

ACSF Topical lunch: Achieving climate change and sustainability literacy at Cornell University

The global challenges we now face are daunting, in particular our rapidly warming climate and all of the associated ramifications. The Climate Action Plan Acceleration Working Group “believes that every Cornell student, faculty, and staff member must understand both the challenges raised by climate change and ways to generate and participate in solutions.” Before endeavoring to engage the entire Cornell community, we suggest, to keep this manageable, that we initially focus on our students. The overall goal is to ensure that every graduate of Cornell is literate in matters of sustainability and climate change and consequently a better global citizen in their ensuing professional and personal lives. They would also carry with them a deeper respect and appreciation for what the Cornell experience has meant to their lives. There are many courses and engagement opportunities for students.

Topics for discussion include:

1. Scope of the effort: Undergraduate students only?
2. Assessing what courses and other educational/experiential opportunities now exist
 - a. What redundancies and/or gaps exist and how to address them?
 - b. What engagement opportunities exist?
3. The need for sustainability and climate literacy learning outcomes for every student and what they should be?
 - a. Proposed learning goal: *Students will be able to explain and answer questions about 1) climate change, its cause and impacts, 2) how the changing climate is affecting the global life support systems we depend on, and 3) strategies for addressing these grand challenges.*
4. Formation of a working group, *Sustainability and Climate Literacy at Cornell University*, and identify individuals willing to contribute to the group. (Members could come from the across the campus and AWG/PSCC AC).
 - a. Potential subcommittees:
 - i. Assessment of curriculum/experiential opportunities for students
 - ii. What is available for staff (optional)
5. Seek endorsement and support from upper administration via Senior Leadership Climate Action Group