

The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority

# Sustainability Plan

## 2022



*"Being environmentally responsible is not a one-step solution focused solely on our service; it is an ongoing way of life that touches all aspects of our day-to-day operations. As part of our green initiative, we will work to reduce our environmental impact and overall carbon footprint."*

**Brian M. Schultz, CEO**

## Table of Contents

<b>Letter from the Sustainability Team</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sustainability Team</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 1- Sustainability in Operations</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles	5
1.2- DEC Required Testing of Run-Off Water	5
1.3- Green Purchasing	5
1.4- Water Conservation	5
1.5- Battery Recycling	5
1.6- Scrap Metal	5
1.7- Disposal of Light Bulbs	5
<b>Part 2- Sustainability Initiatives</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1- Energy Audit	6
2.2- Electric Lawn Equipment	6
2.3- Paper Reduction	6
2.4- Electric Hand Dryers	6
2.5- Earth Day Clean Up	6
2.6- Quarterly Newsletters	6
2.7- Trash/Recycling	6
2.8- Energy Efficiency	7
<b>Part 3- A Sustainable Future</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1- Zero Emission Vehicles	7
3.2- Solar Panels	7
<b>Part 4- A History of Sustainability</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1-LEED Certifications	7
4.2-Air Quality Excellence	8
<b>Part 5- Appendix</b>	<b>9</b>
5.1- Paper Newsletter	9
5.2- Janitorial Paper Newsletter	10
5.3- Reusing Supplies Newsletter	11

### Letter from the Sustainability Team

The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA/Centro) is committed to sustainable practices throughout its organization. Part of our mission here at Centro is to provide services to the community that are environmentally responsible. Therefore, we are continually working to make a positive impact in the community while reducing environmental impact and overall carbon footprint.

As per Executive Order 4, and subsequent GreenNY initiatives, we created a Sustainability Team to facilitate these efforts. The goal is to expand our already existing accomplishments by making sustainability an everyday topic and way of life within our organization.

The Sustainability Team's efforts in the last year have focused on educating ourselves and our co-workers on sustainable habits while also creating a framework for sustainable office practices to be put in place. These efforts of the Sustainability Team, and our organization as a whole, have successfully continued our commitment to sustainability.

We look forward to continuing our efforts in the coming years!

- **The Centro Sustainability Team**





## Introduction

The Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CNYRTA) is a mid-sized Public Transit Authority, operating in Onondaga, Oneida, Oswego, and Cayuga counties in Central New York. The CNYRTA owns/leases and operates out of the following facilities:

- **CNY Centro-** A large, all-purpose heavy-duty bus maintenance/storage/administrative headquarters building in Syracuse.
- **Syracuse Transit Hub-** main transfer facility for Centro buses serving Onondaga County, also serving as a connecting point to Centro of Cayuga and Centro of Oswego service.
- **William F. Walsh Regional Transportation Center-** A multimodal transportation facility serving passenger rail (Amtrak), regional bus (Greyhound / Trailways) and intercity and local transit services (Centro) in Syracuse.
- **Centro of Cayuga-** A small, light-duty maintenance/garage facility City of Auburn.
- **Centro of Oswego-** A small, light-duty maintenance/garage facility City of Auburn.
- **Centro of Oneida (Utica)-** a medium-sized bus garage/storage/administrative office facility in Utica.
- **Centro of Oneida (Rome)-** a very small bus maintenance/storage facility.
- **Utica Transit Hub-** main transfer facility for Centro buses serving the City of Utica.
- **Rome Transit Hub-** small transfer facility for Centro buses serving the City of Rome.

The following Sustainability Plan focuses on all aspects of CNYRTA operations, community involvement and efforts to educate staff and community members on Sustainable practices. Detailed below is information on CNYRTA's current sustainable practices, initiatives that were the focus of the prior fiscal year (FY), plans for a sustainable future and a look back on past sustainable achievements.

