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CWRU's Office For Sustainability E-Newsletter

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# Sustainable CWRU

## About Us

The **Office for Sustainability** is dedicated to creating sustainable change on campus by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, promoting local food, recycling, and sustainable purchasing, as well as advocating for individual and institutional behavior change.

### Questions/Feedback?

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## Energy Competition Wraps Up Congratulations to The Village & STJ! Unplugged party Friday Nov 18

The Office for Sustainability, SSC and RHA hosted a two week res hall energy reduction competition from Halloween through November 14. Residence halls on Northside, Southside and The Village @ 115th (including the new Stephanie Tubbs Jones Hall) competed to reduce their energy consumption. The Village & STJ won and reduced their energy usage 7% from baseline. Northside reduced consumption 4% and Southside saw a 3.5% reduction.


**An outdoor, unplugged party will be held for the winning cluster this coming Friday, Nov. 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the courtyard between House 2 & 3 at the Village to honor and celebrate**


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### Upcoming Events

[Annual meeting of the Doan Brook Watershed Partnership](#)  
Wednesday, November 16  
6:30pm - 8:30pm


[Cuyahoga River fire discussion at City Club](#)  
Friday, November 18  
Noon - 1:30pm  
The City Club

[Health Disparities Dinner: Lead Poisoning](#)  
Saturday, November 19  
6:00pm  
CWRU Thwing Ballroom

[Green Bag Lunch: Greening the Holiday Season with Upcycled Gifts](#)  
Tuesday, November 29  
Noon - 2:00pm

& cookout, complete with s'mores and hotdogs (and veggie dogs). Free, awesomely soft, CWRU Unplugged long-sleeved tees will be given out to the first 250 energy champions from the winning res halls.

We encourage you to keep reducing your energy usage to practice for next time!



### We Need Your Input - New Transportation Survey

The Office for Sustainability and UCI need your input! Please take a short survey on how staff and faculty get to work and how students move around campus and Cleveland. The survey will help better measure our commuter carbon footprint and set goals to reduce it.

**Take the faculty/staff survey [here](#)**, participants can enter to win the following (all surveys are anonymous!):

- One of three \$10 gift certificates to Blazing Saddle Cycle
- One of five single class passes to Cleveland Yoga + reusable bag + water bottle
- One of seven 5-day unlimited RTA passes for use on RTA buses, trains and the HealthLine
- PLUS All faculty/staff survey participants can bring the survey confirmation page to Blazing Saddle Cycle to receive \$25 off a bike tune-up

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Atrium Tables

CWRU FreeCycle  
Friday, December 2  
Noon - 5:00pm  
Tink Senior Classroom

[Retrofitting Suburbia for 21st Century Challenges](#)  
Friday, December 9  
5:30pm  
Cleveland Museum of Natural History

**Of the Moment**  
[The BBC shares some hope for the future for our warming planet.](#) Britain, the United States and many other countries made pledges to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions during the Paris Climate Agreement. It is expected that world will continue with these commitments and the US will maintain theirs even without strong backing from Washington DC in the near future. The majority of Americans support the US honoring its commitments.

Take the student survey [here](#), students can win:

- Gift cards to Barnes & Noble
- Solar cell phone chargers
- Klean Kanteen water bottles
- A long sleeve Patagonia fleece



**Green Bag Lunches**  
**Greening the Holiday Season with Upcycled Gifts with The Upcycle Parts Shop**  
Nov. 29 | Noon to 1:00pm Tink Senior Classroom |  
1:00pm to 2:00pm Tink Atrium Tables | RSVP [here](#)

**Save the Date**  
**Natural Capital with The Nature Conservancy**  
Jan. 17 | Noon to 1:00pm | Tink Senior Classroom

**Climate Action Plan Update**  
Feb. 15 | Noon to 1:00pm | Tink Senior Classroom

**Rain Gardens & Rain Barrels**  
Feb. 22 | Noon to 1:00pm | Tink Senior Classroom

**UHBikes 101**  
Mar. 22 | Noon to 1:00pm | Tink Senior Classroom

Note that our past Green Bag Lunch presentations can be found on our [website](#).

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**Student FreeCycle Event**

The Office for Sustainability Student Ambassadors will be hosting a FREEcycle event on December 2 from noon - 5:00pm in the Tink Senior Classroom.

Used clothes, books, home items, school supplies, and unopened nonperishable foods will be available to "shoppers" at no cost! Items can be dropped off at the event or during the preceding week in collection boxes in area offices (Wade/Fribley) and residence halls around campus. Donation and trade are encouraged but are not required to participate.

The collection of unwanted items is being done with the assistance of the Residence Life Staff in the style of our Spring REScycle. All items that remain after the event will be donated directly to the Thea Bowman Center and other local charities.

Photo credit: Lauren Jong



**Health Disparities Dinner: Lead**

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Advocates for Cleveland Health is hosting a dinner event this Saturday, November 19 at 6:00pm in the Thwing Ballroom. It is a hackathon format to increase awareness on campus and action surrounding lead paint poisoning in Cleveland. The goal of the event is to have every table work together as a team with the help of student and faculty/staff facilitators to come up with an action plan to solve the lead problem. Dr. Dorr Dearborn PhD, MD, will be the keynote speaker of the night. The free event includes a three course dinner catered by Mia Bella. RSVP [online](#). Interact on the [Facebook event page](#).



**Sustainability Ambassadors Have Been Busy!**

Our student ambassadors have been busy working on many sustainability initiatives this semester including working on drafting a campus tree plan and Tree Campus USA application, helping create and market above mentioned transportation survey, connecting all food related campus groups, running the res hall energy contest, organizing the upcoming freeCycle event, investigating ways to improve recycling in greek housing, working on creating a green building occupant guides and more. The Office for Sustainability is really grateful for their work!

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## Microbead Week

Microbeads are tiny pieces of scrubbing plastic found in beauty products such as facial scrub and toothpaste. The beads are so small that they do not get filtered out sewage systems. They wash up on shores and are eaten by fish and those who eat them (read: people!). Pollution of any form easily bonds to plastics. DDT, an infamously strong insecticide, although no longer allowed in many countries still exists in our environment and has been found “glommed” to microbeads inside the bodies of fish. Most fish cannot digest plastic – which looks a lot like food to them – and so their bellies fill with pollutants while their internal organs absorb the toxins.

Join Professor Odenbrett's Restoring the Great Lakes: Opportunities and Challenges class from Monday November 21 through Wednesday November 23 daily 10:00am - 2:00pm at the Tink Atrium Tables. The class along with SSC and Sustainability Ambassadors will be giving away eco-friendly exfoliates to those who turn in used facial scrub or toothpaste with microbeads (look for polypropylene, polyethylene, or butylene glycol in ingredient list). Collected products will be given to [5 Gyres](#), a research group working against ocean plastic pollution. Learn more on the [Facebook event](#).



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## GREEN COLLEGES



### CWRU Listed in Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges

The Princeton Review recently published their Guide to Green Colleges which included a total of 361 schools. CWRU earned a score of 94 out of a possible 99. The company chose institutes of higher education to be included on the list based on "Green Rating" score. Only schools with a score of 80 or higher were included. Ratings were compiled using information given directly from institutions on sustainability-related policies, practices, and programs. The Office for Sustainability compiled CWRU's information.

Download [the entire Guide to Green Colleges](#) from the Review and find CWRU on page 53. Also check out [CWRU's full school listing](#) on the company's website - sustainability information and green rating score are listed under "campus life."

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