

ACSF Topical Lunch

Title: “*Strategic and Sustainable Town-Gown Bioenergy Systems*”

Host: Ruth Richardson, Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Date: May 8, 2015, 12:00–1:00 PM – 300 Rice Hall

In this Topical Lunch we will discuss biological waste streams, conversion facilities and research needed to increase sustainable bioenergy usage throughout Ithaca. Cornell’s Carbon Neutrality deadline of 2035 presents an unprecedented sustainability challenge for a major research university. If successful in reaching the deadline, Cornell will be a leader among universities in advancing the sustainable campuses concept. Among the varied conservation efforts and sustainable energy investments recommended in the 2015 Accelerated Working Group’s report are several efforts that utilize biological wastes and byproducts from campus as a source of energy. Cornell’s bioenergy feedstocks include agricultural products and wastes, forest management residues, food waste and even sewage. Proven technologies exist for recovery of usable energy from all of these waste streams but bioenergy facilities require significant capital investment. Promising technologies to expand bioenergy portfolios are in need of opportunities for proof-of-concept studies and research facilities. This Topical Lunch will bring together local public works personnel and Cornell faculty, staff and students to discuss strategies and opportunities for optimized local bioenergy conversion facilities and systems that greatly expand local utilization of biofuel capabilities and help Cornell meet its mandate.