



Detailed Information for University Faculty and Administrators

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Dear Faculty and Administrators,

This packet contains detailed information about Eco Practicum, offering two unique environmental leadership programs for undergraduates and recent graduates. This information is being provided in an effort to help applicants from your university secure funding and credit for their active participation. We would also appreciate it if you would share information about Eco Practicum with students who may be inclined to apply.

Eco Practicum programs consist of hands-on farm work, meetings and workshops with experts representing effective environmental organizations of all scales, and discussions led by skilled educators. Eco Practicum challenges emerging leaders to consider multiple sides of complex issues, while helping them gain practical skills and connections with leading-edge institutional partners. With access to more than 30 such partners, Eco Practicum offers a community of shared purpose that many alumni draw on after graduation.

Sincerely,

Tal Beery and Eugenia Manwelyan
Co-Founders and Directors

Eco Practicum Program Goals:

Our mission is to grow the next generation of environmental leaders. We aim to:

- Give students experience in the field and practical skills relating to program subject areas
- Facilitate meaningful encounters between college students and environmental experts
- Instill a lasting commitment to environmental stewardship
- Create a cooperative and experiential learning environment
- Foster a strong network of young leaders with shared purpose

Overview:

SPRING BREAK IN NEW YORK CITY
March 16-20
Application Deadline: Feb. 15

Major topics Covered:

- Water Flows and Reclamation
- Food Systems: Production and Access
- Transportation in the Growing Metropolis
- Climate Justice and Community Resilience
- The Future of Urban Energy Infrastructure

Workshops Include:

- Canning, Fermentation, and Food Preservation
- Basics of Building a Solar Power System
- Caring for Backyard Chickens
- Basics of Food Foraging

Partners Include:

- Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York City Parks Department
- Battery Park City Conservancy
- Bed Stuy Campaign Against Hunger
- Sane Energy Project
- GrowNYC
- The Osborne Association

SUMMER IN THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS
June 5-25
Application Deadline: Apr. 15

Major Topics Covered:

- The Role of Organic, Local Produce in the Global Food System
- The Value, Role & Treatment of Animals
- Digging and Drilling: Fossil Fuels & the Hope/Hype of Renewable Energy
- Natural Resource Management in an Age of (Over)Consumption

Workshops Include:

- DIY Rain Catchment Systems
- The Science of Compost
- Basics of Permaculture
- Aquaculture Design
- Art and Ecology

More than 20 Partner Organizations, Including:

- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Watershed Protection and Partnership Council
- U.S. National Park Service
- Root N' Roost Farm
- Sullivan County Division of Planning
- Wildflower Farm and Aquaculture Center

Alumni Testimonials

Eco Practicum changed my outlook on my life and my future greatly. I've known for a long time that I want to get involved in environmental action on some level, but never pinpointed exactly what facet of the subject I wanted to pursue. Now this program has ignited my full interest in sustainable agriculture, food practices and food distribution. I learned so much this week through hands on experience on the farm (more than I feel I have learned in any classroom). This fact ties into the educational approach, which I really appreciated. Our discussions were open and centered on the work and experiments we undertook on the farm – this was very important to me.

The amount I learned surprised me in itself. All the subjects that the program encompassed were interdisciplinary and gave me a broad perspective on farming (as a science, business, etc.). I also did not expect to learn so much about the issues in the larger Catskill region – this component makes me want to come back to the area next summer for an internship: something I never expected in coming here.

- Elizabeth H., Skidmore College

Eco Practicum provided me with amazing opportunities, experiences, and information that I could have never obtained on my own. I furthered my learning in all of the areas I was interested in and gained knowledge that I only could have gained here. We spoke to professionals and different organizations involved in today's most controversial environmental issues and to people who were directly impacted by them. We helped out in farms and gardens and had the ability to connect with our food, animals and our planet. This experience is one you'll never experience anywhere else. Eco Practicum is a one-of-a-kind program and your experience will be one of the greatest things to ever happen to you and your education in environmental studies.

- Carly W., Fordham University

I was truly inspired by this program, not only by all the experts, farmers, and scientists, but also by my peers, who are going to be my partners in the effort to better our practices and systems. Everyone who takes the time to do this program will come out with a better understanding of our world.

- Michele K., Hamilton College

"The trips are amazing. It was great to get an array of perspectives from people actually working in the field on some of the most important issues facing humanity today. The surrounding mountains are beautiful and the region-specific study is very interesting. The small group discussions are great and the democratic learning experience was very effective. I would really recommend that as many people as possible try this program and get a new perspective on the way that people are living today."

-Irene D., Rutgers University

Eco Practicum definitely helped form some sort of basis as to what I want to do right after college and reinforced my values regarding healthy food. I came into this program knowing that I want to pursue a career in sustainable food systems, but I didn't know where to start. Meeting farmers that varied in their own views and the struggles they go through showed me how important it is to know the business and the lifestyle before pursuing anything else.

- Kai Ying L., Tufts

Before this week, I had little to no knowledge about the agriculture system in the U.S. I had no idea how integrated GMO's were into America's food products. I also had never previously been so involved with an actual farm, and getting my hands dirty was an entirely new thing. I felt extremely connected to the land and my food from the first time.

- Priya M., New York University

Eco Practicum Active Hours

Eco Practicum is an intensive educational experience including hands-on engagement, text-study, and discussion, as well as a final project produced collaboratively by program participants. We pack in a great deal of learning into a small amount of time. Many students find that participating in three weeks of Eco Practicum Catskills fulfills credit requirements or internship requirements for their university programs.

Eco Practicum Catskills:

	Farm Work	Field Work	Learning, discussions, text studies	Final Report	Total "Active Hours"
Sunday	2		7.5		
Monday - Friday	20	32.5	10		
Saturday				7	
Total per Week	22	32.5	17.5	7	79
TOTAL (3 weeks)	66	97.5	52.5	21	237

Eco Practicum New York City:

	Farm Work	Field Work	Learning, discussions, text studies	Final Report	Total "Active Hours"
Sunday	2		5.5		
Wed - Friday	10	25	10		
Saturday				7	
Total	12	25	15.5	7	59.5

Eco Practicum has inspired me to...

“Further explore the environmental and social implications of sustainable agriculture. In particular, I hope to find opportunities that allow me to investigate agricultural biodiversity as well as gender dynamics of global agricultural systems.”

- Bridget J., Rutgers University

“Investigate sustainable agriculture as a potential career path. Next summer I plan on further pursuing my passion for environmental science by returning to New York State to get an internship in urban agriculture or marine biology.”

- Elizabeth H., Skidmore College

“Be more conscious of the daily decisions I make with food. I am now inspired to consider a potential career in environmental law so that I can create change in US agriculture policy.”

- Priya M., New York University

“Become more active in educating peers at Fordham University and in New York City about current environmental issues, particularly hydraulic fracturing. The program has helped me fully comprehend how crucial environmental education is in the fight for a more sustainable future.”

- Carly W., Fordham University

“Become more aware of my personal impact on my environment. I feel a passion to conserve the earth’s natural resources through a career in either water resource engineering or sustainability.”

- Jacob C., SUNY Buffalo

“Continue my path as a health coach. I would like to take a holistic approach to nutrition, centered on eating sustainable foods that nourish our bodies, minds, and spirits.”

- Andrea D., Brown University