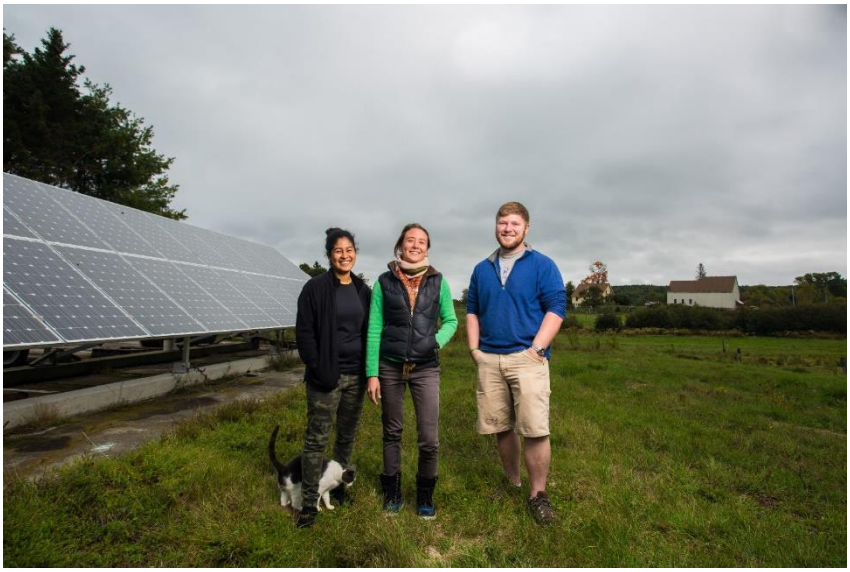
SUSTAINABILITY AT COA



Our goal: a fossil fuel tree, zero waste campus.

As you might expect from a college of human ecology, sustainability is central to just about everything we do. Our commitment to environmental and social sustainability is an effort that engages faculty, staff, and students in the intellectual and practical life of the college.

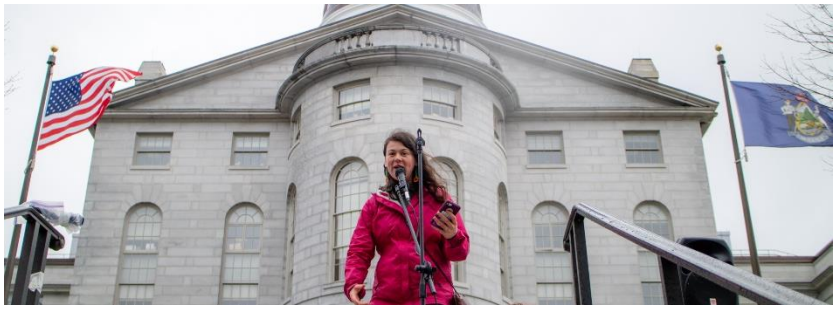
Fossil Fuel Free by 2030

We aspire to be the first fossil fuel free campus in the world—where heating, electricity, and transportation will run on 100% renewable energy.

In 2007 COA became the first carbon neutral college. But our approach has evolved: we strive to engage students in all aspects of sustainability and eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels. COA is taking action to phase out single use plastics; reduce, repurpose, and compost waste; conserve energy and transition to renewable sources; source food sustainably; and use cutting edge sustainable building practices. Students are the drivers of change at COA: coursework, independent research, committees and clubs are at the foundation of our sustainability policies and practices.

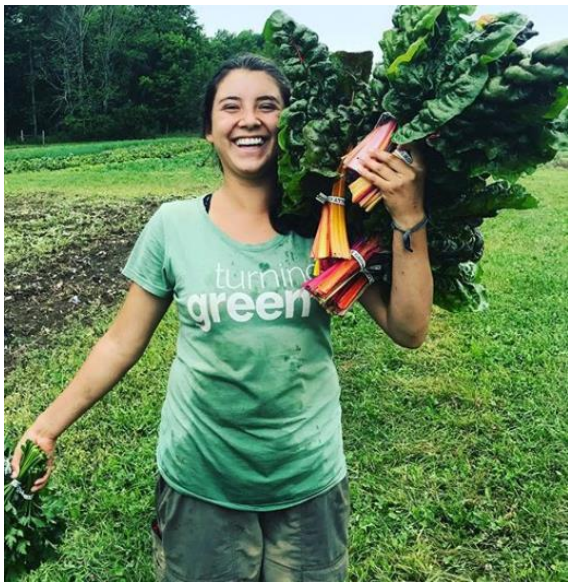
Sustainability in the curriculum

Whether you're interested in agriculture, business, biology, law and policy, or the arts—to name a few—COA is a laboratory for students, faculty and staff to explore the diverse prospects of a more sustainable future. Related courses include: Physics and Math of Sustainable Energy; Science and Marine Conservation: causes, solutions, and roles; Global Environmental Politics; Personal Finance and Impact Investing; Sustainable Design in the Built Environment; Climate and Weather; Changing Schools, Changing Society; Native American Literature; Bees and Society; Hydro-politics in a Thirsty world, and many more.



