



Welcome Eco-Housers 2009-2010!

For those of you who will be new to Ecology House in Fall 2009, we're very excited that you'll be joining us! Students describe Eco House as a home away from home, and undoubtedly you'll make lots of new friends and fun memories.

Hopefully the information in this letter will be helpful, so please read on...

Eco House People

The Eco House community is essentially created and perpetuated by its residents. We have many long-standing traditions and many new events that happen each year. Here is some information about the leaders in the house. There are many opportunities for leadership - look for them throughout the year so you can leave your mark on Eco House!

Residence Hall Director (RHD): This letter is actually coming from your Residence Hall Director, **Jeannine Crouse**. I am a full-time, professional staff member who lives in the house. I am active in supervising the staff, advising Steering Committee, overseeing the programming and event planning, promoting collaboration with other halls and RHDs, crisis management, counseling, advising, and housing procedures. I come from Michigan where I attended Northern Michigan University and Michigan State University. I enjoy reading; cooking; snowshoeing; watching *Lost*; and going to the dog park with my basset hound, Abbey. You can contact me at ecologyhouse@cornell.edu with questions about Ecology House or Cornell in general.

Resident Advisor (RA): Ecology House has four Resident Advisors. They live in the house and are upper-class students who act as advisors, peer educators, programming coordinators, role models, community-builders, counselors, policy enforcers, and general leaders for the house. Here are a few words from each of them:

- "Hi Eco Housers! My name is **Sarah Elizabeth Kennedy**, and I'll be your basement-dwelling RA this year. I am a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, majoring in English and American Studies with a minor in Latino Studies (and maybe a minor in Inequality Studies, if I can swing it before the year's through!) I am from the great state of Maine, tucked away in a coastal fishing village between Acadia National Park and Canada. I love kayaking, biking, running, hiking, photography, reading/writing, and getting to know all of the residents of Eco House! I do NOT love liver and onions. Can't wait to meet everyone! Have a great summer and I'll see you in the fall!"
- **Lisa Passmore** is a senior majoring in Human Biology, Health, and Society with a minor in Global Health. She is currently studying in Ecuador, but will return in plenty of time to welcome you to Eco House. When not studying, Lisa enjoys reading, writing, and playing the Cornell chimes (much to the chagrin of west

campus and Collegetown residents). Lisa also enjoys working with the Eco Crafters on projects such as water bottle bird feeders and phone book papier mache.

- My name is **Anthony Liu** and I'm a Government major (Class of 2010) from Hong Kong. I'm really into international relations and politics, but I also have a strong interest in global finance and investment as well (I have an unofficial business minor). Aside from academic things, I'm a proud competitor on the Cornell Sport Taekwondo Team (testing for my black belt this winter, hopefully), and I enjoy piano, drums, PC/console games of all types (including following Korean pro-gaming), and competitive debate. Hope to meet all of you soon!
- Welcome to Eco House! I'm **Regine Mechulan**, a rising junior majoring in Communication in the Ag school. Hailing from Miami, I've always loved the sun, beach and the outdoors (the Everglades are a great place if you're ever down here). I'm an RA on the first floor, rooms 114-125, and even though it's my second semester as an RA, I've lived in Eco since freshman year--and have loved every minute of it! Enjoy the rest of your summer and can't wait to meet you in the fall!

The Eco Welcome Wagon (EWWs) is a group of Eco House residents and out-of-house members who volunteer to help you with your transition to Cornell and to Eco House. You'll be meeting these students as you arrive and they will be planning activities specifically for you during Orientation Week and the first six weeks of classes. These students can act as your initial connection point to the Eco House community and will share culture, history, and information about how you can get involved and leave your mark on the community!

The **Residential Student Congress (RSC)** is an organization dedicated to promoting communication among the residential communities and encouraging leadership in their members. Each residence hall elects General Executive Members (GEMs) who represent their residential community in the RSC, help to develop pertinent programs and initiatives, and present their community's concerns. If you are interested in becoming Eco's GEM, look for information about elections the first week of classes.

YOU! This year, Ecology House will be filled with a wonderful mix of students from around the country and the world! Many Eco Housers were involved in environmental groups in their high schools and/or communities. Some Eco Housers are interested in animals, some are interested in recycling, some have great knowledge about ecology, and some are new to environmentalism and ecology, but are eager to learn. Many of them have an affinity for the outdoors. It is always a great mix of people who have many different ideas and experiences to bring to the House!

Eco House Faculty Fellows

The Eco House Faculty Fellows are Dr Tom Eisner, Dr Beth Buckles, and Dr Tom Whitlow.

