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Bulletin contributors:
Benny Gershweir, Tiffany Chen,
Grace Hammond, and Aaliyah Johnson

Interested in supporting the Green Scene programming by giving to the Sustainability Fund?
Click here.

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Looking for a sustainability course to take this fall? Check out the options below.

The full list can be found at: [https://www.albany.edu/gogreen/7.courses.shtml](https://www.albany.edu/gogreen/7.courses.shtml)

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The University at Albany has just been designated as a Bike Friendly University (BFU) by the League of American Bicyclist! This was announced on March 9, 2022, with the university receiving a bronze-level award. This designation lasts for four years, in which we can proudly say that our university provides a positive environment for those that opt for biking. While the bronze-level award is of great excitement, we should also appreciate the work that was put into this.

The whole process began in 2015 when we applied for BFU and received an honorable mention and feedback on how to improve. Fast forward to summer 2021 when the decision was made to reapply with hopes of a designation. The application process required that we provide information regarding the 5E's related to biking: equity, engineering, education, encouragement, and evaluation & planning. It was a collaborative effort of communication between various individuals and offices on campus to collect and provide accurate information. The work paid off and the application was submitted and reviewed, and our campus is now certified as a Bike Friendly University!
Dr. James Schwab of the Atmospheric Science Research Center answers some questions on the new mobile methane unit being employed to study air quality

Why is researching measurements of methane and other co-pollutants in New York important?
Methane is an important Greenhouse Gas, second only to CO2 in impact for anthropogenic gases. New York State CLCPA and Climate Action Council are intensely interested in identifying large methane sources, understanding their source strengths, and determining how to reduce methane emissions.

Are methane levels rising across the state? If so, why?
Yes, methane has a relatively long lifetime in the lower atmosphere (~10 years), so concentrations everywhere around the world are quite similar. There are spatial and seasonal variations, of course, but methane is globally distributed (like CO2) and not concentrated more locally like ozone and PM. Methane concentrations are increasing globally (and therefore in NYS) due to a number of reasons, including leakage from oil and gas infrastructure, agricultural practices, inadequate mitigation at landfills and wastewater treatment plants, etc. The sources and reasons are manyfold and sometimes quite complex.

How do the mobile laboratories work? Where and when will they be deployed?
The ASRC mobile lab is a 2007 sprinter van with a number of research grade instruments mounted inside the back “cargo” compartment. We use a set of eight Li-ion batteries to power our instruments. Deployments are typically 4-8 hours, after which we need to return to a base station to charge the batteries. Deployments so far have included: 1) the NYC metro area, where we have measured methane enhancements at landfills, WWTPs (waste water treatment plants), and the non-specific urban plume; 2) large landfills in central and western New York State; 3) “urban plumes” from Rochester, Buffalo, and Syracuse; 4) agricultural areas, WWTPs, and oil and gas infrastructure in central and western NYS.

What are your objectives with this research?
We are attempting first to identify large methane emitters, and second to quantify (to the extent possible) the methane emissions from the identified sources in units of kilogram of methane per square meter per year.
How can the findings help to reduce emissions? Do they add to your previous research in this space?
Until we know what the large sources are, and how much methane they are emitting, we cannot effectively control and reduce these emissions. We partner closely with NYS DEC and with NYSER-DA, who can use our results to help understand, regulate, and control methane emissions.

What are the next steps? Do you plan to publish findings?
We have completed two 3-week deployments (in May and November 2021) and will undertake one more 3-week deployment in 2022 to meet our contract obligations. All of our data is being analyzed and will be used in modeling work to further our knowledge of methane sources in NYS. We also envision a number of peer-reviewed publications to result from the work – at least two or three.

Who are your collaborators?
I am collaborating with a very talented and accomplished team of researchers! There are three co-PIs – Dr. Lee Murray from the University of Rochester, Dr. Roisin Commane from Columbia University, and Dr. Eric Leibensperger from Ithaca College. From my group at ASRC we have Dr. Jie Zhang (postdoc), Ms. Alexandra Catena (grad student) and Ms. Janie Schwab (lab manager). In addition, we have engaged a company named Scientific Aviation to make airplane measurements at landfills, urban areas, WWTPs, and agricultural sources as part of the project. These are quite valuable as they measure methane while spiraling down and then up over the target source areas. The measurements in horizontal and vertical dimensions allow a pretty accurate determination of methane source strengths.

Which of the UN Sustainable Development Goals do you feel are addressed most in your research?
Mainly Goal 13 (Climate Action) but also Goals 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy).

Anything else you would like to add?
There is intense interest in the scientific and regulatory communities about methane emissions. The work is exciting and very timely!
Sustainability comes in many shapes and sizes. Fill it Forward is a unique program that allows you to keep track of the number of disposable water bottles you avoid using by employing a refillable bottle and seeing the environmental impact you have. By downloading the Fill it Forward app, you will be able to see the difference you and many others will make on campus, both locally and globally. The steps are simple; all you need is a reusable water container, download the Fill it Forward app get a tag which is attainable at the Office of Sustainability, the Center for Leadership and Service or by requesting one here. By applying the tag onto the bottle and scanning it at every reuse, the app will track the amount of water you’ve consumed and the pollution and carbon emissions avoided. Plus it triggers donations to clean water projects.

This month, the campus featured a rewards system where selected users were gifted prizes for using the Fill it Forward app. Winners were drawn every Friday and reset every Monday. Additionally, the Fill it Forward Ambassadors tabled during the semester and presented to various groups and at Res Life programs to spread the word about the program.

