



Date presented
04/26/2021

Type of action:
Recommendation

Final vote
14-0-0

2021-0041: *Ithaca College Green New Deal*

Sponsored by: Zampetti, Weiser, Kurtz, Maria White, Lauren Miller,
Emily Gronquist

Co-sponsored by: Office of Energy Management and Sustainability,
Shea, Joshi, Ruffino, Cedar Winslow, Jim Zampetti

Drawing attention to the October 2018 report entitled [Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° Celsius](#) published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ and the November 2018 [Fourth National Climate Assessment](#) report,² which found that human-caused climate change is causing an increase in extreme weather events that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure.

Whereas there is a clear emerging international consensus that to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, we must work together to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Recognizing the City of Ithaca has demonstrated their desire and commitment to leadership in sustainability through the Ithaca Green New Deal,³ in addition to corresponding Green New Deal legislation passed by the Town of Ithaca.⁴

Recognizing the unique potential for the Ithaca College Green New Deal to foster collaboration between the college and local organizations, resources, and networks.

¹ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "Global Warming of 1.5 °C." *The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2018, www.ipcc.ch/sr15.

² U.S. Global Change Research Program. "Fourth National Climate Assessment: Summary Findings." *Fourth National Climate Assessment*, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2018, nca2018.globalchange.gov.

³ City of Ithaca Common Council. "Green New Deal | Ithaca, NY - Official Website." *Green New Deal*, 2019, www.cityofithaca.org/642/Green-New-Deal.

⁴ Town of Ithaca Town Board. "Sustainability - Town of Ithaca." *Sustainability News*, Town of Ithaca, 2020, www.town.ithaca.ny.us/sustainability#:~:text=Town%20of%20Ithaca%20Adopts%20Green,neutrality%20Town%2Dwide%20by%202030.

Whereas it is stated in the [Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan](#) that “we aim to have Ithaca College become globally recognized as an institution marked by innovative thought and distinctive action in the service of the greater public good.”⁵

Recognizing the potential of the Ithaca College Green New Deal to position the college as a leading institution in national sustainability initiatives.

Drawing attention to the [Energy Roadmap](#) document, which outlines Ithaca College’s potential for energy efficiency.⁶

Drawing attention to Ithaca College’s commitment to sustainability in the [Climate Action Plan](#) (2009), which aims to be “a comprehensive proposal for the College to reach climate neutrality.”⁷

Drawing attention to the [Campus Master Plan](#) (2015) which outlines plans for creating a more sustainable South Hill campus.⁸

Recognizing that the [Climate Action Plan](#), [Campus Master Plan](#), and [Energy Roadmap](#) outline “three scopes” of carbon emissions, none of which recognize fossil fuel investment as a factor of carbon emissions.⁹

Emphasizing Ithaca College’s carbon neutral goal of 2050, as outlined in the Climate Action Plan, reached its halfway point in 2019, six years ahead of schedule.¹⁰

Emphasizing that as of 2017, approximately [2.1% \(roughly \\$5,670,000\)](#) of Ithaca College’s endowment was invested in fossil fuels.¹¹

Recognizing that a fundamental pillar of Ithaca College becoming a leading institution in sustainability, as outlined in the [Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan](#), is the creation of a sustainable culture in the student community.

It is recommended that Ithaca College commit to creating a more sustainable campus culture by fulfilling the following articles at the discretion of the institution:

ARTICLE I: Institutional Recommendations

1. Formally commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.
2. Phase out all fossil fuel investments.

⁵ Ithaca College, 2019, p. 17, Ithaca Forever: Five-Year Strategic Plan.

⁶ Ithaca College, 2019, Energy Roadmap.

⁷ Ithaca College, 2009, Climate Action Plan.

⁸ Ithaca College, 2015, Campus Master Plan.

⁹ According to the Climate Action Plan, Scope 1 is on site combustion, Scope 2 is purchased electricity, Scope 3 is commuting emissions and other.

¹⁰ Pings, Gregory. “How the College Can Achieve Carbon Neutrality.” Ithaca College, Ithaca College News, 2 Apr. 2020, www.ithaca.edu/news/how-college-can-achieve-carbon-neutrality.

¹¹ Johnson, Sophie. “Ithaca College Refrains from Fossil Fuel Divestment.” The Ithacan [Ithaca, New York], 9 Feb. 2017, theithacan.org/news/ithaca-college-refrains-from-fossil-fuel-divestment.

3. Provide opportunities for accreditation for student and faculty research on climate justice and sustainability.
4. Center First Year and Senior Seminars around issues of climate justice and sustainability, specifically encouraging student involvement in experiential learning in sustainability and climate justice.
5. Target at least one freshman orientation session towards environmental sustainability on campus.

