



Cazenovia College: Bridging the Gap from Campus to Community



Enrollment:
Approx. 1,000 FTE

Institution Type:
Private Liberal Arts College

Institution Size:
558,365 gross sq.ft.

Region:
Central New York



Setting Markers for Success

Cazenovia College has long demonstrated its commitment to sustainability and recently established the aggressive goal of achieving carbon neutrality on campus by 2050. The college completed a greenhouse gas inventory to establish a baseline to measure future progress and released a climate action plan to achieve carbon neutrality. In 2010, Cazenovia signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) and joined New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Clean Green Campuses in 2018.

Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality

Cazenovia first created its climate action plan in 2011 and published a series of updates in 2017. The plan incorporates a greenhouse gas inventory that generated baseline campus emission data from 2009–2010. The college found that purchased electricity represents most of their emissions and concluded that an effective climate action plan should focus primarily on electrical and natural gas consumption.

The plan provides a pathway for the college to reach its carbon neutral goal by 2050 through developing a framework for implementation based on project costs and feasibility. Given the college's current fiscal constraints, realizing progress on all elements of the plan has been challenging, but they continue to use it as a guiding document to pursue new initiatives. The climate neutrality strategy focuses on implementing low-cost measures that can be quickly implemented, with short-term payback periods and immediate positive impacts on the college's operational budget.

"Participation in Clean Green Campuses has helped us to hone in on making more of an active partnership with local agencies and partners in advancing this conversation..."

*– Dave Bergh,
Vice President for Planning
& Institutional Effectiveness*



“One of the great values of Clean Green Campuses membership is that it has generated campus dialogue and discussion, and it has enabled us to see those initiatives and projects that relate to this theme of sustainability in a more integrative light and advance those more purposely. We can now see those gaps where we can make a difference.”

*– Dave Bergh,
Vice President for Planning
& Institutional Effectiveness*

Engaging with the Local Community

For a small institution like Cazenovia College, the heart of their sustainability strategy lies with engaging and energizing students, the campus community, and local entities and decision makers. The college recognizes that reaching the goals defined in its climate action plan requires active and holistic participation by the entire Cazenovia community and prides itself on taking engagement with local organizations and residents to the next level. Joining Clean Green Campuses created opportunities to further campus conversation around energy efficiency, energy conservation, and clean energy principles - including how to integrate these principles into academic curriculum, better identify them on- and off-campus, and continue engagement of the broader community to move initiatives forward.

Summary of Clean Energy Activities and Accolades

Second Nature

- American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) Signatory

Campus Highlights

- Hosted two Renewable Energy Fairs on campus and planning the third annual
- Global Climate Festival planned for Fall 2019 including a campus effort to host a zero-waste event

Electric Vehicles

- Secured funding for the installation of two EV charging stations on campus

Tree Campus USA

- One of three NYS higher ed institutions to be presented with an honorary 10 Years Flag by NYS DEC in 2018 in recognition of 10 years as a Tree Campus USA

Ready to join? Get started today.

Learn how at nyscrda.ny.gov/clean-green-campuses.



NYSERDA