



# Sustainability

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SUNY OSWEGO

**Sustainability Yearbook**  
SUNY Oswego, 2014–2015

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# SUNY Oswego | Green

## Our color, our future

### Mission Statement

As a 2007 Charter Signatory of the American College Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), SUNY Oswego is committed to meeting the needs of our planet and our future through action, education and awareness. Our Climate Action Plan and Environmental Sustainability Road map represent the direction and initiative we hold as a standard in creating a location and resource for the environmental stewards of the future.

### Climate & Environment

#### ACUPCC Green House Gas Report

Our environmental sustainability efforts to date have been accomplished through building standards, research, partnerships, collaborations, committees and counsels, and environmental practices. We have made significant strides and recently have begun to align our efforts along a common VIEW of the path forward – one that stretches far beyond our university walls and property lines.





# Curriculum and Learning

## Sustainability Speaker Series

### Maniates

The 2014-2015 Sustainability Speakers Series was kicked off with two different presentations by Michael Maniates on September 28th and 29th. Maniates has worked for over 25 years to lead the way for environmental sustainability. He co-founded two award winning environmental organizations, working in India on the social impacts of energy technology, and currently serves as a Professor of Social Sciences at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. He is a consultant to colleges and universities that are building programs for environmental/sustainability studies and frequently lectures on the politics of overconsumption.

### Dave Jacke

Dave Jacke has studied ecology and design since the 1970s, and has run his own ecological design firm—Dynamics Ecological Design—since 1984. An engaging and passionate teacher of ecological design and permaculture, Jacke held a three-part series for the Sustainability Speakers Series on campus. His presentation included the environmental and economic need for sustainable agriculture. He also hosted a free workshop for students, faculty and staff on sustainable agricultural design and worked with our Permaculture Living Lab committee to finalize the design of our own lab space.

## Permaculture Living Lab (PLL)

Beginning phase one of its installation in the Fall of 2014, The Permaculture Living Lab at SUNY Oswego will be the largest Permaculture installation in all of SUNY.

Permaculture is an ethics-based alternative to traditional agriculture, working with the natural environment, rather than manipulating it.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members are collaborating to create a natural, productive learning space. The laboratory will act as a dynamic landscape for all visitors to **observe, interact with, and influence ecological processes**. Upon maturity, the garden will provide community members with an abundance of nutrient-rich, organic food.



## People's Climate March

On September 21st 2014, several members of the SUNY Oswego campus community made the trek down to New York City to participate in the annual Climate March.

This march occurs to **raise public awareness** of the plethora of environmental issues humankind has caused for our environment, in an effort to foster change for the environment, and shows solidarity in our mutual support of these beliefs.

This year, over 400,000 people attended the march from all over the world and SUNY Oswego was proud to be a part of the event.

## Curriculum and Learning

### Website Film Series

Written, produced and directed by our own in-office intern, Nick Ransbury, this short, fun and informative series included;

**"Recyclemania"**, a video summarizing some of the events that were scheduled to take place between Feb 2nd and March 28th for Recyclemania.

**"Limit Your Use"** covered some of the easy ways to limit your consumption and solid waste production, aimed to spark some ideas for how students can live more sustainable lives. **"Why Recycling Is Important"** states that we must take action in order to ensure for a better future. Start with recycling, it's important.

**"Know Your Plastics"** answers the question; ever wonder what those plastic recycling numbers mean? You use many different plastics in everyday life, it's important to know which can be recycled.

### Sustainability Documentary Series

In the fall semester of 2014, CASC partnered with the Go Green Team to host a documentary film series on sustainability. The series screened each Thursday from 7-9pm, and included such films as: Garbage Island, Last Stop at the Oasis, Forks over Knives and A Fierce Green Fire. The series was well received with excellent attendance, and the Office of Sustainability plans to kick off a new series with the film Y.E.R.T (Your Environmental Road Trip) to be screened early in the fall of 2015.

