We welcome you to the Ecology House

This welcome letter is designed to give you the information you need to get familiar with the community and includes important move-in day information, leadership opportunities in the house, and more. If you have any questions or need clarification after reading through this letter please feel free to contact me at: mp725@cornell.edu

More about Eco...
The Ecology House is a residential community that maintains a programmatic focus on environmental and economic sustainability and social justice. Eco also offers an environment where residents’ social, spiritual, and academic needs can be fulfilled.

As a community, we strive to become more involved in working with sustainability initiatives across campus and in the community to build bridges with like-minded organizations. Residents are encouraged to both challenge and support each other to integrate different views and ideas within the house. This is accomplished by focusing on the inclusion of everyone in the community.

Summer to do list
Make sure to complete these tasks this summer

Send in a photo of yourself for our photo board by August 1st
Your face should be visible and the photo should be high enough quality to be printed roughly 3x4 inches in size. Please send all photos to ecologyhouse@cornell.edu.

Fill out our Committee Involvement Survey
This survey will be sent out to all 2014-2015 house members to get an idea of their interest in getting involved in our house committees. All information gathered will be provided to committee advisors to follow-up with you about your interest(s).

Register Your Pet(s)- All pets must be registered by August 22nd
The form can be found online on our webpage. This includes pets that are returning to Eco. All pets must be approved by your roommate. You do not need your roommate’s signature, just ask them to send an e-mail to mp725@cornell.edu with their approval.

Picture of several Eco students on the newly constructed sod couch (hidden) after clearing the sod off of our new garden we built last August. This garden is now covered by a greenhouse.

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Safe Space

Mikale Pilgrim
Residence Hall Director
For questions, comments, or concerns please e-mail mp725@cornell.edu
Important Move-In Information

Make sure you are prepared for a wonderful year at Eco

What to bring

- **Your bike**: We have a bike room and several bike racks. There will be a bike room lottery that you can sign-up for when you check-in. You will need to bring a bike lock and please be sure to register your bike with CUPD before bringing it to campus by following the link:
  
  Click on the link towards the bottom of the page

- Each room in Eco has its own bathroom. You should bring a **small bathroom rug and cleaning supplies** or plan to purchase them here in Ithaca. To minimize your impact on the environment, look for cleaning products that are biodegradable and phosphate free. You are expected to clean your own bathroom, but recycled toilet paper is provided.

- **Extra lamps**: Cornell provides some lighting for your room, but you will likely want more. Each room has two desk lamps, one standing lamp, and a light in the bathroom. Halogen lamps are only permitted if the bulb is fewer than 150 watts. To be more sustainable please choose a bright, compact, and energy-saving incandescent lamp. Please note that spider lamps are not permitted in any on-campus residence hall.

- **A sleeping bag** for our many camping trips including our early September retreat in the Adirondacks at the Oswegatchie Educational Center. This year the retreat will be September 5th-7th.

- **A mug, cup, plate, bowl, and utensil set**: It is standard Eco operating procedure that we bring our own set of dishes to programs to prevent extra waste of purchasing these items for each community event. This includes a bowl and spoon for our weekly ice-cream socials.

- **Kitchen items**: We have a large kitchen with fridge space and food cabinets. You can sign up for these spaces at check in. You will need to make sure your name is on all kitchen items you bring and you will need to bring a lock for you cabinet if you would like to lock up your items. You are welcome to bring your own pots and pans, but we have a community set that will also be available.

  Please make sure to record the serial numbers of any expensive equipment you bring such as computers, printers, etc.

What NOT to bring

- **Candles, incense burners, streamers, hot plates, toasters and toaster ovens**: These items violate fire code and are not permitted. Even if a candle does not have a wick it is not allowed.

- **Halogen lights**: unless bulbs are 150 watts or less.

- **Spider lamps**: Not allowed on campus.

- **Multi-plug outlet adapters and non-surge protector extension cords**: These items also violate the NY state campus residential fire code. For a more complete list of fire code specifications please visit:

  Link to fire code/house rules

- **Weapons, illegal drugs, and drug paraphernalia**.

  - **Alcohol and alcohol paraphernalia (if you are under 21)**: this includes flasks, shot glasses, and empty alcohol bottles, even if they are only for collection.

  - **Pets inconsistent with the Eco Pet Policy**: Pets are welcome as long as they are small and confined to a cage or aquarium. Examples include: hamsters, fish, birds, turtles, lizards, snakes, and guinea pigs. Small pets are allowed only if their presence, noise, odor, and waste do not constitute problems for other residents or staff. All pets must be approved by the RHD and registered by completing a pet registration form. Your roommate must also either sign the form or send an approval e-mail by August 22nd and/or **BEFORE** your pet can be in the building. Please note that cats, dogs, ferrets, chickens, poisonous and/or venomous animals are not allowed for students to have in Eco. For more info please view our complete policy at:

  Insert link to on-line policy.
Community Expectations

Committee Expectations

While Steering Committee meetings include updates from each Committee, all of the other committees meet at days and times determined by members of the group. Each committee is advised by a Resident Advisor or the Residence Hall Director who is responsible for making sure the group has access to any resources that the group needs. Each committee is then responsible for taking on new projects and working together to accomplish the goals of the group. Each committee is also responsible for communicating with their advisor about purchasing needs and for working within a budget for each project and/or event. If a project needs additional funding the advisor and the committee can work together to seek out and apply for additional funding from different resources across campus.

