sure you bookmark the new website. Currently we have over 160 members and the Ford Escape is the most popular vehicle.

If you are not familiar with car sharing, this allows anyone 18 and older with a valid driver's license the ability to rent cars on a short term (hourly) basis. The fee is \$8 per hour which includes gas and insurance. There are cars located on the uptown campus, near Indian Quad and one downtown in Alumni Quad. If you are interested in becoming a member, go to www.hertzdemand.com and click on the University at Albany under locations. It's absolutely free to sign up and be a member.



New Outdoor Pre-orientation Session Offered

Do you know an incoming freshman who likes the outdoors? Then tell them about a new offering this year. The Great Danes LEAD program will take place on August 24 and 25. Participants will go up to Dippikill, the Adirondack camps owned by the Student Association. The program will feature leadership building skills, a trip to a ropes course, star gazing and discussions on how to reduce our environmental impact. Interested freshman can get more details and instructions on how to register for this unique opportunity at: http://www.albany.edu/orientation/images/Great_Danes_LEAD_flier.pdf.



Get out there and move!

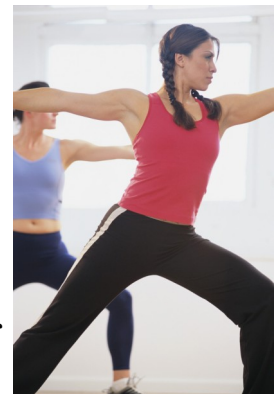
Exercise is a vital piece of health and well being. With today's busy schedules, it may be hard to find the time to fit exercise in. But thanks to the EAP and Group Fitness programs on campus, it is easier to make this a part of your day.

EAP offers several noon time classes throughout the year including Zumba, Tai Chi and new this summer; Belly Dancing. Employees need to sign up in advance for these classes. Fall registration will be right around the corner. Check out: <http://www.albany.edu/eap/programs.htm> for more details.

The Group Fitness classes are also held year round in the PE building. Many of these occur right after work so you can get a class in before heading home. The summer schedule features Yoga, Nia and Kickboxing. Plus don't forget the Aqua Fitness classes. To participate, simply purchase an access card (12 classes for \$60, or 6 classes for \$36) or you can pay a walk in fee of \$7 per class. To check out the summer schedule, go to: http://www.albany.edu/eap/images/Summer_2011_Community_Flyer.pdf

And for more information about fitness programs, see <http://www.albany.edu/campusrecreation/index.shtml>

And if classes aren't your thing, members of the campus community can use the gym facilities at SEFCU for free.



Local produce; good for you, good for our economy

Supporting local agriculture helps our local economy. It is predicted that for every dollar spent on local produce, three more dollars are put back into the local economy. Farmer Markets bring a range of products to one place and are a popular destination in the summer.

While most of us are familiar with these, fewer are aware of CSA's and online produce suppliers.

CSA stands for community supported agriculture. Members sign up in late spring and are provided a weekly share of the farm's harvest at drop off locations throughout the region including one at our university.

To find a CSA, go to localharvest.org, click on CSA and type in your zip code. You can also find information at: <http://alloveralbany.com/archive/2009/03/09/csa-sign-up-time>.

It's too late to get in this year, but put it on your calendar for late February/early March.

Another option is to order from an online farmer's market. One new venture is the Farmie Market which offers produce for Saratoga (Turning Point Market), Albany & Schenectady (Helderberg Market) and Rensselaer County (Uncle Sam's Farmer's Stand). This delivers the local produce right to your door! Check them out at: <http://www.farmiemarket.com/FM/Home.html>

Farmer's Markets located near the University

If you're thinking about picking up some fresh produce during lunch or right after work or school, here are some spots close to UAlbany:

Albany Daily Market

4 McKown Rd., off of Western Ave.

Monday-Friday 12pm-5:30pm until late September

Located off of Western Avenue behind Passanno Paints, the Barber Family sponsors a daily market. Be sure to try their sweet corn!!

CDPHP Farmer's Market

500 Patroon Creek Blvd.

Thursdays 11am-1:30pm until October 6

Located in the CDPHP parking lot, this hosts a variety of vendors that sell fresh produce, flowers and a range of specialty items.

