



# INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

## In this Newsletter

- [Internship program - Meet the interns!](#)
- [Events](#)
- [FPU Curriculum](#)
- [Student "Green Fee"](#)
- [Energy: Renewable sources, and Energy Conservation](#)
- [Plant-based Diet/ Local Foods](#)
- [Food Waste/Compost on Campus](#)
- ["Road Show" – traveling educational campaign](#)
- [New Student Orientation](#)

## Introducing the Institute

Franklin Pierce is stepping up to the challenge of climate change. The new Institute, which began operations in the fall of 2019, is dedicated to a mission of raising awareness of this challenge and promoting efforts to meet it, in the University curriculum and its culture, in campus operations, and in the local region and beyond.

A re-purposing of the former Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture, the organization's structure includes two components: the Campus Sustainability Council, focused on best practices in such areas as energy use and minimization of food waste; and the Community Climate Consortium, looking to create partnerships with other area organizations pursuing climate work.

Membership in the Institute is interdisciplinary, drawing faculty from all three of the University's Colleges, and is open to staff members, students, and local residents, as well. Much of the good feeling that prevails at our meetings, and much of the success of our initial ventures can be attributed to this democratic mix of participants, and in particular to the energy and dedication of our student members. We welcome new recruits to the Institute, and the cause of climate action, at any time. Everyone, regardless of background, has something to contribute. *Institute Co-coordinators are Jerry Burns and Catherine Koning.*

*The United Nations estimates that only ten years remain to take the far-reaching measures needed to prevent irreversible climate change, with potentially catastrophic consequences for life on earth. Let's make those years count at Franklin Pierce.*

## Internship program

In Spring 2019 the ICA hired three interns, Each student was assigned to two of the activity areas, and they coordinated to promote the actions of the ICA via Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and RavenNation. They also worked with student volunteers to organize, and support the live events as well as the digital Earth Week. Two other students, Monadnock Sustainability Hub, a local organization focused on many aspects of sustainability. The ICA looks forward to hiring new interns again in Fall 2020!

# MEET THE INTERNS!

## Kassi Jaskolski

Howdy! My name is Kassi and I am a recent graduate with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a Certificate in Sustainability. I have always had a passion for the outdoors and building a strong community around me. I



started the hiking club at Franklin Pierce and started working as an intern with the ICA my senior year. Before the ICA, I spent a summer working for the Conservation Corps where I got hands-on experience restoring the Earth. I focused most of my energy on raising and spreading awareness for each subcommittee, and personally helped take part in incorporating plant-based diets, renewable energy, events, and incorporating more climate-based education into the curriculum. Outside of the ICA you can find me hiking around our campus trails, exploring Pearly Pond, listening to music and dancing with friends!

## Ayodelé O'uhuru



I am a recent graduate with a B.S. in environmental science, and two minors in chemistry and biology. My education path was fueled by my love to help others, and my dream to be more connected with nature. I am very passionate about urban ecology, conservation, and climate adaptation science, and hope to have a lasting career bringing environmental changes to urban communities. I have been a student member for the ICA for two years, and in the spring 2020, I was hired as an intern for the organization. I have learned a lot about framework planning, and the insights needed to implement new changes, and policy. I worked closely with the events, curriculum and

green fee committees, researching what was already in place in the curriculum of FPU, and finding possible financial solutions, to implement change. Recently, I was by the USGS, for the position of Outreach Coordinator for the Refugia Research Coalition. In my free time, you can find me in the kitchen, making new desserts, exploring what outside has to offer, or spending time with family and friends.

# MEET THE INTERNS!



## Victoria St. Jean

Tori St. Jean, the only first-year student among the interns, came to Franklin Pierce as part of the first National Science Foundation STEM cohort. This grant recognized outstanding students with interests in basic Biology or Environmental Science, and provides scholarships and curriculum enhancement. Tori worked on the cafeteria food waste/compost group, the Road Show group and the Firstyear Orientation group. In addition, she was very active in creating a social media presence on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and RavenNation. Although she is transferring to another school this year, she did a great job as an intern, and we will miss her dearly!