To date, the campus program has over 470 members and 8,000 scans. This equates to 3,492 pounds of carbon emissions saved and 238 pounds of waste diverted. Our participation has also generated funding for 38 global clean water projects in India, Bangladesh, New Mexico and more! Join the UAlbany Fill It Forward program today!
Around the Community

**Wild and Wacky Woodcock Walk**  
*Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm*

Join the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission staff for a walk through the Pine Bush to watch the elaborate flight displays of the American Woodcock. The woodcock is a chunky little bird with a short neck, long bill and big eyes set high in a large head. During the mating season in early spring, male woodcocks perform amazing flight displays at dusk. The program starts inside with a presentation and then continue outside for a 0.9 mile-hike.  
Register [here](#).  
The event takes place at 195 New Karner Road Suite 1, Albany, New York

**Five Rivers: Citizen Science: Early Birders**  
*Thursday, May 5th, 2022, at 7:30 AM*

Come celebrate the dawn chorus as the progression of spring bird migration is monitored at the Five Rivers Environmental Center. These outdoor surveys begin at 7:30 AM. Meet outside the visitor center. Bring binoculars if you have them. In case of inclement weather, these programs will be canceled. Space is limited and registration is required.  
Call 518-475-0291 by Monday, May 3rd to register.  
The event takes place at 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054

**Albany Tulip Fest**  
*Sat, May 7, 11am – 6pm & Sat, May 7, 11am – 6pm*

The Tulip Festival is Albany’s signature spring event. Featuring annual traditions rooted in the city’s rich Dutch heritage, nearly one hundred artisans selling their handmade crafts, a fine arts show, delicious food, the KidZone family fun destination, two stages of world-class live entertainment and more than 140,000 tulips in 150 different varieties, the Tulip Festival is a sparkling showcase of local culture and business. It all takes place in historic Washington Park.
Leadership Recognition

Congratulations to the following Green Scene members and affiliated groups that were recognized at the President's Leadership Awards:

**Sustainability Leadership Award**
Erica Strand; Eco-Rep Coordinator, SA Senator, and Housing Manager

**Great Dane Award**
Mya Darsan; President, UAlbany Students for Sustainability
Alex Goldfeder; President, Albany Outreach for Animals, Secretary, Students Stopping the Trafficking of People
Grace Hammond; Vice President, UAlbany Students for Sustainability

**Res Life Outstanding Achievement Award**
Gianna Gjelaj; Colonial Quad Eco-Rep
Sarah Thomas; Colonial Quad Eco-Rep

**Christine Bouchard School Spirit Award**
Ali Popeck; UAlbany Outdoors officer

**Outstanding Senior Award**
Julie Jasewicz; SA Director of Academic Affairs
Joseph LaBarbera; President, Students Stopping the Trafficking of People

**Student Groups**
Democracy Matters; Justice Award
Students Stopping the Trafficking of People; Diversity and Inclusion Award

The following individuals received the Spring Terra Awards for their contribution to campus sustainability:

**Faculty:** Dr. Erin Bell, Professor in the School of Public Health, for her research on environmental toxins, work within the community including air quality at Ezra Prentice housing complex in Albany and PFOA in Hoosick Falls and participating in the Envisioning a World Beyond Plastics event.

**Staff:** Roxanne Welch, UAS Senior Manager for Dining and Contracted Services, for her contribution to our Fair Trade University designation and composting in the campus center.

**Students:**
Grace Hammond, sophomore Environmental and Sustainable Engineering student, for her leadership as Vice President of UAlbany Students for Sustainability and behind the scene data analysis on sustainable operations include transportation, travel, food expenditures and energy.
Zoe Mies, senior Public Policy major, for receiving her Eco-Rep certification and training for the Albany Clean Energy Conservation Corps, performing weatherization installations in area homes and forming a Break Free from Plastics UAlbany chapter.
1. What year did you graduate?
I graduated in 2019.

2. What was your major/minor?
I majored in Public Health and Minored in French.

3. What was your co-curricular and student organization involvement on campus?
During my undergraduate year, I sang in the Serendipity Acapella group, served as Marketing and Communications Intern for the Office of Sustainability, was a teaching assistant for Statistics EOP Department of Mathematics, a Resident Assistant for Colonial Quad and Housing Manager for Empire Commons.

4. What are you doing now? Where do you live?
I currently live in NYC. I work fulltime as a Care Manager at New York Presbyterian Hospital. I am also the CEO of Mera Candle --- my handcrafted sustainable vegan candle brand. Whenever I'm not at the hospital, I'm working making candles for my small business!

5. How have you applied your experience with the sustainability movement on campus and involvement with the Office of Sustainability into your post-college life and career?
I loved working at the Office of Sustainability in undergrad! After graduation I was able to continue my passion for sustainability by integrating it in my candle business. Mera Candles are made with eco-friendly soy wax for a clean burn and are wrapped in wildflower seed paper so you can plant flowers to give the jar a second life. All of my shipping materials are biodegradable and plastic free. The shipping peanuts are made with starch that easily dissolves in water, my bubble wrap is plastic free and our brand shipping tape is made with paper adhesive that is activated by water! My goal as a small business owner is to not only spark joy with my candle but to inspire others to implement sustainability in their life as well. Mera Candles can be purchased at: [https://meracandle.com/](https://meracandle.com/)

The Office of Sustainability is proud of the successes of our alumni! They were essential in the early stages of the sustainability movement at UAlbany and have shaped where it is now.