



**Colgate University
Hamilton, New York
Transportation**

SCHOOL

Colgate University is a private, four-year school with 2,800 students located in Hamilton, New York.

ABSTRACT

GREEN BIKES: Green Bikes is a bike rental program (\$25/semester) managed by Theta Chi fraternity and the Sustainability Office. The mission of Green Bikes is to provide Colgate students with inexpensive, convenient, human-powered transportation to decrease reliance on automobiles. Last summer Buildings and Grounds installed new bike racks throughout campus making it more accessible to find a suitable location to park and lock your bike. This year, the program expanded with the purchase of nine new bikes (20 total) with plans on further expansion in the future.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals

Colgate wants to provide convenient, clean, reliable alternative transportation to students and staff at Colgate. Also it is the goal of the Green Bike fleet to cut down on individual transportation on campus to decrease individual carbon emissions.

Accomplishments and Outcomes

Colgate owns a fleet of 20 bikes that are rented out each semester. Last semester, Spring 2009, all of the bikes were rented out to students who preferred to ride a bike up to class rather than drive a car.

There were no formal policies that Colgate implemented to support this project besides the approval to build more bike racks on campus. Green Bikes however, has a list of policies specific to reserving a bike. A list of their policies can be found at <http://groups.colgate.edu/greenbikes/guidelines.htm>.

Challenges and Responses

In the first few years of the program most of the bikes disappeared and the ones that remained were not in good condition. Many students had their bikes stolen because they didn't lock them and in some cases students were putting their own locks on the bikes and converting them from public to personal property. In response to these initial issues, the Green Bikes program asked Colgate to help subsidize locks for each of the bikes and a partnership with a local company to help repair and provide maintenance with the bikes if damages were incurred. In future projects I would buy locks and possibly a warranty for the bikes when they were first purchased.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

The Green Bikes program directly decreased Colgate University's carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions. By providing cheap and clean alternative transportation, Colgate is helping cut emissions from motor vehicles that would be in operation otherwise.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

The Green Bikes group, led by Tara Meyer '07, Leslie Safier '06, and Randy Fuller, Professor of Biology, initially solicited and received donations of used bikes for the program in the spring of 2006. The effort has been continued during the '06-'07 academic year by Zach Hicks '09 and Brett Zefting, Assistant Director Outdoor Education. With the generous support of the Wellness Initiative, The Sustainability, and the Broad Street Initiative we have purchased an initial fleet of 12 bikes and locks and are starting the program this summer. Currently, Ethan Levitt '11 and the Theta Chi Fraternity are in partnership with the Sustainability Office and John Pumilio, Sustainability Coordinator, to help keep this program running. Currently Colgate owns a fleet of 20 bikes that are rented out each semester.

Funding and Resources

For the March 2010 proposal, Green Bikes asked for \$2,500 to finance the project. They wanted the money to cover new bicycles, locks, a director's management fee, bike customization tools, advertising costs as well as other costs. Buildings and Grounds also constructed new bike racks on open space throughout the campus. These costs were not supported through a NWF Campus Ecology Fellowship.

Education and Community Outreach

The Green Bikes initiatives are in partnership with Adventure Bikes, a local bicycle shop. Students are allowed to bring their bikes, if damaged, to Adventure Bikes for a discounted price.

National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program

The Campus Ecology program helped inspire the idea of sustainability and alternative transportation plot but did not have a direct or significant role in its creation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

Colgate University strives to implement sustainable practices. Colgate owns and operates a student vegetable garden that supplies our dining facilities with fresh produce and cuts down on the costs and carbon emissions associated with transportation. The Colgate employs a Sustainability Coordinator and 3 Sustainability Interns (2 for the summer, 1 for the semester) that make up the Sustainability Office. Our

goal is to help foster a campus-wide culture of sustainability, create new opportunities to implement sustainability in our operations and in our classrooms, build new partnerships on and off campus, and to facilitate student efforts all with the goal of advancing sustainability at Colgate. Visit Colgate's website at www.colgate.edu/green for more information.