# Curriculum and Learning

## Farm to SUNY

Since Fall of '14, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Albany and SUNY New Paltz have been partnered through an American Farmland Trust grant to expand the purchasing power of our schools and the SUNY System for local food procurement.

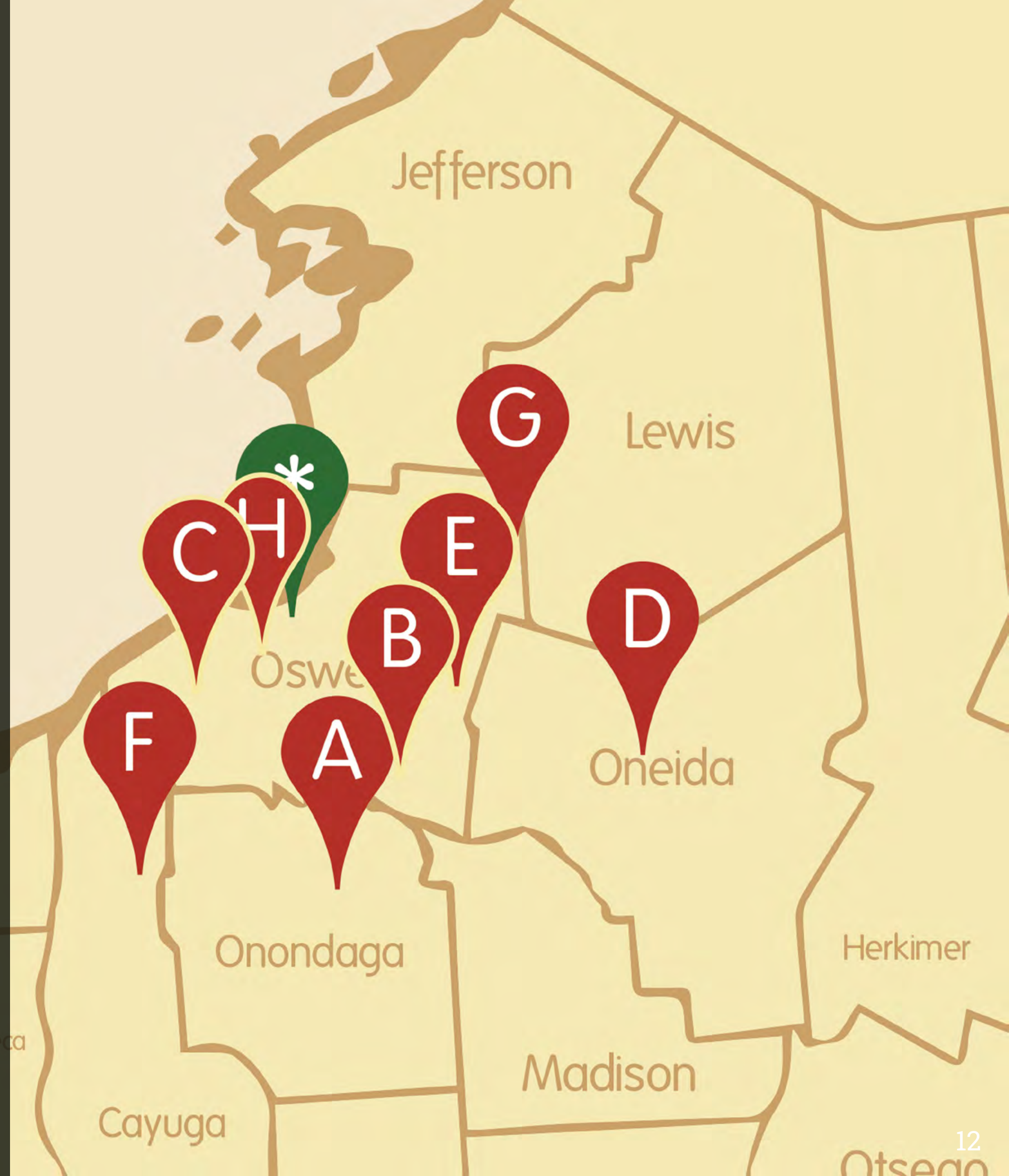
The program has been a massive success. The office of Sustainability, in conjunction with Auxiliary Services, have been able to celebrate the over **\$1.5 million dollars** that SUNY Oswego contributes to the local economy through our food purchasing power. We have highlighted the local produce and dairy farms we have standing contracts with, showcased our partnership with C's Farm Market and increased our percentage of local food purchased by a whopping 6.5% in a single year.

