

Colgate's [redacted] is Colgate's third formal sustainability and climate action strategic plan. The Sustainability Council and the Office of Sustainability commenced work on the [redacted] in 2019, which went into effect on January 1, 2022.

The [redacted] complements and bolsters

Colgate's Office of Sustaina

During the 2023 13 Days of Green Series,





goal-setting, communication, and career development as they develop innovative campaigns and projects across campus. In addition to personalized coaching from interns, staff in Career Services support professional skills development that they can carry into every corner of campus. Their campus-wide efforts support energy reduction, waste minimization, behavior change, and environmental justice awareness

implement on-campus projects and practices that increase efficiencies, eliminate waste, and reduce Colgate's overall carbon footprint.

Continuation of full replacement of oil burners to natural gas. Completed this year: 88 Hamilton St, 100 Hamilton St, HRD, Raab House, Merrill House, and La Casa. Planned for 2024: Conant House, Base Camp, Alana, and Preston Hill Apts.

Lineberry Pool and Chapel House insulation for energy efficiency. Colgate's Natatorium has the highest energy use per square foot compared to any other space on campus. This year, the steam line in the pool mechanical room was insulated to avoid energy leakage. This project will result in significant energy and carbon savings.

Olin Hall Renovation: HVAC upgrades to new and efficient HVAC equipment.

Continuation of lighting upgrades to LEDs annually across the campus.

Wynn Hall fume hood removal and LED light replacement project. Currently underway, with two removed, and a third one is planned for removal.

Campus water consumption has been reduced from 75.5 million gallons in 2011 (the year Colgate's first sustainability and climate action plan was implemented) down to 57.1 million gallons in Fiscal Year 2021. This number bounced back up to 61 million last year. Despite this uptick, water consumption is still down between 20-25 percent overall despite adding five new buildings and nearly 200,000 square feet. Over the past few years, Colgate has installed low-flow water fixtures, repaired water lines, and eliminated sources of water waste. We have also expanded our water metering and have a better handle on when and where water is being wasted. More specifically, over the past 12 months, we added irrigation system controls on Tyler's Field; repaired leaks at the pump house; repaired Case-Geyer steam line; installed low-flow faucets and toilets in Olin Hall; installed low-flow faucets and toilets at

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trip for our custodial staff to the Madison County recycling center. This trip raised awareness and increased overall participation in our campus recycling program.

Twelve new Colgate recycling stations have been ordered and installed in Persson Hall, 100 Hamilton Street, and Gate House. This will further add consistency to Colgate's recycling program and reduce contamination.

Beginning in the fall semester of 2023, the carry-in, carry-out program was implemented in all standard classrooms with a few exceptions for labs, art classes, and other non-traditional classroom settings.

Around 2,600 lbs of composting were collected along Broad Street and composted at the Colgate Community Garden. We also received a \$5,000 grant from NYSAR3 and a donation from Mark and Julia Schonfeld for the purchase of an all-electric transport vehicle to help with our composting program. Facilities and Dining Services, in partnership with the Office of Sustainability, is also exploring the option of collecting and taking all of Colgate's organic waste to the Food2Energy biodigester in Oneida County.

~~As of~~

Facilities removed all paper towels in residence halls in favor of hand

~~paper~~





Crew 44 Scale Remover  
Glance Glass Cleaner - RTD  
Neutralizer Packets - Floor Cleaning  
Stride RTD Floor Cleaner  
Stride Smart Dose Floor Cleaner



Colgate completed a comprehensive [tree inventory](#) of its campus trees by December 2021. As part of this inventory, each tree was identified, measured, and will be evaluated and monitored over time.

. [Completed Spring Semester 2023.](#)

Facilities, in partnership with the Office of Sustainability, have begun the process of collecting data for the amount of fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and de-icing chemicals used on campus. Benchmarking and tracking these practices is a helpful first step to maintenance that balances labor, cost, safety, aesthetics, and environmental impacts.

Monitoring and improving soil health can significantly reduce labor and ongoing maintenance costs. Routinely testing soil conditions can help determine more precise biological and nutrient requirements and potentially avoid the widespread application of various treatments. Furthermore, healthy soils create deeper root systems and more resilient and vibrant plants. Understanding that soil health creates plant health is a solid guiding principle to help manage our campus grounds with efficiency and environmental sustainability in mind. Some soil testing was performed along Willow Path this past year.

To help communicate the value of Colgate's forests and trees, the Office of Sustainability created and compiled a new website highlighting the benefits and attributes of Colgate's landholdings.


<https://sites.google.com/colgate.edu/colgate-tree-and-forest/home>.

Establish a more robust grounds maintenance benchmarking and tracking tool.

Establish a more robust soil testing and tracking program.

Pursue Tree Campus Higher Education Certification Through the Arbor Day Foundation.

Form a new [Open Lands and Forest Stewardship Governance Committee](#).

Explore Opportunities to Remove an Additional Five (5) Acres Out of a Weekly Mowing Regime by July 1, 2024. & 

Achieving carbon neutrality in 2019 was a major accomplishment and milestone.

Colgate received a grant from the Keep America Beautiful campaign to provide over 100 new recycling bins worth nearly \$70K for campus events.

Colgate applied for and received a small grant worth \$5,000 to support the work of Andrew Pettit '13. Andrew worked with faculty, staff, students, and Hamilton officials to help complete a municipal climate action and climate resilience plan.

Colgate has also benefited from several opportunistic sustainability grants, rebates, and incentives available at the federal, state, and local levels. For example, Colgate received rebates from the New York Municipal Power Authority (NYMPA) for lighting upgrades in Sanford Field House and Huntington Gymnasium, a grant to purchase custom-made Landmark recycling stations from the New York State Association for Reuse, Reduction, and Recycling (NYSAR3), as well as a New York State Energy, Research, and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant that covered half the cost for the installation of the solar thermal array at 100 Broad Street and the installation of the electric vehicle charging station in the Persson





deforestation” projects are especially problematic due to imposing values on other places/communities. Several participants supported easily quantifiable, chemical-based offsets (e.g., methane or nitrous oxide destruction and recovery projects). Feedback from various campus community members also agreed that selecting a portfolio of project types is a good approach. The results of this work and the specific projects we invested in can be found on our website:

<https://www.berkeley.edu/offsets>