



# STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

*2018 Report*

COLGATE UNIVERSITY

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# THE STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

In 2009, Colgate made a commitment to sustainability and carbon neutrality by 2019. This year, staff, students, and faculty worked together to take steps toward this goal.



GROSS CARBON EMISSIONS

**9,464 MTeCO<sub>2</sub>**

or 3.3 tons/student

↓ **45.5% reduction since 2009**

NET CARBON EMISSIONS

**4,418 MTeCO<sub>2</sub>**

or 1.5 tons/student

↓ **72.9% reduction since 2009**



ELECTRICITY USE

**30k MWh**

↓ **5% reduction since 2009**

or enough to power about  
150 homes for a year



WATER USE

**21,859 gallons**

of water/student

↓ **6.2% reduction since 2010**

or enough to fill 6.2 Olympic-sized  
swimming pools

MTeCO<sub>2</sub>, metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; MWh, megawatt-hour.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



### Colgate Community Garden ↓

It was a year of firsts at the Colgate Colgate Community Garden. In 2018, **Colgate's organic garden produced its first apple crop**, the Beekeeping Club harvested its first batch of Colgate honey, and students organized the first Fall Festival. Community garden interns also introduced vermicompost and hydroponic systems to the garden.

In addition to these firsts, the garden interns and volunteers harvested about 3,200 pounds of food that was sold to community members, Chartwells, and Chapel House. Around 1,600 pounds of produce were donated to the Hamilton Food Cupboard.



**4,800 pounds** of food was produced by the community garden



### Campus Carbon Sequestration & Forest Management ↓

In 2013, Colgate's 1,000+ acres of forested land became certified for long-term sustainable management and a protocol was established to measure forest carbon and annual sequestration. This year, for the first time, we returned to the field to remeasure our trees and found that our forest's annual carbon dioxide sequestration was about 3,776 tons — **enough to make up for Colgate's air travel emissions**.



**3,776 tons** of carbon sequestered from Colgate's forested lands on campus



## State of New York Sustainability Conference ↓

In November, Colgate welcomed **more than 250 sustainability practitioners, faculty, students, and industry experts from across the Northeast** to our Hill for the 8th annual State of New York Sustainability Conference. Colgate was the first private institution to host the event and broke attendance records from previous years.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



### Patagonia Extended Study ↓

Twelve students took a field ecology class in the fall to prepare for an extended study trip in Patagonia, Chile. In the winter of 2017, the students departed for a three-week trip with Professor of Biology Eddie Watkins and Director of Sustainability John Pumilio. While there, students spent time with local farmers and community members, studied forest conservation efforts, conducted research, and visited the Colgate University Forest — a reforestation plot established as part of **Colgate's carbon-offsetting agreement with Patagonia Sur**.



**Over 20 tons** of the University's total landfill waste has been reduced since 2017 (the same weight as about a dozen Priuses)



### Carry In. Carry Out. ↓

If you walk into a classroom in Alumni Hall, you will notice an absence of trash cans and recycling bins. Spearheaded by the Academic Administrative Assistant's Best Practices Committee, a "Carry In. Carry Out." waste model was formally piloted in 2018. Instead of disposing waste in the classrooms, students, faculty, and staff utilize large recycling stations in the hallways. This model saves the custodians time, reduces the number of individual bins scattered in our classrooms, reduces plastic liners, increases recycling rates, and ensures that people have the option to recycle while disposing of their waste. After a successful pilot program in Alumni Hall, the program was expanded in the fall to include McGregory and Lathrop Halls.



## Buildings ↓

**Benton Hall** opened its doors in July of 2018. This new home to Career Services, Thought into Action, and the Office of National Fellowships and Scholarships adheres to LEED Platinum standards, the highest rating given by the U.S. Green Building Council. Benton Hall is projected to receive formal recognition as a **LEED Platinum building** in 2019.

## SUSTAINED SUCCESSES



### Internationally Recognized Sustainability Program ↓

Colgate University was recognized as a **top performer in the 2018 Sustainable Campus Index** by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

The 2018 index placed Colgate **sixth as an overall top performer** among baccalaureate institutions and ranked 10th for air and climate, which highlights measures to assess and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, Colgate tied for seventh in purchasing and tied for fourth in water conservation.

Colgate again ranked highly in the **Sierra Magazine “Cool Schools”** list and on the **Princeton Review Green Colleges List**. Advancing sustainability requires a community-wide effort and being recognized for our accomplishments is something we can all be proud of.

### Local and Sustainable Food ↓

In 2016, our dining service provider, Chartwells, began tracking food procurement with the ambitious goal of purchasing 30 percent local and community based or third-party-certified food. During the 2017–2018 Academic Year, 28 percent of purchases fell into this category. This impressive number stands out among our peers and is the result of meaningful **partnerships with over 40 local producers**, including the Colgate Community Garden.



