



# College Connections

**cIcu**

## PRESERVING NEW YORK'S WATERS

The state's major freshwater bodies include Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and Lake Champlain at the western and northern boundaries, the Finger Lakes nestled in the central region, and the Hudson River stretching from the Adirondacks to the Atlantic Ocean. Although New York has an abundance of fresh water, even here, water shortages and water pollution are a concern. Many of New York's independent colleges and universities are working on ways to preserve and protect our waterways.

**Paul Smith's College** regularly hosts water quality conferences and its Adirondack Watershed Institute recently won a grant to purchase water quality testing equipment. Farther south, **Skidmore College's** Water Resources Initiative is an interdepartmental environmental studies program that focuses on the Saratoga Lake watershed.

To the west, the Finger Lakes Institute of **Hobart and William Smith Colleges** is promoting water conservation, training a new generation of environmental researchers, and serves as an information clearinghouse about the region's resources. Students and faculty who are part of **Cornell University's** AguaClara project won national recognition for their design of

a water treatment plant that can meet the needs of poor rural areas; water treatment plants using this design are now being built in Honduras. Researchers at **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** are developing solar-powered robots to monitor bodies of water and help in managing, securing, and improving water quality. **Syracuse University** scientists have also invented robots to monitor waters in New York's lakes.

Several campuses have made strides to conserve water. In Albany, **The College of Saint Rose** cut water use in half by replacing standard washers in dormitories with high-efficiency machines. New York City's **Cooper Union** is building an academic laboratory that will reduce storm water runoff with plants on its roof's deck surface and make use of rainwater for its toilets.

Other examples of water conservation efforts on independent college campuses include **Long Island University's** new geothermal air conditioning system on its C.W. Post Campus, which uses groundwater to remove heat, and **The College of New Rochelle's** soon-to-be-completed Wellness Center, which recycles warm air in order to



Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks

heat its pool area. Using the Hudson River, students studying water conservation at **Mount Saint Mary College** engage local public school children in "clear water" projects.

In New York's Southern Tier, **St. Bonaventure University** is using a grant to fund a hydrology observatory that will analyze pollutants in the Allegheny River and its tributaries. While the Earth Institute at **Columbia University** is using miniaturized sensor technology to gather data about the Hudson River for an ambitious "Riverscope" project that allows researchers, students, and the general public access to these data about the river through their computers.

In an increasingly thirsty world, these are only a few of the many ways New York's independent colleges and universities are being caretakers of the state's waters.

### Sources:

<http://www.cicu.org/CMT/reports/CICUTab1.14.08NewColors.pdf>; <http://adkwatershed.com/>; <http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/wri/20062007/projects.htm>; <http://li.hws.edu/>; <https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/AGUACLARA/Home>; <http://www.cnr.edu/CAMPAIGN/cncampaign.htm>; <http://www.earth.columbia.edu/eidirectory/displayproject.php?projectid=304>

## RESOURCES

### Careers in Environmental Science

<http://www.epa.gov/students/careers.htm>

Visit the EPA Web site to learn about numerous opportunities are available within the Environmental Protection Agency for students ranging from scholarships to gaining vital career experience.

### Environmental Scholarships

<http://www.enviroeducation.com/articles/scholarships/>

This site provides information on scholarships from federal and state government agencies, private foundations and non-profit conservation organizations.

### Green Scholarships on FastWeb.com

FastWeb has a special "Green Scholarships" section featuring scholarships, scholarship competitions and fellowships available in the environmental sciences. For more information, [click here](#).

### For Teachers

<http://www.nesea.org/education/edmaterials/index.html>

The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) has a number of curricular units and lesson plans for teachers at all levels. NESEA also holds free training workshops for educators to learn how to lead middle school students through the Junior Solar Sprint where middle school students design, build and race model solar electric cars.

### cIcu's College Quest to Northern New York Colleges and Universities

The Commission for Independent Colleges and Universities will lead high school students, staff, and administrators on a college tour of campuses located in New York's Adirondack Mountains from June 30 through July 2, 2008. Students from the City School District of Albany will visit Clarkson University, Paul Smith's College, and St. Lawrence University. The trip will also include a visit to the Lake Placid Olympic Museum. The project is funded with a grant awarded to cIcu from the City School District of Albany's GEAR UP grant and through contributions from the colleges.



## GOING GREEN AT A SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**Brooklyn Law School's** Environmental Law Society is offering an information session about Earth Day activities in New York City in the Student Lounge from 11:00am-6:00pm on April 21, 2008. <http://www.brooklaw.edu/news/calendars/index.php?evtID=2619&startDate=&month=4&calID=6>

Earlier this year, **Colgate University** held its sixth annual Green Summit, a gathering of students, faculty, staff, and community members to discuss "green" initiatives individuals can take in preparation for Earth Day. These "Green Strides," or short-term goals, might include reducing the use of bottled water, eliminating unnecessary print-outs to reduce paper waste, and creating an index of fair-trade product retailers in downtown Hamilton, New York. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Columbia University** presented "State of the Planet 2008: Real People, Real Places, Real Solutions," featuring various speakers, from March 27-28, 2008, on its Morningside campus. Click [here](#) for more information.

