

# Keeping it Green

Notes from the SUNY Cortland Sustainability Office

September 2019

## Climate Strike!



Source: New York Times March 15, 2019

Just over a year ago, a solitary Swedish teen, Greta Thunberg, skipped school to sit outside her country's parliament with a sign declaring a School Strike for the Climate. In the intervening year, millions of school children around the world have joined her weekly demonstrations, demanding action from political leaders that they are still too young to have had a hand in electing. Known by various names, including "Fridays for Future" and "Youth Strike 4 Climate," the young activists are building their momentum just in time for next week's UN Climate Action Summit in New York City.

This Friday, September 20th, the school strikers are asking everyone to join them. Taking their cue from the young activists, many long-standing environmental, public health, and social justice organizations are encouraging their members to take part in the Global Climate Strikes and students are receiving support from unexpected sources. The nation's largest school district, New York City Public Schools has already announced that it will not penalize students for skipping school to participate

in the demonstrations and parents in several local districts are petitioning their superintendents to follow NYC's lead.

At least 800 strikes are planned in all 50 states, with nearby locations including Syracuse, Auburn, Binghamton, and Ithaca. In solidarity with strikers, SUNY Cortland students are planning a Climate Speak-Out on Friday September 20th at 12:30 PM between Memorial Library and Van Hoesen Hall. Students, professors, campus organizations, club leaders, and community members will speak out, demanding transformative action for climate justice.



Source: StikeWithUs.org

The Speak-Out is being organized by the SUNY Cortland chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), a non-partisan, nonprofit, research and public education organization aimed at helping to bring the voices of average New Yorkers to public policy debates. NYPIRG is hosting climate activist Kevin Dugan on Wednesday evening for a talk and Climate Crisis Action Meet-up at 6 pm in Corey Union, Room 201.

**RED IS GREEN**

# Sustainability Events

## Climate Crisis Speak-Out

Friday September 20

12:30 pm

Near Newmark Pavilion

In solidarity with climate strikers around the world SUNY Cortland students, professors, club leaders, and activists are meeting to speak out about the climate crisis.

## Communicating About the Climate Crisis

Thursday October 3

4:30 pm

Sperry Center 104

Dr. Julia Corbett, author and professor of Communication and Environmental Humanities at the University of Utah will discuss how we communicate about climate change in the face of widespread “climate silence,” social inertia, political polarization, and extreme urgency.

## Greenflix Environmental Documentary Series

### WASTED! The Story of Food Waste

Monday October 7

7pm

Moffet Center Room 2125

This documentary film examines why we waste 1.3 billion tons of food each year, explores the tremendous impact of food waste on the climate, and introduces the chefs, farmers, and foodies working to eliminate food waste.

## Banning Disposable Water Bottles

Sandwich Seminar

Thursday October 24

12 Noon

Brockway Hall, Jacobus Lounge

Sean Dunn, a SUNY Cortland graduate student will discuss students' efforts to initiate a campus ban on the sale of disposable water bottles.

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Just bring ANY reusable cup or mug, and you can save EVERY DAY on regular coffee, tea, and fountain beverages at all ASC outlets. (Specialty and bottled drinks excluded).



## Lights out. Green on.

September 23rd marks the first day of fall, the equinox; when the amount of daylight and darkness is nearly equal. With the hours of daylight shrinking, take a moment to consider the power of the sun coming right through your window.

Do you really need to add the electric lights? Exposure to natural light improves productivity, mood and sleep! And it helps cut your greenhouse gas emissions. So, the next time you enter your classroom, office, or even a meeting, consider whether you really need to flip that switch.

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)