## Zlanpea Weyhee

A native of the Chicago area, Zlanpea Weyhee graduated in 2020 with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Criminal Justice. She worked as an intern for the Monadnock Energy Hub, focusing on educating people about “Carbon Cashback”. Zlanpea worked with Rindge resident Pat Martin to put together a visually appealing powerpoint and a video on carbon pricing, which she presented twice at community information sessions in Rindge ahead of the March 10th vote. She and Pat worked on a Carbon Cashback roleplay using Monopoly money, and she created social media events which were used to attract community participants to the information session. She writes, “I am grateful that I had the opportunity to be exposed to such an amazing topic. All in all, I enjoyed the internship- it met my expectations. The communication that we had was great!



## Hannah Cuzner

Hannah, A Junior Environmental Science major this year, worked with the Monadnock Sustainability Hub on Electric Vehicles. She worked with Mary Ewell on promotional materials and FAQs for social media. The plan was to put together and promote several events for Earth Week in Keene and other areas, however, much of this work was re-directed because of the COVID19 pandemic. Hannah is participating in the FPU-Antioch University 3-2 program, and will spend her Senior year starting her Master of Science program in Env. Studies at Antioch in Keene, NH.



# EVENTS 2019-2020

Apr 2019 **Deliberative Forum** A dialogue facilitated by the New England Center for Civic Life, intended for the two purposes of promoting awareness of the climate crisis and weighing different options for the University to respond. Attended by 80 students, faculty, and staff, the forum promoted the formation of the Institute.

Oct 2019 **Sustainability Fair** Local farmers and crafters, as well as student artists and creators, marketed their wares in a Spagnuolo Hall event coordinated by senior Laurel Branco. Over 100 students, staff, and area residents participated and/or



attended.

Dec 2019 **FPU Sustainability Audit** FPU pledged to conduct a self-audit of its sustainability practices, according to the United Nations 17 Goals for Sustainable Development. ICA Co-Chairs Jerry Burns and Catherine Koning worked with VP Ken Ferreira to assemble a group of faculty, staff and students to see how University operations measure up in creating a learning and working environment that meets these social, economic and environmental standards <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Nov 2019 **Institute Launch** 100 attendees were welcomed by University President Kim Mooney and offered a 3-part presentation on the climate issue by Institute faculty. Representatives from 15 local organizations set up tables and interacted with students, and discussion circles brainstorming ideas for climate action closed the 2+ hour event. The launch received extensive coverage in local media, including an interview with Catherine Koning on NH Public Radio.

Jan 2020 **New Hampshire Legislative Outlook** Sponsored by the NH League of Conservation Voters and hosted at FPU by the Institute, this preview of environmental and energy measures under consideration during the upcoming session of the state legislature attracted 30-40 policy makers and activists in the area, and members of the University community.

Feb 2020 **Lecture by Sam Miller** Dr. Miller, Professor of Meteorology at Plymouth State University, addressed an audience of 40 on the topic of “Community Development in a Time of Climate Crisis.” He also met informally with Institute members and visited the Environmental Science Junior Seminar.

Apr 2020 **(Online) Earth Day** Created by Institute students, Ayodelé O’uhuru, Cassandra Jaskolski, and Tristan Burlingame, the week long celebration was geared to virtually engage members of the Franklin Pierce community, with online presentations, facts and activities along with the official launch to the institutes social media platforms. On Earth Day, an University-wide Kahoot was played via zoom with more than 30 students in attendance.