Student Expectations

Students of the Ecology House are highly involved and committed to the house. From composting, recycling, attending a committee meeting, or working on a house project each resident contributes to the community as a whole. Many students also become active in the Cornell and Ithaca community.

As a community we also create community standards together. Time is specifically set aside at the beginning of each semester to work together to talk about behaviors that the community wants as part of our community like helping keep the kitchen area clean we well as behaviors that the community does not want in the community like playing loud music after quiet hours.


The Campus Code of Conduct can be found on-line at http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/cms/treasurer/policyoffice/policies/volumes/governance/upload/CCC.pdf
Eco wants you to get involved...

Ecology House has historically met the needs of its community through involving community members in the goal setting, decision making, and leadership of the house. In essence, the Ecology House community is created and perpetuated by the people involved in the house. We have many long-standing traditional events as well as new and creative activities each year.

Eco Housers’ silly picture to celebrate winning the campus wide “Compete to Reduce Challenge”. Each year we compete against other residence halls to see how much we can reduce our energy consumption.

Fill out our Committee Interest Survey and join a committee

Please follow this link to complete our summer committee interest survey: Committee Interest Survey

Our committees are fluid and ever changing to meet the needs and interests of our residents. Here are our current committees and projects:

Steering Committee oversees all the committees and is the governing body of the house. Each committee in the house reports to our weekly steering committee meeting to let the house know about any important upcoming events, activities, and/or initiatives. This committee also plans the house’s traditional social events including the spring formal. Our newly elected chair for the 2014-2015 academic year is Lucia You.

A group of Eco Housers raised the funds to purchase and plant 40 trees on the North West slope of Beebe Lake to celebrate Eco’s 40th Anniversary. Eco was established in 1972.
Leadership and Involvement

Our Community Leadership Opportunities Continued

- **Project Greenhouse** works to build and maintain a Eco high tunnel greenhouse on Eco grounds as well as connect Eco to existing campus partners focused on sustainable agriculture.

- **Eco Outdoor Adventures Committee** which helps coordinate group hiking, camping, climbing, exploring, and other activities.

- **Eco Create Committee** plans craft events that are environmentally conscious such as knitting and sewing, recycled tote bags, and as seen in the photo to the right, recycled scarecrows!

- **Eco Eats Committee** plans community dinners and sustainable cooking classes throughout the year as well as raise money for the house through bake sales.

Giuseppe Tumminello a former Eco-houser is hanging out in the greenhouse helping tend to the summer crop of leafy greens.

Tyler Olson working on the roof of the greenhouse that was finished in the spring of 2014.
Expanding Collaborations
The Ecology House strives to continue to expand our partnerships both on and off campus.

Cornell Greenhouse Horticulture

Over the last 3 years a house committee formed to develop and build Eco’s first greenhouse, named Project Greenhouse. Through the group’s efforts Eco is now partnering with several professors and full time staff in the organic greenhouse on campus. Seedlings are grown in the Guterman Greenhouses and then prepared for transport to the Eco greenhouse.

Project Greenhouse also started a relationship with the Tompkins County– Cornell Cooperative Extension located near the science center in Ithaca. We hope to expand this relationship over the next year by engaging in many of the volunteer opportunities as we continue to donate plants to their community garden projects.

We will continue to partner with Cornell Outdoor Education and more specifically hope to expand our work and partnership with the Team and Leadership Center.

Eco has partnered with the Cornell Plantations for years as part of their gorge adoption program. The Eco Adventurers committee plans monthly visits to the gorge for clean up and trail maintenance. We look forward to continuing to partner with the Plantations to work on more projects including our Eco Cabin! A cabin that Eco students maintain and have access to through out the year to host camping trips.

This year will mark our 26th year we have partnered with Mission: Wolf and brought wolf ambassadors to campus to advocate and educate about the threat of extinction of this beautiful and powerful species. We hope to celebrate by expanding the program and seeking out new co-sponsors for the event to help commemorate a quarter decade of education vs. extinction.

Cornell University R5 Operations: Respect, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

This year we hope to work with the R5 Operations staff to take a field trip to one of the largest recycling centers in the country.

For more information about Residential Programs visit: http://www.campuslife.cornell.edu/campuslife/resprog/index.cfm.

For questions, comments, or concerns please contact: Mikale Pilgrim (607) 255-1094 mp725@cornell.edu