Climate Justice

COA students are engaged in shaping climate policy both locally and globally. For over a decade, students have participated in the annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of the Parties. Closer to home, students advocate for Maine's Energy Independence legislation.

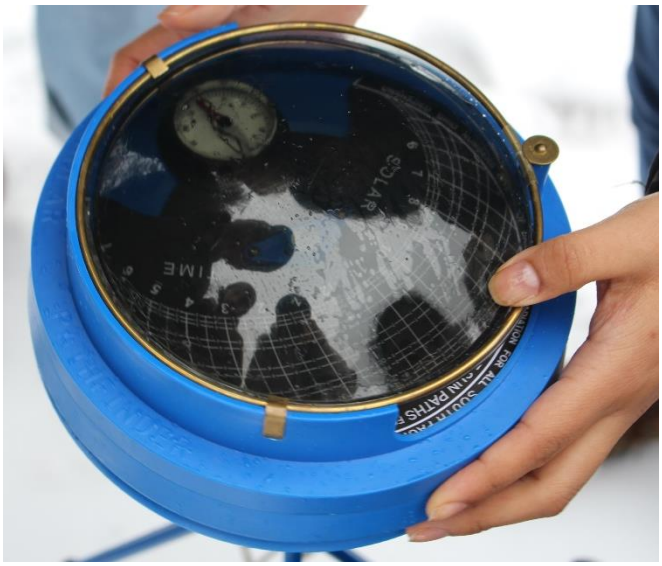


Sustainable & Local Food: COA owns and stewards 300 acres of farmland and forest here on Mount Desert Island.

Our Two Farms: Beech Hill Farm and Peggy Rockefeller Farms not only produce high quality food for our dining hall but serve as laboratories where students get involved—hands on—in the study and cultivation of sustainable food systems.

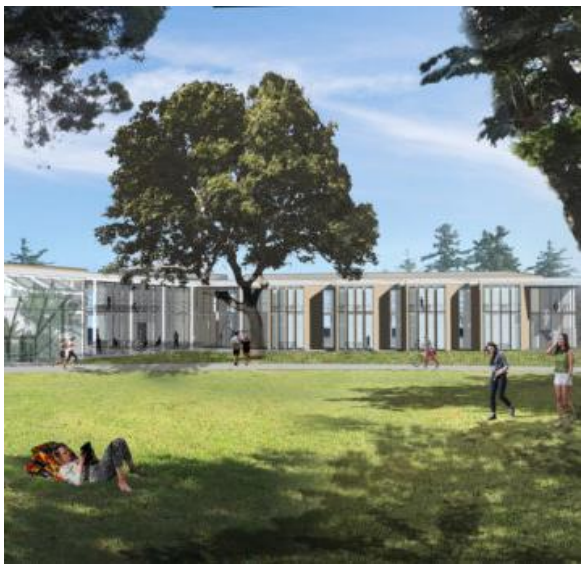
Zero Waste Dining: You'll never see a plastic utensil or tray in our dining hall. Our napkins are made from 100% recycled material and are compostable. We compost our food scraps. And we don't have coffee stirrers; we use dry linguine. Though small acts, they add up to more sustainable practices—but we are always striving to do better by asking questions: how can we tackle food waste on our own campus?

Community Energy Center: COA's Community Energy Center researches, develops, and implements innovative projects that enable people and business owners to reap the final and social benefits of transitioning away from fossil fuels. The CEC's current focus is providing solar energy analyses for local businesses and farms. Students can get involved as work study students or as summer energy fellows.



E-Cars for Student Use: Need to get to an off campus appointment, research site, or one of COA's farms? Students can check out one of the college's two electric cars (e-cars) that are specifically used for student transportation.

Electric Vehicle Charging: We recently doubled COA's Electric Vehicle charging capacity. With four chargers on our main campus—directly attached to solar photo-voltaic systems as well as the grid—and one charger on each of our two farms, commutes with our e-cars are emission free!



Groundbreaking: The Center for Human Ecology
In 2019, COA broke ground on our new academic building! This building will house new science labs, art and design studios, multi-purpose classrooms, and a new teaching greenhouse. At 29,000 square feet, the Center for Human Ecology will be built to German Passiv Haus standards and will use 80% less energy than a typical building.

Using photovoltaic panels and reliant on electric heat, the Center for Human Ecology will generate 75% of the energy it uses, and will be fossil fuel free. Constructed of wood and other natural materials, including wood fiber insulation, the building will avoid carbon-intensive materials and will feature innovations such as bird safe window glass. The Center for Human Ecology is scheduled to open in Fall 2020.