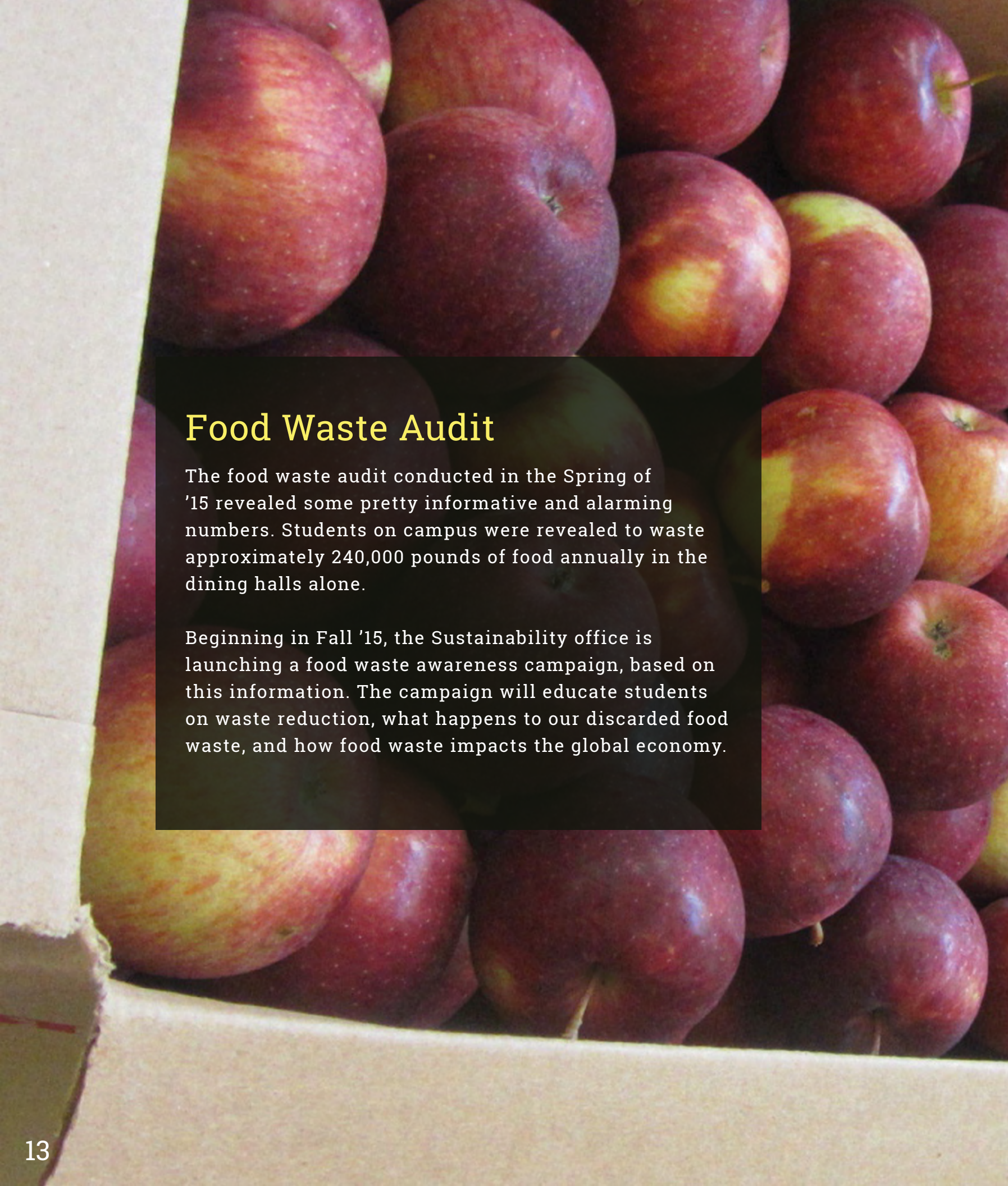
Through this program we have held events to celebrate National Kale Day, informing our students on the nutritional value and benefits of kale, as well as National Food Day, a day to celebrate the value of nutrition and our bodies.

