Welcome to *Foundations of Sustainability* a professional development program offered by the Office of Sustainability. In this interactive discussion course, we will explore the principles and practice of sustainability at Colgate and beyond. The program is designed to be fun, educational, and interactive. Individuals are expected to attend at least 5 out of 6 sessions and will receive “credits” demonstrating their participation and commitment to sustainability at Colgate.

As a reminder, we will meet every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Alumni 331 for the first session and then in McGregor 101A for the last five sessions. The course will last six weeks beginning on June 14 and ending on July 26 (we will not meet on July 5). In order to maximize our time together, it is important that you arrive no later than noon to grab your lunch and find a seat. Each session will start with a short introduction before we jump into a facilitated discussion.

Our goal is not to reach consensus on any given topic, but rather to explore different viewpoints and opinions. I will facilitate the discussion to ensure that everyone has a chance to share their thoughts.

Each week we will have a series of short readings and other “homework” that relate to our topic of the week. Since this is a discussion course, it is essential that you do your homework (pre-assigned readings!) and come prepared to share your thoughts with the group. All perspectives are welcome! Topics will include:

**Week 1: Ecological Limits.** In this session, we will explore the principles of ecology and how our society pushes the limits of our natural environment and our life support systems.

**Week 2: The Material Economy.** Our extractive economy built on limitless growth is placing huge stresses on our natural resources and natural heritage. This week we will discuss our current economic model and alternative visions for a sustainable future.

**Week 3: Climate Change.** Perhaps no single issue is more important or more politicized than climate change. We will look at the science behind climate change and Colgate’s quest to be carbon neutral by 2019.

**Week 4: Food and Food Systems.** Where does our food come from and how is it produced? We will explore some of the challenges of feeding an ever-growing human population in a way that is affordable, ecologically sensitive, socially responsible, humane, and healthy. We will focus on what is sure to be a lively discussion on Colgate’s food program.
**Week 5: Fostering a Culture of Sustainability at Colgate.** We will focus our discussion this week on the sustainability movement in higher education and more specifically at Colgate University.

**Week 6: The Power of One.** What can each of us do as individuals to support sustainability at work, at home, and in our communities?

Each topic will consider the ecological, economic, social, and health impacts of our choices on a national scale and here at Colgate University and how individual choices can lead to a more sustainable future.

I will be out of town next week to run an ornithology program along mid-coast Maine. My ability to respond to email will be limited.

I hope you are as excited about this program as I am. I look forward to learning more about sustainability with you.

John Pumilio, director of sustainability
315.228.6487
jpumilio@colgate.edu