On April 14, 2008, at The **Cooper Union**, Ernest Tollerson, director of policy and media relations at New York City's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), presented a discussion about the future of New York's transit system, including how the MTA might cut its own carbon footprint and reduce energy consumption. <http://www.cooper.edu/month.html#apr>

**Cornell University** will mark Earth Day on April 22, 2008, with a talk by Max Pfeffer about his book *Saving Forests, Protecting People? Environmental Conservation in Central America* and with a "Time to Chill Earth Day Film Fest" a series of short, student-made films about ways to improve the condition of the planet. [http://www.cornell.edu/events/index.cfm?v=2008&m=4&d=22&show=day&keywords=&category\\_all=true](http://www.cornell.edu/events/index.cfm?v=2008&m=4&d=22&show=day&keywords=&category_all=true)

The fifth annual conference of the Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities was hosted on January 24-25, 2008, at **Fordham University**. The conference was part of a larger week-long campus-wide focus on the environment. The "Earth Week" culminated in a national teach-in on global warming. [http://www.fordham.edu/campus\\_resources/public\\_affairs/archives/2008/archive\\_1097.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/campus_resources/public_affairs/archives/2008/archive_1097.asp)

**Hartwick College** is sponsoring an Earth Day weekend service project, an annual cleanup along Charlotte Creek and Pine Lake, on

April 19, 2008, from 1:00-4:00pm. <http://calendar.hartwick.edu:8080/calendar/ViewList.html>

On April 22, 2008, students at **Hilbert College** can discover eco-friendly careers at the Franciscan Hall Career Lab. <http://www.hilbert.edu/Events.asp>

**Houghton College** will celebrate Earth Week from April 21-26, 2008, with a number of events, including an art show, poetry reading, educational seminars, crafts, and tree planting. Click [here](#) for more information.

As part of a series of events labeled "Faithful Citizenship," **Iona College** has scheduled a discussion on the environment at 7:00pm on April 22, 2008, at the McGrath A&B LaPenta Student Union. <http://www.iona.edu/artsscience/orgs/isi/events/faithfulCitizenship/>

The **Ithaca College** Environmental Society (ICES) is sponsoring events in honor of Earth Day on April 21-22, 2008. A representative from Greenpeace USA and Brooke Hansen, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Ithaca College, are among the scheduled participants. <http://www.ithaca.edu/calendar/?m=4&y=2008>

**Marist College** had a Unity Day/Earth Day celebration at the Student Center Campus Green slated for April 19, 2008. <http://www.marist.edu/calendar/>

**Pace University's** Law School presented the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Lloyd K. Garrison Lecture on Environmental Law on April 17, 2008. Hope Babcock, Professor of Law at Georgetown University, was scheduled to speak. [http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc\\_id=12571](http://www.pace.edu/page.cfm?doc_id=12571)

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute** holds its World Recycling and Conservation Expo in the Union McNeil Room on April 22, 2008, from 6:00-8:00pm. Students will show off innovative approaches to recycling and conserving energy in displays, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. <http://events.rpi.edu/main/showMain.rdo>

A Near Zero Net Energy Home Workshop is scheduled at **Rochester Institute of Technology** on April 22, 2008. Cosponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Engineer Marc Rosenbaum will lead the workshop, which offers information on designing and building homes that require little or no nonrenewable energy. <http://nesea.org/workshops/>

**The Sage Colleges** celebrate Earth Day on April 24, 2008, in a campus-wide celebration sponsored by the Science Club in the Kahl Gym on the **Russell Sage College** campus. This event features exhibits by students, music, food, and other activities. For more information, click [here](#).

**Syracuse University** holds its Annual Earth Day Community-Wide Clean-Up on April 26, 2008, from 10:30am-1:00pm. Students, faculty, staff, and community members will work together to clean up streets and local parks. <http://suevents.syr.edu/main.php?view=event&eventid=1200343773700>

On April 19, 2008, **Vassar College** presented an Earth Day concert featuring guest soloists, members of the music faculty, the Vassar College Choir and Women's Chorus, and the Capella Festiva Chamber and Treble Choirs. <http://music.vassar.edu/concerts/>

### Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cIcu)

cIcu is a statewide association representing more than 100 independent colleges and universities in New York State. cIcu Outreach Programs has provided admissions and financial aid information for more than 25 years.

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[www.nycolleges.org](http://www.nycolleges.org) - Admission and financial aid information for students, families, and counselors.

[www.cicu.org](http://www.cicu.org) - Higher education information for policymakers.

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