**28%** of food served on campus is local and community based or third-party-certified food

### Foundations of Sustainability ↓

For four years, the Foundations of Sustainability discussion seminar has been an effective model for **educating staff, students and faculty about sustainability and Colgate’s initiatives**. The class is offered for staff and faculty each summer as a part of the Sustainability Passport program. In the Fall of 2016, the office began offering the program twice each semester for students seeking P.E. Credit. Graduates from both the summer discussion seminar, and the P.E. class leave feeling an increased confidence surrounding their knowledge about the concept and practice of sustainability, the sustainability efforts taking place at Colgate, and the ways in which they can become more involved in such efforts on campus. Participants also indicate that as a result of the course, they plan to lead a more sustainable lifestyle. Most importantly, this class creates a network of sustainability ambassadors across all areas of campus.

## Student Programs ↓

Colgate's Office of Sustainability has employed over 100 student interns and many more volunteers since 2009. These students assist with office operations and organize peer-to-peer outreach programs such as 13 Days of Green and volunteer Sustainability Representatives (S-Reps).

In the Spring of 2018, these students organized the **first ever afternoon of service in honor of Earth Day**. Projects included work at the Colgate Community Garden, a canal clean-up, and bicycle repairs for an alumnus operated organization called Community Bikes. About 30 students participated in the afternoon's events and it is our hope that this tradition remains a staple in the office's 13 Days of Green program.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Taking responsibility for our footprint ↓

Colgate will become carbon neutral in 2019. In 2018 we took innovative measures to decrease our reliance on fossil fuels. A large part of our campus's footprint comes from heating and cooling. To address this Colgate utilized its Green Revolving Loan Fund for two carbon reduction projects. The first, a biomass handling upgrade, allows for increased use of local, sustainable, carbon neutral wood chips and decrease our reliance on fossil fuels to heat our campus buildings. The second project created an infrastructure for our campus townhouses to be heated with less carbon-intensive fuel sources.

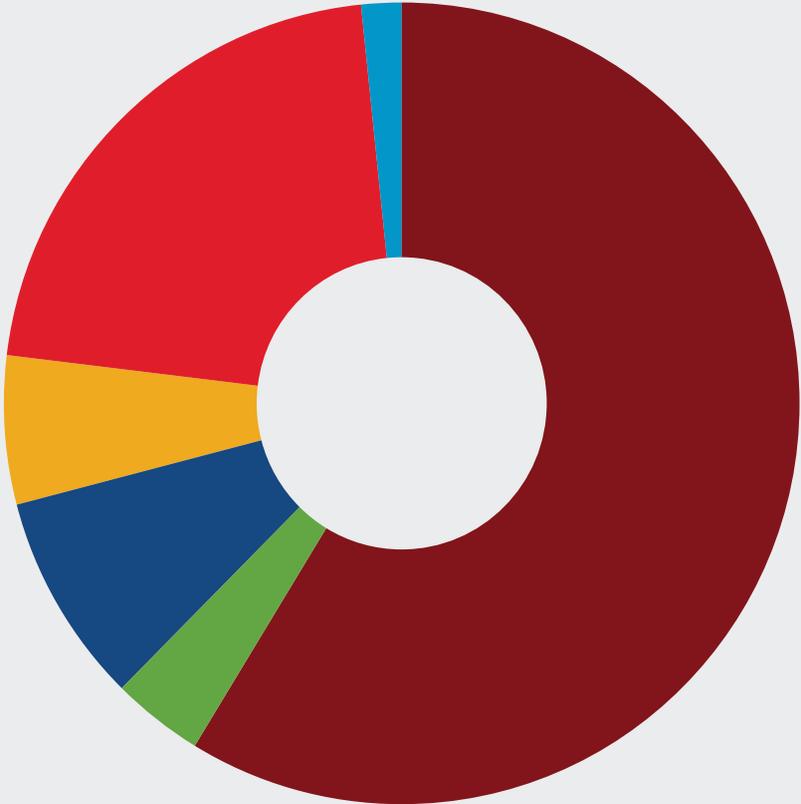
**Together, these projects are projected to reduce our gross carbon footprint by 2,150 tons each year, for many years to come.**

## EMISSIONS DISTRIBUTION 2018

(MTeC02)

HEATING AND COOLING	7,779
ELECTRICITY	489
COMMUTING	1,144
CRUISER & CAMPUS VEHICLES	800
AIR & GROUND TRAVEL	2,836
MISCELLANEOUS	216
WASTE	-25
FOREST CARBON	-3,776
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,463</b>

# OUR CARBON EMISSIONS



- 
- HEATING AND COOLING
  - CRUISER & CAMPUS VEHICLES
  - MISCELLANEOUS
  - ELECTRICITY
  - AIR & GROUND TRAVEL
  - COMMUTING

# STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

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**COLGATE UNIVERSITY**

Office of Sustainability