We participated in the inaugural Campus Crunch with seventeen other schools. At SUNY Oswego alone, over 350 students took a big, juicy bite of a locally grown apple to celebrate the Campus Crunch. The apples were donated from Ontario Orchards, and grown only miles from our campus.

In the Spring semester '15, we continued our Food Harvest of the Month, which highlighted some of the most consumed foods that our dining facilities serve from local farms and farmers.

Additionally, for Earth Day, we encouraged students to become more aware of the amount of food commonly wasted, tips on how to prevent food waste, and why buying locally has a direct and massive impact on the economy.





## Food Waste Audit

The food waste audit conducted in the Spring of '15 revealed some pretty informative and alarming numbers. Students on campus were revealed to waste approximately 240,000 pounds of food annually in the dining halls alone.

Beginning in Fall '15, the Sustainability office is launching a food waste awareness campaign, based on this information. The campaign will educate students on waste reduction, what happens to our discarded food waste, and how food waste impacts the global economy.

# Curriculum & Learning

## Farm to SUNY

### Kale Day

In October 2014 we celebrated National Kale Day in conjunction with the Farm To SUNY program. Kale day centered around informing students about the health benefits of this nutrient rich food, sharing recipes, talking about locally sourced kale, and the dining halls featured a number of kale-based dishes for students to enjoy.

### Food Day / Campus Crunch

National Food Day of 2014 launched the inaugural year of the Big Campus Crunch.

Using our Farm To SUNY campaign information, the Big Campus Crunch was a friendly competition between 18 other NYS colleges and universities. Each school was challenged to see how many students they could get to bite into a locally grown and locally sourced New York State apple on the same day.

SUNY Oswego had over 400 participants, and the event was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the dedication and passion our institution has for purchasing locally grown and locally sourced food. A representative from Senator Patti Richie's office gave a short presentation on new scholastic funding for students interested in studying local agriculture.



# Community & Lifestyle

## Four R's Campaign: Residents Reuse, Reduce and Recycle

This campaign is designed as a partnership between the Office of Sustainability and Residence Life and Housing. Over 4500 of our student, just over 50%, live in on-campus housing, and this is the first place they begin to make their own, individual decisions, living independently.

The 4R campaign aims to establish four essential pieces of information for students: what to recycle, how to recycle, why to recycle and where their discarded materials go.

Phase one, our most ambitious phase planned, was launched in March of 2015. In all thirteen Residence Halls, the recycling room signage was completely re-vamped. Large informational posters on what is recyclable versus what is trash were hung in prominent positions in each recycling room. These posters color-coordinated with signage on top of each waste receptacle, making the individual bins easy to identify and the materials easy to reference. Additionally, students were given direction on what to do with batteries, electronic or 'e-waste', and donatable items, such as shoes and clothing.

