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. Residents are also involved in the community and are truly what makes Eco such a wonderful place.

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

Send in a photo of yourself for our photo board by August 2st
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 2013-2014 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 23rd
The form can be found on-line 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.

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www.sustainablecampus.cornell.edu

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

This July you will receive a link to our committee interest survey. Please take a few minutes to fill out the 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 2013-2014 academic year is Omyia Damaj.

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**

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

**Recycling and Composting Committee** which is responsible for the recycling and composting efforts of the house as well as our annual recycled t-shirt making during Spring Fest on Earth Day at Cornell and other campus wide projects, events, and initiatives such as our house energy competition each spring.

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

**Eco Crafters Committee** plans craft events that are environmentally conscious such as knitting and sewing, recycled tote bags, and more.

**EcoActive** plans educational events and activities around environmental sustainability on and off campus. They visited a local elementary school and spoke with 3rd and 5th graders about the importance of caring for and protecting the environment. The lesson included themes taken from *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss.

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

A winter camping adventure planned by the Adventurers Committee at our Eco Faculty Fellow’s farm.

Delicious vegan cakes served during our birthday bash event.

Over the past year Project Greenhouse raised the funds to build a student design and maintained greenhouse on Eco property. Seen here Eco Housers are planting this year’s crop of tasty greens that will be harvested in late August when students return. Keep an eye out for events and announcements about more construction.
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 emailing transportation@cornell.edu or calling (607) 255-4600.

- 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.

- **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: Fire code and 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 23rd 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 our website. A complete copy will also be e-mailed to each resident in July for your reference. Please contact mp725@cornell.edu with questions.
Save the Date for our Annual House Retreat in the Adirondacks Sept. 6-8th

The Ecology House travels to the Oswegatchie Educational Center in the Adirondacks to engage in fun outdoor activities together. The retreat includes cabin lodging, group meals while at the camp, campfires, low and high ropes activities, and other activities like canoeing, hiking, wildlife spotting, insect collecting, bird watching, and more. This retreat is an excellent way to get to know your fellow Eco-housers. Early in September students can get away for a weekend before the first exams of the Semester and have a blast while getting to know everyone.

While the house covers the majority of the cost of the retreat, residents are asked to pay $60. We also offer financial assistance to any student. The fee can be reduced or waived depending on the student’s need. Please e-mail mp725@cornell.edu with requests. We hope to see you there!

Left: A group of Eco residents challenge themselves to get everyone across the trench as a team. Right: A student swings out over the lake after being pulled by a team of fellow Ecohousers.

Help bring the Wolves to Cornell by volunteering for Mission:Wolf

October 10-11th

For the past 25 years the Ecology House has brought live wolf ambassadors and their handlers to help educate the Cornell community about the importance of re-establishing wolf populations in North America. The wolf is essential in helping reduce deer and elk numbers. Overpopulation has devastating effects on native plant and tree species which in turn disrupt the local habitat of other species that depend on them for food and shelter. Keep an eye out for the volunteer sign-up, we couldn’t make this happen without our volunteers. Tasks include advertising, gathering signatures for our advocacy campaign, and helping at our events held on campus and at Eco.

Above is Magpie, a silver female, who has visited Eco for the past several years. She is one of three wolves that visit the Ecology House and the Cornell campus every year.
Expanding Collaborations Across Campus and in the Community

The Ecology House committee Project Greenhouse partners with the Guterman Organic Greenhouse on campus as well as Betsy Leonard, advisor to the student run organic farm on campus called Dilmun Hill.

Project Greenhouse also maintains 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 house has adopted a portion of the gorge on campus and routinely will go on gorge clean-ups to help remove waste and debrief from our beautiful local natural areas.

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 during fall break. Keep an eye out for more details.

The Sustainability Center of Tompkins County works to help make county residents more aware of all of the sustainability projects and efforts that are happening across the area. They also offer an internship placement program for college students who are interested in working with any of these local organizations. The internships available vary widely and are an excellent way to add practical knowledge to your degree interest or simply get involved in the local community.

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