



Albion College

Center for Sustainability and the Environment

Welcome

Welcome to Albion's Center for Sustainability and the Environment. I am Doug White, Director of CSE. I am an ecologist and ornithologist in the Biology Department. I will be beginning my 27th year on campus this fall.

Why CSE?

If you want to do important work, you need to address important problems. Catastrophic risks of climate change and biodiversity loss will overshadow your working and personal life as human population swells and affluence—and resource use—spreads. Creating a clean, just, vibrant, and sustainable world will require transformational change across society.

CSE prepares students to be agents of change in these defining challenges. You can help make a sustainable world where all life can flourish.

What does CSE offer?

CSE prepares students for environmental careers through curricular versatility, experiential learning, and fostered initiatives.

How will you answer this question? “_____ can save the world.” How you fill in this blank will depend on your interests and aptitudes. CSE has a diversity of curricular pathways to support your choice. We offer three majors: Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, and Sustainability Studies. And we offer two concentrations—essentially interdisciplinary minors—that can augment virtually any major. I can help you choose the path that fits you the best.

Hands on learning is especially engaging and effective. CSE facilitates research and scholarly experiences, for instance through FURSCA, off-campus programs including the School for Field Studies, internships, and work experiences. You learn from fellow CSE members when they report their experiences at biweekly CSE seminars. A hallmark of CSE is the annual “Ecology and Environmental Issues” field trip open to all members. Each year we visit some section of the country. We focus on the region's distinctive environmental issues and meet with environmental professionals who are addresses those issues. In 2018, CSE went to West Virginia and the southern Appalachians. In 2019, we visited eastern Pennsylvania, including Philadelphia, and southern New Jersey to learn how natural systems can be supported in a region with a long history of intensive land use. In 2021, we plan to travel to the Florida Gulf Coast (supposing it survives this year's fires and storms).

Albion and CSE love to inspire and foster our student's ideas for making a difference now. Student initiatives that have come to fruition with CSE help include the Student Farm at the



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Whitehouse Nature Center, the E-House living/learning residence, and an environmental education program for local elementary school children. CSE also supports efforts to educate and promote sustainability on campus. This past year, we offered a comprehensive program of activities in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day including a campus-wide buildout of water bottle refilling stations, invited speakers (including a keynote by Hank Green), an environmental film series at the beautifully restored Bohm Theatre downtown, a river cleanup, and celebratory gathering/march. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, parts of Albion's Earth Day 50 anniversary will occur in the 2020/21 school year.

What's next?

If you want to know more about CSE, email me at dwhite@albion.edu or visit the CSE page on the Albion website: <https://www.albion.edu/academics/centers-and-institutes/center-for-sustainability-and-the-environment>. There is a link to a simple CSE application on the CSE page.

If you have already been accepted to CSE, congratulations. I look forward to meeting the replacements for the outstanding member we graduated in May!

If you think you may be interested in the Environmental Studies Major, contact me and I will work to enroll you in the this fall's edition of ENVN 101 Fundamentals of Environmental Studies, the gateway course for that major.