May 2020 **(Online) Academic Showcase panel** Student members Tristan Burlingame, Cassandra Jaskolski, Ayodelé O’uhuru, and Victoria St. Jean conducted a panel discussion via Zoom on the topic, “[From Covid-19 to Climate Change: What Can We Learn?](#)” Alyssa Lewis and Hannah Cuzner put together a poster outlining a proposal for ground-mounted solar. (see [Energy](#) page)

# ACTIONS

## Curriculum

The ICA Curriculum Subcommittee has found a starting point for its work in statement at right. At Franklin Pierce, too, while environmental and earth sciences GLE offerings do highlight climate issues, overall attention falls far short of the magnitude and the urgency of the “problem,” and short also, of the increasing demand for more climate education on the part of a younger generation of students.

To date the efforts of the Subcommittee have focused on gathering information about practices elsewhere. Intern Ayodele O’uhuru has discovered through her Senior Capstone research the example of Dickinson College, where an initiative called “Cooling the Liberal Arts Curriculum: A Campaign for Climate Education” has led to some 100 courses, throughout the sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts, dealing with climate and sustainability issues. The Hess and Collins study also presented some other promising possibilities for integrating climate into the general education curriculum.

Members of the Subcommittee are considering these two approaches, one through the majors as at Dickinson, and one through general education, or perhaps a combination of both, as the best means of ramping up climate instruction at Franklin Pierce. Over the coming fall, we hope to engage students, faculty, and academic administrators in this crucial curricular conversation.

## Green Fee

The goal of the Green Fee Pledge is to bring awareness to the commitment signed by the university stating it would help promote the research, education, and community engagement efforts needed to create a sustainable society, and to eliminate net greenhouse gas emissions from in campus operations. This Pledge would be given to all students in the form of a letter. The fee would be \$23.90, which Ayo O’uhuru came up with by adding \$19.70, the year of the first Earth Day, plus \$4.20, the day of the first Earth Day. The fees will aid campus-wide improvements such as: motion sensed lights, possible solar array, converting buildings to LEED, giving out orientation packages to all incoming students (reusable mugs, etc.), improvements to residential dorm bathrooms and kitchenettes, along with creating new job opportunity for students within residential life as an Ecorep. Our next steps will be to craft the wording of the Pledge letter, and to present the plan to the Student Government Association board for student approval, then Student Financial Services.

*“Although climate change is arguably the most important global problem of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, universities and colleges have failed...to ensure that all students are exposed to education” on the subject.*

*— Hess and Collins, researchers*

# ACTIONS

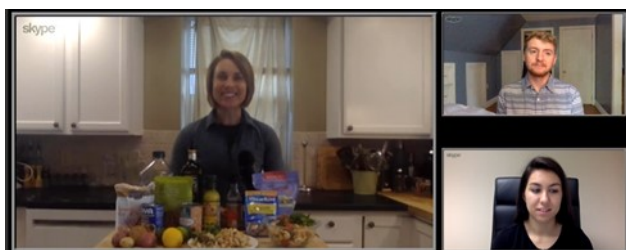
## Energy

The subcommittee for renewable energy and energy conservation on campus and in the community has begun to take action. Working with Doug Lear who is the head of facilities at Franklin Pierce University, we learned that an energy audit, which shows how much energy the campus uses by building has been performed for several buildings (e.g. Marcucella Hall); the focus was on electrical use. We have also investigated other options, such as heating using purified waste vegetable oil. Members of this committee are participating in the **Monadnock Sustainability Hub's** Community Power group, which is working with statewide organizations to be able to provide clean, green electricity to homeowners in the region through buyer's collectives.

Juniors Alyssa Lewis and Hannah Cuzner also researched options for ground-mounted solar panels on the Rindge campus and assembled a [poster for Academic Showcase](#); they identified two possible locations, for two ground mounted installations totaling about 5 acres, which would generate 50% of our electricity needs on the Rindge campus! The next step is to assess the ecological and social impacts of these large-scale photovoltaic projects, and to work with local and regional solar installers to investigate possible cost-share or grant programs to pay for the project.

