

Grant Creates Renewed Push to Improve Recycling Outreach in the Electric City and Surrounding Towns and Villages

The Schenectady County Office of Economic Planning and Development has partnered with Cornell University Cooperative Extension to hire a full-time Recycling & Composting Educator. Angelina Peone, a SUNY Cobleskill Alumni, was hired in March to coordinate outreach and education programs throughout Schenectady County.

Ms. Peone will host Master Composter Training Programs, conduct free public classes for community members, design new media and manage content on the Schenectady County Recycles Facebook and Twitter accounts, and interact with Schenectady County schools to offer resources for teachers to incorporate environmental literacy related to recycling, composting, and waste reduction in their classrooms.



Angelina brings a unique skillset and technical background to the Recycling Outreach effort in Schenectady. She studied Waste Management and Renewable Energy Technology at SUNY Cobleskill, having achieved a Bachelor of Technology in Environmental Energy (EET).

"The EET program at SUNY Cobleskill was a very dynamic, hands-on learning environment, where I was able to gain practical knowledge about environmental industries related to solid waste management and the renewable energy sector and I learned how these industries can be connected for a more sustainable future. As a student, I learned about the challenges these industries face as well as the technological solutions to solving the world's environmental issues from both socio-political and operational perspectives." – Angelina Peone

Despite being new to the Cooperative Extension, Angelina has already made strides in creating a public dialogue about rethinking waste and sustainable materials management. She plans to make waste prevention and zero-waste concepts key elements in her outreach rhetoric.



"I believe the key to successful outreach is interpersonal, creating a narrative that empowers people with the easy choices they have that can make a difference. It's easy for people to feel out-of-control when confronted with all the facts and metrics about the state of solid waste in America, and to an extent it's necessary to engage people with those facts. But when given the background that recycling is a leadership behavior, that donating unwanted items improves the lives of others in their community, and that they can make easy lifestyle choices that are impactful, I believe this rhetoric motivates the average person to reuse and recycle." –Angelina Peone

For more information about the Schenectady County Recycles campaign, connect on the web by visiting:

CCEschenectady.org/recycling

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