Professor Eisner received a Ph.D. degree (1955) from Harvard University and has been a Cornell faculty member since 1957. He is the director of CIRCE (Cornell Institute for Research in Chemical Ecology) and a member of the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior. His research specialty is the chemical language of insects. He is active in various conservation issues, human rights affairs, photography, and filmmaking. He is also an amateur conductor and classical pianist.

Tom Whitlow is an Associate Professor of Horticulture. When he was a small boy, Professor Whitlow wanted to be a herpetologist, but was persuaded by guidance counselors and key mentors that a better living was to be had in botany. Ultimately the choice was a happy one. Tom grew up to be a plant ecologist with a broad appetite for understanding how plants have adapted to stress. He received his BS degree from the New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1972 and his Ph.D. degree in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 1982. He currently works as a plant ecologist in the Urban Horticulture Institute where his research focuses on the effects of abiotic and biotic stresses on trees and the effect of trees on particulate air pollution. Tom lives on a farm on an unpaved road with his family and too many horses to count. He enjoys bicycling, backpacking, kayaking, cooking, music, playing guitar, poetry, travel, photography, fine woodworking, and spending time with his family.

Beth Buckles is an Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the College of Veterinary medicine. She has always been interested in the diseases of wild animals, especially birds, and how diseases affect wild animal populations. She received her BS degree in Ecology, Systematics and Evolution from Cornell in 1992. While at Cornell she lived in Ecology house as a resident from 1989-1991 and was an Eco House RA from 1991-1992. After leaving Ithaca, she received her DVM and MS from The Ohio State University in 1996, and her PhD from University of California, Davis in 2004. During this prolonged education, Dr. Buckles has studied the diseases of a diverse group of animals including rheas, cats, chickens, sea lions and island foxes. When not in the lab, Beth enjoys birding, hiking, Sci Fi and spending time with her dogs and cats.

Eco Spaces and Places

Eco House rooms are all double rooms arranged on a central corridor. Since each room has a private bathroom, corridors are co-ed by room. Each room includes two extra-long twin beds, two desks, two desk lamps, one floor lamp, two desk chairs, two dressers, one closet, one wardrobe, two bookshelves, one telephone, two Ethernet jacks, two wastebaskets, and one recycling basket. Bathrooms have a shower, sink with vanity cupboard, mirror with medicine cabinet, and toilet.

In Ecology House, there are several common areas for play and study.

For studying, there are two study lounges, and many groups choose to study in the Fireside Lounge or the lobby.

The Fireside Lounge has many opportunities for non-academic activities. It is a great place for students to meet and hang out. In the Fireside Lounge there is a big screen TV, a long dinner table perfect for community dinners, a piano, ping-pong, pool and foosball tables, as well as a wood pellet stove.

Outside, the Ecology House is surrounded by lots of green space. There is a student-run garden, a compost pile, sand volleyball court, outdoor furniture, a gas cooking grill, and plenty of room outside to play (or study).

The Lobby of the house is a central meeting/study/socializing place and students often just hang out there. The lobby is also the home of the Eco Journal, (the House journal that everyone is welcome to read and to contribute their thoughts). If you want to delve into the lives of past residents, Eco Journals dating all the way back to the 1980s are available in the second floor study room.

Eco House Programs

In previous years, Eco Housers enjoyed many exciting programs and activities, including:

- Weekly Ice Cream Night
- Weekly Faculty Fellow Dinners in the dining halls
- “Pet Health Night” when faculty from the Vet School talk to residents about how to keep their pets healthy and happy
- House retreat to Camp Oswegatchie in the Adirondack Mountains
- Visit from “Mission: Wolf”, a wolf refuge in Colorado
- The Annual Eco Disco (recently presented as “Eco 80’s Dance”), where “Disco isn’t dead, it’s just been recycled”
- Share the Warmth, an annual clothing drive that encompasses the entire Cornell campus and occurs every November/December to help provide winter clothes for those that need them

Eco House Committees

Ecology House is a community based, environmentally aware program house. Its success is strongly linked to student participation. The Eco Steering Committee is Eco’s version of hall council and is the umbrella organization for Eco house committees. All student committees have input on the house’s direction and atmosphere. Remember Ecology House is what you make it. Below is a brief description of each committee in the House:

- **Steering Committee** oversees all the other committees and is the governing body of the House. This committee is the central communication point for house happenings. Steering Committee guides the direction of the House, distributes funds to support programs and projects, and serves as a sounding board for ideas.
- **Recycling Committee** is responsible for the house recycling efforts, including the compost. We also help to organize Share the Warmth, a yearly clothing recovery drive, and have been involved in a campaign to get the university to switch over to recycled paper. In the past we collected batteries for recycling from other residence halls, but this year we scored a major victory when Cornell started its own battery recycling program.