## Plant-based Diet/ Local Foods

The plant-based diet subcommittee's goal is to create a more sustainable diet for the Franklin Pierce campus. In February, we met



with Rebecca Hunt and John Benouski, Sodexo's dietitian and manager to develop an action plan. The

goal over the next year is to offer more plant-based options, taking student suggestions into consideration, and provide education on preparing plant-based options both in the cafeteria and in dorm rooms/apartments.

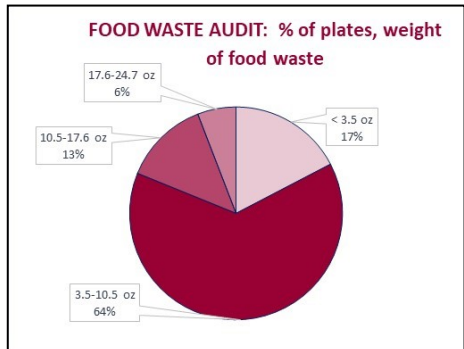
To start the collaboration, Sodexo and the ICA teamed together for Wellness Wednesday where students created their own avocado toast, and learned more about plant based food choices. Next, a [video segment for the Academic Showcase](#) was put together to introduce students to the benefits of plant-based eating for individual health, as well as the health of our planet, provide instruction on preparing simple and cost-effective plant-based meals and snacks in a college dorm room or apartment, and help students navigate healthy and sustainable choices offered on campus. With the outbreak of Covid-19, and all institute efforts moving to a virtual platform, the Fitzwater Center approached Dr. Christoph to host a cooking show that showcases mainly plant-based options.

["Christoph's Kitchen"](#) aired each Wednesday through April and May. Recently, the decision was made to continue the show throughout the summer, and two student hosts have been added to the show each week in order to better speak to the college students' experiences.

# ACTIONS

## Food Waste/Compost

Victoria St. Jean, Professor Lisa Bomba and John Benouski, Sodexo General Manager, worked on reducing food waste on campus. Right before spring break, they collected and weighed food waste from 124 plates during one meal cycle. Figure 1 is an aggregate of the data collected. The audit showed an average 150.08 grams (5.29 ounces) of food waste per plate; the total waste in grams was 18,610.08 grams (41.45 pounds). Ultimately, the ICA hopes to work with Sodexo to create a visual display of the data collected to be posted in the dining hall area's to inform the FPU community about the issue of food waste and the impact that it has on climate change.



Although we had made contact with a composting service in March, due to the outbreak of Covid-19, we are unable to proceed with implementing any composting endeavors at this time, it will be pursued when normal operations on campus resume. Composting services or commercial organic waste haulers will remove all food service waste, typically excluding plastic, metal, and glass, they then grind and 'compost' the waste using heat for sterilization. Over a much shorter period of time than your typical 'backyard' composting, the waste becomes soil that can be used by farms and consumers.

## "Road Show" - Travelling Educational Campaign

As part of an educational institution, the Institute for Climate Action is assembling a series of lectures and events designed to improve people's understanding of the climate crisis. We are working on putting together a flexible talk that could be tailored to each audience, which could range from middle school children to adults in the Rotary Club, the Women's Club and other civic groups that meet regularly but do not necessarily focus on environmental issues. Prior to the COVID19 crisis, our intent had been to launch the lecture series in May 2020, but our target now is Fall 2020, either virtually or in person. Fred Rogers, Jerry Burns, Catherine Koning, Pat Martin and Alyssa Lewis are involved with this subcommittee.

## New Student Orientation

For this subcommittee, the main goal is to find an effective way to make resources regarding climate awareness and sustainability available to the incoming class. Subcommittee members, Victoria St. Jean, Professor John Harris, Tristan Burlingame, Professor Douglas Challenger, determined that the best way to present the information was through a short, engaging film rather than a live presentation. The film would feature current students and would also show the outdoor opportunities that are available to our community such as: on and off campus hiking trails, guided walks, and nature restoration projects. We intend to create resource material such as eco-friendly college supply lists to provide to students on the website.