ARTICLE II: Green New Deal Day

1. One day per academic year shall be dedicated to the celebration and advertisement of ongoing campus projects related to sustainability and social justice. This day shall be implemented as determined by the Office of the Registrar.
2. The event will be organized by the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability in conjunction with the Student Governance Council Social Justice and Sustainability Committee.
3. This day will feature ongoing student/faculty research presentations specifically related to environmental stewardship and social justice.
4. Student organizations committed to these missions can also participate in this fair, either through booths that encourage membership or other activities that encourage sustainability/social justice.
5. Departements, offices, or other parties on campus can use this event to present ideas and projects that promote sustainability.
6. Community partnerships and local organizations will also be encouraged to participate.
7. This fair shall be marketed on the “sustainability” webpage on the Ithaca.edu website as well as the social media account as mentioned in [Article V: Sustainability Website](#) Section and [Article VI: Social Media Page](#).

ARTICLE III: Community Involvement

1. Strengthen the College’s involvement with the local community.
 - a. Expand and strengthen networks with sustainability organizations such as the Sunrise Movement, Building Bridges Initiative, Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF), Sustainable Tompkins, the City of Ithaca, and Town of Ithaca through:
 - i. Providing internships and work study opportunities
 - ii. Highlighting opportunities for involvement in community organizations and student research via advertisements on Handshake and the Ithaca College Career Services website.

ARTICLE IV: Accessible Data and Community Education

1. To effectively market sustainability on Ithaca College’s campus, the Office of Energy Management & Sustainability, in conjunction with IT services and campus center staff, will broadcast relevant and consumable environmental data.
 - a. On T.V.s around campus, the following data sets shall be broadcasted:
 - i. On a monthly basis, the energy consumption across campus.

1. The energy consumption data shall be broadcasted in conjunction with the prior month's energy consumption data as a means of benchmarking Ithaca College's performance.
2. Energy consumption can be measured against consumable data.
 - a. i.e. "Ithaca used [x] kW/h of energy, equivalent to a thousand light bulbs staying on for [x] hours."
- ii. On a monthly basis, the total carbon output of Ithaca College's campus, including Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.
 1. The carbon output data shall be broadcasted in conjunction with the prior month's carbon output data as a means of benchmarking Ithaca College's performance.
 2. Carbon consumption can be measured against consumable data
 - a. i.e. "Ithaca released [x] metric tons of carbon, equivalent to a thousand cars driving for [x] hours."
 3. Carbon emissions that are offset by Green-E certification can still be included in the broadcast data.
- iii. On a quarterly basis, the total water usage across Ithaca College's campus.
 1. The water usage data shall be broadcasted in conjunction with the prior month's water usage data as a means of benchmarking Ithaca College's performance.
- b. These statistics can also be compared to comparable institutions if that information is readily available.

ARTICLE V: Sustainability Website Section

1. Create a "sustainability" section of the main [Ithaca College](http://www.ithacacollege.edu) website to provide resources for prospective and current students relating to environmental stewardship on campus.¹²
 - a. This will act as marketing for prospective students and provide resources for current students relevant to sustainability.
 - i. The webpage shall list current ongoing opportunities for campus community members to be involved in.
 - ii. The page will include graphics and information for current students on how to live more sustainably on campus.
 - b. This webpage will be managed and regularly updated by the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability in conjunction with the Office of Public Relations and Student Governance Council Social Justice and Sustainability Committee.
 - i. The webpage could also provide a student-led opportunity within the aforementioned department, computer science department, communications department, etc.

¹² Design idea for a "sustainability" webpage was modeled off the "sustainability" webpage on the Middlebury College website: <http://www.middlebury.edu/#story645114>

- c. The webpage will be written in accessible language that is easily understandable for community members who have no background in environmental sustainability.
- d. This website will feature campus news relating to environmental sustainability falling under the following categories:
 - i. Infrastructure, including updates related to carrying through the plans of increasing environmental sustainability in the soon to be updated Campus Master Plan.
 - ii. Energy, including updates on progress towards the 2030 goal of carbon neutrality and renewable energy.
 - iii. Other relevant sustainability related news including, but not limited to, grants the college may receive related to sustainability.
- e. The webpage will also mention financial resources for students and faculty to pursue sustainability initiatives.
 - i. The “Green Fund” (Energy Conservation Account), managed by the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability, will also be advertised as a way for students and faculty to be involved with environmental projects.
- f. Links to the Climate Action Plan, Strategic Plan (“Ithaca Forever”), the soon to be updated Campus Master Plan, the Energy Roadmap and this legislation (“The Ithaca College Green New Deal”), as well as any legislation passed in the future by Ithaca College related to environmental sustainability will be easily accessible on the website.

ARTICLE VI: Social Media

- 1. In addition to the website, establish a corresponding social media page run by the Social Justice and Sustainability or relevant student groups as mentioned in [Article V subsection b](#).
 - a. This page will feature campus news, ongoing projects, and resources for current students related to environmental stewardship on campus and in the Ithaca community.
 - i. I.e. Topics could range from how to recycle correctly, how to compost correctly, steps community members can take to reduce energy consumption, etc.
 - b. This social media page will act as a resource for current students to learn how to contribute sustainably to the campus community
 - i. The social media will include a link (or link.tree) to the “sustainability” tab on Ithaca College’s [main website](#).