

ASC Team Green In Action

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Training students to meet demand for renewable energy technology

There is currently limited technical expertise in installing and maintaining renewable energy systems. This critical need is being addressed with the creation of the Alfred State College Center for Renewable Energy. Alfred State students will receive training in the institute's specialized laboratories.



The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) recognized the importance of the Renewable Energy Institute and awarded the college a \$108,000 grant to equip the labs. The college is also utilizing a \$20,000 grant from BP to purchase an operating photovoltaic system on the Wellsville campus.

“Alfred is excited about the opportunity to expose future electricians, technicians, and engineers to renewable energy,” said Craig Clark, executive director of the Wellsville Campus and dean of the School of Applied Technology. “This technology is important for the future of our graduates and the United States to be competitive.”

Trayless Dining Debuts

Students joined the trayless revolution when they returned to school this fall. Dining service organizations across the country are removing trays from dining halls in order to reduce food waste and save both water and electricity.

Karen Canne, director of dining services for Alfred State's Auxiliary Campus Enterprises and Services (ACES), expects a reduction in food waste by as much as 25 percent. The trayless plan also saves on water and electricity, as all those extra trays and dishes no longer need to be rinsed and washed. This project is part of the college's on-going initiative to reduce its environmental impact.

Perhaps a drop in waste will lead to another drop in waist. With that freshman 15 pounds lurking just around the corner, maybe some students will skip those indulgent “just a bite” habits and battle the bulge right at the food service line.

The company also partners with the **Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture** to serve organic greens and produce grown on campus in Central Dining Hall.

Auxiliary Campus Enterprises and Services, Inc. (ACES) is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the mission of Alfred State College by providing dining services, campus bookstores, telecommunications, transportation, and vending services to Alfred State College students.

Can fryer grease be transformed into a usable, “greener” fuel to power diesel engines? **We know the answer is yes,** thanks to

Alfred State College robotic and computerized control technician students who took on the task of building, implementing, and testing this cleaner fuel last spring.

In the spring of 2008, a new reactor tank was located in Alfred at the Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture. In a gradual process, ACES (Auxiliary Campus Enterprises and Services), which operates and manages the college’s 11-vehicle fleet transportation system, will power some of its diesel fleet with this greener bio-diesel fuel.



“ACES and Alfred State are each committed to incorporating environmentally sustainable practices into present and future business activities,” said Thomas G. Massara, executive director of ACES.

And there’s plenty of grease to go around! This bio-diesel fuel is refined from the college’s dining facilities in Alfred and the Culinary Arts Department on the Applied Technology Campus in Wellsville.

Alfred State College and the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) establish the Pioneer Farm. It will focus

on teaching grazing systems and animal husbandry practices that enhance land use and animal well-being.

The AWI is also providing funding for a minimum of eight annual scholarships for college students who demonstrate interest in high welfare husbandry and grazing systems.

“Because soaring grain, fuel, and land prices are prompting livestock producers toward managed grazing systems, this is an opportune time for us to join forces with the Animal Welfare approved program to model and teach modern grazing systems,” said **Dr. Matthew Harbur, assistant professor, Agriculture and Horticulture Department and director, Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture at Alfred State College.**

The Pioneer Farm includes 40 cleared acres of pasture, hay, and small grain fields for animal husbandry; 50 acres of woodlot; animal housing; pasture fencing, watering, and feeding systems; and classroom and laboratory space. The farm grounds are located within the Alfred State College Farm Laboratory, but managed separately from other Alfred State College animal operations.

Growing Agripreneurs At Alfred State College, respect for the environment is not a concept; it’s a way of doing business.

Alfred State is taking a leadership role in organic dairy and crop production and in alternative energy research, including bio-diesel.

With the Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture, Alfred State College has stayed true to its roots in agriculture, while attempting to break new ground in organic food and milk production, land and herd management, and farm-based alternative renewable energy production.