Harriman Campus Farmer's Market

Buildings 8 & 8A

Thursdays 10 am- 2pm until October 20

This one is right next door.

Find more farmer's markets at:

<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/CommunityFarmersMarkets.asp>



NYSERDA Offering Free Home Energy Audits

NYSERDA is offering free energy audits when conducted by a Building Performance Institute (BPI) professional for those with qualifying incomes. (The average qualifying income is less \$250,000 per household). Customers can implement any energy efficient recommendations through the GIGNY financing program which offers low interest loans up to \$13,000. Check out the information at: <http://www.getenergysmart.org/SingleFamilyHomes/ExistingBuilding/HomeOwner.aspx>. Select a BPI Accredited Home Performance Contractor and fill out the application. The contractor will work with you to develop the scope of work which will be submitted to NYSERDA for review and approval. Now is the best time to sign up to identify and implement improvements before the winter weather strikes.

Other NYSERDA Programs

NYSERDA also has a host of other programs that offer home owners rebates on implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.



If you are building a home, consider making it an ENERGY STAR home. For details on how to get started, go to:

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/SingleFamilyHomes/NewConstruction/HomeOwner.aspx>

Renters can get energy tips at:

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/MultiFamilyHomes/ExistingBuilding/Renter.aspx> and see if their building would qualify for an energy audit.

NYSERDA may be most known for their role in providing assistance to home owners interested in getting a renewable energy system. They have programs for solar panels and solar thermal units. Solar panels, or PV systems, are placed facing south, either on a roof or in the ground. This will provide your home with clean electricity. Solar thermal systems are geared towards powering electric hot water heaters. Heating water for washing can account for about 30% of your electricity bill. These can also be used to heat a pool or hot tub. So getting a solar thermal system can really put a dent in that monthly electric bill. These systems can come in panel or tube form. Check out one person's experience in getting a solar thermal unit installed at her home on our blog at: <http://ualbanygreenscene.wordpress.com/> Look for entries entitled "my excellent solar adventure".

More details on the financial incentives are available at:

<http://www.nyserdera.org/funding/2112summary.pdf>

<http://www.nyserdera.org/funding/2149summary.pdf>

But take note, you must first contact an installer certified through NYSERDA and the contractor is the one who files all the paperwork on your behalf. The rebates are then passed down to the homeowner. In addition, the homeowner is eligible for a tax credit at the end of the year. To find certified installers, go to:

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/Resources/FindPartner.aspx?t=18>

<http://www.getenergysmart.org/Resources/FindPartner.aspx?t=25>

Get involved in sustainability

THINKGREEN listserv

This listserv is mainly for faculty who want to participate in developing academic offerings that are sustainability related. This could include speakers, research forums, developing new content units within existing courses or even developing new courses. To sign up for the list serv go to:

http://www.albany.edu/its/students_listserv.htm

Or you can contact Mary Ellen at mmallia@uamail.albany.edu to subscribe.

Faculty and Staff

Sustainability Coordinators

The sustainability coordinators program is designed for faculty and staff members who wish to help increase awareness about sustainable operations on campus.

Coordinators meet the first Tuesday of every month at noontime. If you would like to become a coordinator or would like to nominate someone from your department, contact Mary Ellen at 956-8120 or by email at mmallia@uamail.albany.edu.

Student sustainability council

The sustainability council is a way for students who are interested in helping to implement our programs and take a leadership role. Students can apply at any time by sending their contact information to our email at gogreen@albany.edu. The council meets every Friday at 3 pm to plan events.

Did You Know?

The best time to water your lawn is in the morning when it's cooler. Adjusting your lawn mower to a higher setting can reduce the need for watering as the longer grass retains water better.



Office of Environmental Sustainability

Contact info:

University Hall 212

University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12222

Phone: (518) 956-8120 Fax: (518) 956-8121

E-mail: gogreen@albany.edu

Web Site: www.albany.edu/gogreen

Director: Mary Ellen Mallia
mmallia@uamail.albany.edu

UAlbany Green
Scene

facebook

UAGreenScene

twitter