

Title: Exploring Earth Source Heat (ESH) as a demonstration project at Cornell

Hosts: Bert Bland, Todd Cowen, Katherine McComas

Date: May 27, 2015, 11:30-1:00 pm

Dear Colleagues,

The Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future is organizing a topical lunch “*Exploring Earth Source Heat (ESH) as a demonstration project at Cornell*” on Wednesday, May 27, 2015, 11:30-1:00 pm in 300 Rice Hall, hosted by Todd Cowen, Katherine McComas, and Bert Bland.

Cornell University has committed to being a climate neutral campus by 2035. Since 2009, the [Climate Action Plan](#) has proposed Earth Source Heat (previously termed Enhanced Geothermal System), supplemented by bioenergy, as the way to heat the Ithaca campus. ESH is an engineered system to access the natural thermal energy of the Earth. Wells are drilled into “basement rock” (over 3 miles below the surface in the Ithaca area), where the internal heat of the Earth keeps temperatures near or above the boiling point of water. Water circulated through the ground returns to the surface as hot water for campus heating.

Cornell would like to engage interested faculty in a feasibility study to explore this concept. Social scientists, engineers, geologists and other disciplines are needed to address the technical, financial, social, environmental and regulatory challenges.

Please join us to contribute to an informal multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary discussion. Please **RSVP to Paula Euvrard** (pge3@cornell.edu) if you can attend.

Best wishes,

Todd Cowen, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering; ACSF Faculty Director for Energy

Katherine McComas, Professor and Chair, Department of Communication

Bert Bland, Associate Vice President, Energy & Sustainability; Infrastructure, Properties and Planning Division