Plans to launch Phase Two of this campaign are set for this coming fall semester 2015. The Office of Sustainability will not only instruct Resident Assistants in the basics of recycling and waste management, but also the Recycling Technicians for each residence hall. The RAs will be given a pre-planned activity for their student to teach them more about how and why recycling is important, but will also have the answers to any questions their residents may have. Training of the Recycling Technicians will result in less cross-over between municipal waste and recyclables in the recycling room, the last stop before student waste leaves campus.



## Community & Lifestyle

### Leave Green

Held at its traditional time and place, the Leave Green Spring '14 event was once again a massive success. Throughout finals week and commencement, the Office of Sustainability partnered with The Newman Center, Campus Life, University Police, Experiential Learning, The Compass Center and our numerous student and community volunteers to collect over 5.7 tons of clothing, household good and non-perishable food items. The donated materials were transported to the Swetman Gym on campus where local charity groups sorted and organized it for a three day long community garaged sale. All proceeds were donated to local food banks, homeless shelters and families in need in the Oswego area.

As Waterbury hall closed its doors over winter break, in preparation for renovation, the Office of Sustainability collected just under one ton of similar items, all of which were donated to our local Oswego Good Will.

As the 2014-2015 academic year comes to a close, we are ramping up for another successful Leave Green campaign, and this year we hope to partner with Residence Life and Housing to create a seamless flow of donated materials into the hands of the needy and away from the landfill.

### Green December

At the close of this Fall '14 semester, Waterbury Residence Hall was taken off-line for renovations and improvements. The approximately 200 students residing in Waterbury were re-located or graduated at that time. As a result, the Sustainability Office ran a 'Green December' program, encouraging students to donate – rather than discard – and usable household goods, clothing and bedding, as well as any non-perishable food items.

These items were then donated directly to the local Oswego Good Will. Over 1,500 lbs of donations were collected and diverted from the landfill.

The background image shows an indoor event space with a brick wall and a white pillar. A table is set up with a sign that reads "BREAKING NEWS ON FOOD WASTE". The sign features images of food and statistics: "28 lbs" and "99 lbs". A man in a white shirt is leaning over the table, and another man in a blue jacket is standing nearby. A green recycling bin is visible in the foreground.

## Earth Day

Falling on April 22nd, Earth Day was an excellent opportunity for the office to sum up our outreach and educational programs for students as they were getting ready to return to their homes for the summer break. Our Earth Day event took place in the Marano Campus Center and featured workshop and on-site crafts for upcycling common household items, as well as sharing information about our Bike Share Program, promoting the upcoming Leave Green program, information on recycling, the impact of refillable water bottles, the results of the on-campus food waste audit, games relating to sustainability and a final survey on local food awareness.

We also partnered with OBCR and the Oswego County Genius Olympiad, engaging the local high school students and getting them excited about sustainability.

## Community & Lifestyle

### Sustainability Wagon & Interactive Resources

Throughout the year the Office of Sustainability creates a number of events and interactive resources to involve our student community in living, learning and loving a more sustainable lifestyle. At our tabling location in the Marano Campus Center, we've had a number of games, give aways and informational pieces including, but not limited to: The Global Ball – catch the globe and we'll give you a question. Get it right and we've got candy! Giant Water Bottle of water bottles. How many disposable water bottles does the average person use in a year? Take a guess... we made a huge bottle out of that number of them! Mug Shots – throughout Recyclemania, anyone caught carrying a reusable coffee or water bottle got a 'mug shot' of themselves at our table and entered into win a \$15 Amazon gift card. Earth Day Scavenger Hunt – Find specific locations on campus, discover how they relate to sustainability and snap a picture of yourself there to win! Recipes and suggestions on living a more sustainable lifestyle, how to upcycle clothes, what the numbers in the little triangle on the bottom of your bottle really mean... there is no shortage of facts and fun when you see our Sustainabilibuddies on campus!

# Community & Lifestyle

## Bike Share

Since its inception in 2013, our Bike Share initiatives has allowed students to loan out bikes, at no charge, for use around campus and around town. The bikes have always been available on a first-come, first-served basis, and included a provided bike chain and lock, as well as basic maintenance and service.

