

# Keeping it Green

Notes from the SUNY Cortland Sustainability Office

March 2019

## WASTED!

One third of all food produced is never eaten. Each year, 1.3 billion tons of food are thrown out worldwide. That amount is enough to feed every single hungry person many times over. But not only is the food wasted, when we throw away food, all of the water, land, and power, used to plant, harvest, and transport the food are essentially thrown away too.



Eliminating food waste is one of the single most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases, and yet most Americans waste about a pound of food per person each day - nearly half of what is produced.

*WASTED! The Story of Food Waste* is a documentary film that explores the impact of food waste and how it's directly contributing to climate change. Through the eyes of celebrity chefs such as Anthony Bourdain, audiences will see how chefs can



make the most of every kind of food, transforming scraps into incredible dishes, while demonstrating how we can make small changes to help solve the 21st century's greatest problem.



## See the Film, *Wasted: The Story of Food Waste*

Monday April 1  
Moffett Center, Room 2125  
7:00 PM

## Learn more about food waste and what you can do to stop it

Tuesday April 23  
The Bistro, Student Life Center  
Lunchtime

- Tours of ASC's composting equipment
- Bistro Live *Cooking with Scraps*
- Explore a vermiculture bin
- Plant based nutrition

## Composting and DIY Worm Bin Workshop

Thursday April 25  
Newmark Pavillion (across from the Bookmark)  
6:00 PM  
Learn the basics of home composting and make your own worm bin.

## Climate Action Scholarships

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is a national non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on advancing national policies to address climate change. The CCL empowers citizens in the skills of democracy, by training and supporting volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media, and their local community.



Scholarships and discounts are available for students to attend CCL events, including their upcoming Northeast Regional Conference in Troy, NY March 29 – 31. Fellowships and travel support are available for students of color and conservative students to participate in internships and attend CCL's National Conference and Climate Policy Camp in Washington D.C. in June. For more information, visit [citizensclimatelobby.org](https://citizensclimatelobby.org)

## A Passion for Sustainability

Applications are open for next year's Green Reps program. Residence Life and Housing is offering paid positions for students to work 3-5 hours per week doing environmental education activities with their peers in the dorms and supporting sustainability programs around campus. If you know a student with passion for sustainability please encourage them to find out more at <https://jobs.cortland.edu/postings/3012>

## Earth Hour, March 30th

**8:30 PM Your Time**

Started as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney Australia in 2007, Earth Hour is a grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring millions to take action for our planet and nature. Celebrate by turning out the lights and sparking conversations about nature and the unique diversity of life on Earth. Host a candlelit dinner, an evening of stargazing, or simply switch off your lights for an hour.

## Is it Too Late?

In line with SUNY Cortland's Zombie Apocalypse theme, last Monday several dozen SUNY Cortland community members attended a campus panel presentation entitled "Is it too late to avert apocalyptic climate change?" While most climate change panels involve some combination of biologists, geologists, and physicists, the panel moderator Professor Jeremy Jimenez expanded this conversation to include voices and insights from the humanities and social sciences.

Professors Botwinick, Krall, and Wilson from the Economics Department and Professor Moranda from the History Department participated in a lively debate and discussion around topics such as the value of the Green New Deal, the importance of reining in capitalism in combatting climate change, and broader reflections on the political, economic, and energy obstacles that make addressing climate change such a daunting task.



While panelists had differing outlooks about whether it is too late to prevent some of the worst catastrophic climate change impacts, all agreed that there is an essential role for both individual and collective action to limit its impacts as much as possible. With an audience composed of many future teachers, students reported that they appreciated discussion of how to communicate the issue of climate change to children, with a particular focus on instilling love of the natural world.

**If you have a question or comment about sustainability at SUNY Cortland, an idea for a story, or a sustainability-related event you want to share, connect with us at [Sustainability@Cortland.Edu](mailto:Sustainability@Cortland.Edu)**



# Simulation "Game" Highlights Extreme Weather

On February 28th a variety of campus and community members came together to consider how to react to the type of extreme weather events that are becoming increasingly common and more threatening due to climate change.

The event grew out of a deliberative dialogue conducted by the Institute for Civic Engagement during the fall semester. Community members who had attended the dialogue organized the event with assistance from Civic Engagement interns.

The game was created by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, which provides the materials for free as printable files, or as hard copies that can be shipped to your location. It can be used with groups of 12-48 and participants as young as about 5th grade.

The materials include statistics, maps, and population data for the fictional "River City," and information about various resources that are available. Participants are assigned specific roles in the community, such as emergency personnel, local government officials, or business owner and are given various challenges to overcome. To save River City, participants must think carefully about which resources to invest in and work together to distribute resources and share information.



## ReFashion Cortland Seeking Designers

On April 20th, The Cultural Council of Cortland County is hosting ReFashion Cortland, an event designed to help us think about the environmental impact of the fashion industry and challenge our community to embrace its creativity through sustainable design.

Local designers are encouraged to enter their designs, which may include upcycled attire and accessories that have been pieced together from used clothing, or wearable art created from elements such as plastic bags, cloth remnants, or anything that might otherwise end up in the landfill. Entries will be showcased on the runway at the Center for the Arts of Homer and winners will be selected by a panel of local judges.

To support designers, Magpie Custom Creations, is offering fashion design and upcycling workshops. An upcoming workshop on March 16th will focus on redesigning formal wear. Participants will learn how to take apart and reconstruct garments in a fun and creative atmosphere. Space is limited, so please register by emailing [magpiecortland@gmail.com](mailto:magpiecortland@gmail.com)

Visit the Cultural Council of Cortland County's website to learn more about the ReFashion Show, the workshops, or to submit your design by April 1st.



**RED IS GREEN** 