- **Eco Players** are a group of individuals who enact environmentally based performances. Our favorite is an adaptation of Dr Seuss *The Lorax*, which they perform in an interactive style followed by a discussion of the current day implications and possible actions one can take to ensure a healthy equilibrium with our earth, its resources and inhabitants.
- **Social Committee** provides social activities and opportunities. Activities include (but are not limited to!): Ice Cream Night, Eco Hoe Down, Winter Formal, Community Hours (the infamous talentless talent show), Eco Disco, “Whine and Cheese Nights”, a forum for venting and snacking during finals, and numerous other community-building activities.
- **Eco Crafters** plan craft projects that are environmentally conscious or focused. This year the crafters made egg shell tulips, created bird feeders, led the house mosaic project, and sponsored various other crafty activities.
- **Eco Adventurers** are a group that likes to enjoy the outdoors. They enjoy gorge hikes, cross-country Capture the Flag, ice skating, bowling (when the chemistry department doesn’t take over the bowling alley), etc. They’ll share the love of the outdoors with anyone interested, so check them out!
- **Ecopella** is an example of an experimental committee that was formed by a group of residents who were interested in learning to sing a cappella. They enjoyed singing Spice Girls songs and delivered singing telegrams to the RAs during RA appreciation week.

The committees depend on resident participation, so come along with all your energy, enthusiasm and ideas to share! The committees are flexible and change slightly from year to year depending on members’ interests and ideas. Being that Eco House is such a strong and involved community, we encourage each and every resident to participate on a committee. Are the committees listed not quite your cup of tea? If you think we’re missing something you could always start up a new committee!

What to Bring to Eco and Cornell

- Bring your bike if you'd like! There is a locked bike shed behind the House as well as bike racks. You should plan to bring a bike lock for when you are traveling around campus. Each student must register his/her bike with Cornell University Police.
- Each room in Ecology House has its own bathroom. You should bring a small rug and cleaning supplies or plan to purchase them here in Ithaca. To minimize your environmental impact, look for cleaning products that are biodegradable and phosphate free. Students are expected to clean their own bathrooms but recycled toilet paper is provided.
- Extra lamps for your room. Cornell provides some lighting for the room, but you will likely want more. Currently there are two desk lamps and one standing lamp in each room. Halogen lamps are only permitted if the bulb is fewer than 150 watts. There are many compact and bright, energy-saving incandescent lamps on the market. Please also note that spider lamps are not permitted in the residence halls.
- A sleeping bag (if you own one) for Oswegatchie.

- A mug/ plate/ bowl/ utensils. It is standard Eco House operating procedure that we bring our own mug, etc. to programs to prevent purchasing or using disposable products.
- If you plan to cook, you can bring kitchen supplies although we have community supplies (pots, pans, baking sheets, utensils, etc). Be sure your name is on everything. Our kitchen has locking cabinets where you can keep your supplies. If you wish to use one of these cabinets, be sure to bring a padlock.
- Record serial numbers of expensive equipment such as computers, printers, stereos, TV's, VCR's, cameras, bikes, etc.
- Pets are welcome as long as they are small and confined to a cage or aquarium. Examples include the following: hamsters, fish, birds, turtles, lizards, snakes, rabbits, or guinea pigs. These animals are allowed as long as their presence, noise, odor, and waste do not constitute problems for other residents or the Campus Life Staff. **Sorry, NO CATS, DOGS, FERRETS, POISONOUS or VENOMOUS ANIMALS.** You will need to file a registration form and do a few things before you can bring your pet. You can find the full pet policy online at: <http://www.campuslife.cornell.edu/campuslife/housing/undergraduate/ecology-house.cfm>. All pets must be approved and registered with the **RHD PRIOR** to entering the house, which will include roommate approval. If you have any pet questions please contact us at ecologyhouse@cornell.edu.

What NOT to Bring

- Weapons of any kind
- Illegal drugs or paraphernalia
- Alcohol or alcohol paraphernalia (eg. Flasks, shot glasses, empty alcohol bottles) if you are under 21
- Halogen lights, unless bulbs are less than 150 watts
- Spider lamps
- Candles
- Pets inconsistent with the pet policy

We all look forward to you joining the Eco House community! See you in August!