In the fall of 2014, we had over 30 bikes loaned out... and a waiting list of 50 students! As a result, the Office of Sustainability met with the president of Student Affairs. It was decided that the Bike Share provided a significant resource for the campus, and Student Affairs awarded the Bike Share program \$6,800 toward new bikes, equipment and bike care. The program is already thriving and with this support, there will be more bikes available for more students!

## GGT Members as interns

The Sustainability Office has officially partnered with our student cohorts; the Go Green Team. Throughout the 2014-2015 academic year, the office was able to employ as interns three members of the Go Green Team; Jacqueline Phaneuf, President Fall '14, Brielle Jodiet, President Spring '15, and Peterly Jean Baptist, vice president for the academic year. Jacqueline has graduated, but both Brielle and Peterly are working in the office again this year, and both the Go Green Team and the Sustainability Office are excited about the partnership and outreach potentials.



# Community & Lifestyle

## Recyclemania

Beginning in February of 2015, SUNY Oswego participated in Recyclemania, an international collegiate sustainability challenge, for the first time.

Recyclemania lasts eight weeks, with approximately 400 colleges and universities participating annually since 2001. Needless to say, the competition was significant. However, with the dedicated work of intern Chelsea Frisbie and the collaboration of Alpha Phi Omega, SUNY Oswego **placed 4th** in its class for social media awareness.

The Office of Sustainability is already getting prepared for the Spring 2016 competition!



# Communication & Engagement

## 2014 SUNY Sustainability Conference

SUNY Oswego hosted the 2014 SUNY Sustainability Conference, an annual conference for SUNY Faculty and Staff involved or interested in expanding sustainability throughout the SUNY system.

Including speakers such as Michael Maniates and Audrey Zibleman, Commissioner and Chair of the New York State Public Service Commission, the 2015 conference also saw record number of attendees and expanded the conference from a single track to a multi-track format to engage more of our colleagues in the field. Both President Stanely and Provost Clemo were in attendance and introduced the keynote speakers, and the conference drew the interest of community and campus members alike.

## Presenting at the Conference

Sustainability Program Coordinator Jamie Adams presented at the 2014 SUNY Sustainability Conference on both the successes (and challenges) of the Farm to SUNY Program, as well as the years of success (and challenges) of SUNY Oswego's "Leave Green" end of the semester donation program.

## Presenting at AASHE

Sustainability Program Coordinator Jamie Adams presented at the 2014 AASHE conference in Portland OR on SUNY Oswego's achievements in the four-campus collaboration with American Farmland Trust. The grant-funded program aimed to encourage SUNY campuses to purchase and source more local and regional foods in New York State.

SUNY Oswego had the opportunity to share their experience of a tradition of local food procurement, as well as the intended expansion of that procurement, and the educational campaign of the Sustainability Office to inform students not just of our actions, but of the impact those actions have on our local and regional economy.

# Closing Note

Staff of the Office of Sustainability 2014 - 2015

**Mike Lotito**

Sustainability Engineering Coordinator

**Jamie Adams**

Sustainability Planning Coordinator

**Stephanie Joan**

Position title unknown

**Chelsea Frisbie**

Event Coordinating Intern

**Nicholas Ransbury**

Office Intern

**Devon Nitz**

Graphic/Web Design Intern

**Jacqueline Phaneuf**

Permaculture Living Lab/Food Intern

**Tucker Sholtes**

Senate Representative

**Brielle Jodiet**

Go Green Team Intern

**Peterly Jean Baptist**

Go Green Team/Food Intern





The background of the image is a vast, flat landscape of brown, tilled soil, likely a field prepared for planting. The soil is uneven and textured, with some small clumps and debris. The horizon is a straight line in the distance, and the sky above is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall tone is earthy and somewhat somber.

# Sustain*ability*

SUNY OSWEGO