## Sustainability Team

Centro's Sustainability Team is made up of the suggested Team Leads: Sustainability Coordinator, Executive Sponsor, Facilities Lead, Fleet Lead, Finance Lead and Coordinator Alternate. Ten additional employees from various departments throughout the company have also joined the team on a volunteer basis to assist with the everyday Sustainability efforts.

As of August 2022, the team members include:

- **Bren Daiss** – Director of Special Transportation Projects
- **Brian M. Schultz** – Chief Executive Officer (**Executive Sponsor**)
- **Caitlin MacCollum** – Director of Procurement (**Sustainability Coordinator**)
- **Casey Brown** – Communications & Publications Coordinator
- **Chris Tuff** – Deputy Chief Executive Officer (**Executive Sponsor**)
- **EJ Moses** – Director of Facilities (**Facilities Lead**)
- **Geoff Hoff** – Vice President of Fleet & Facilities (**Fleet Lead**)
- **Josh Gardner** – Specialized Transportation Administrator & Systems Analyst
- **Julia Fuster** – Transportation Coordinator
- **Kenji Graham** – Compliance Project Manager
- **Linda Biata** – Vice President of Finance (**Finance Lead**)
- **Melissa Brim** – Director of Accounting
- **Mike Rice** – Director of Fleet Maintenance
- **Nathen Dow** – Facilities Manager (**Sustainability Coordinator Alternate**)
- **Paula Cutrone** – Service Development Data Analyst & Research Specialist
- **Tim Sinclair** – Manager of Subsidiary Operations
- **Tim Quigley** – Oneida Stockroom Supervisor

## **Part 1- Sustainability in Operations**

### **1.1- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Vehicles**

For more than three decades, Centro has operated near zero emission Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses, long before it was at the forefront of climate discussions. Presently, the CNYRTA operates a total of 135 clean-fueled CNG buses, about 75% of the full-sized bus fleet in Syracuse. The CNYRTA also operates one of the largest indoor fast-fill CNG stations in the country, built as part of a public-private partnership in 1997. Its maintenance staff maintains the complex, computer-controlled CNG fueling station in-house, a lower-cost option than contracting out for such services.



### **1.2- DEC Required Testing of Run-off Water**

In compliance with Department of Environmental Control (DEC) rules and regulations, the CNYRTA hires a third-party contractor to come and test the run-off and ground waters on and around our properties. These tests are conducted monthly and quarterly, and reports are sent directly to the DEC.

### **1.3- Green Purchasing**

The CNYRTA requires the use of EO4 procurement specifications in its formal procurement policy and utilizes EO4 specifications, where possible, when making purchasing decisions.

### **1.4- Water Conservation**

The majority of restrooms around CNYRTA facilities have automatic motion sensor faucets that reduce the amount of water used on a daily basis. The CNYRTA advises all employees to be cognizant of water usage at all of its locations. Additionally, CNYRTA bus washes run off of grey water in the warmer months, when winter salt and debris are not an issue.

### **1.5- Battery Recycling**

The CNYRTA has allocated containers to collecting batteries to be properly recycled. Once batteries have accumulated enough, an outside vendor is contacted to pick up and properly dispose of the batteries.

### **1.6- Scrap Metal**

The maintenance and upkeep of buses, trucks, cars and equipment generates scrap metal and steel regularly. The CNYRTA discards of these scraps into designated storage bins that are then disposed of at the appropriate scrap metal yards.

### **1.7- Disposal of Light Bulbs**

The CNYRTA's Buildings and Grounds department's collects damaged/burned out light bulbs and lamps to be properly recycled by a third-party contractor. Contractors are called on an as needed basis throughout the year.

## **Part 2- Sustainability Initiatives**

### **2.1- Energy Audit**

In compliance with New York State's BuildSmart 2025 program, which simplifies the process of achieving New York State's aggressive energy goals from assessment to implementation, an energy audit is underway and scheduled for completion in May 2022. The audit will provide CNYRTA with a report detailing recommended projects and upgrades to improve energy efficiency within CNYRTA's facilities.

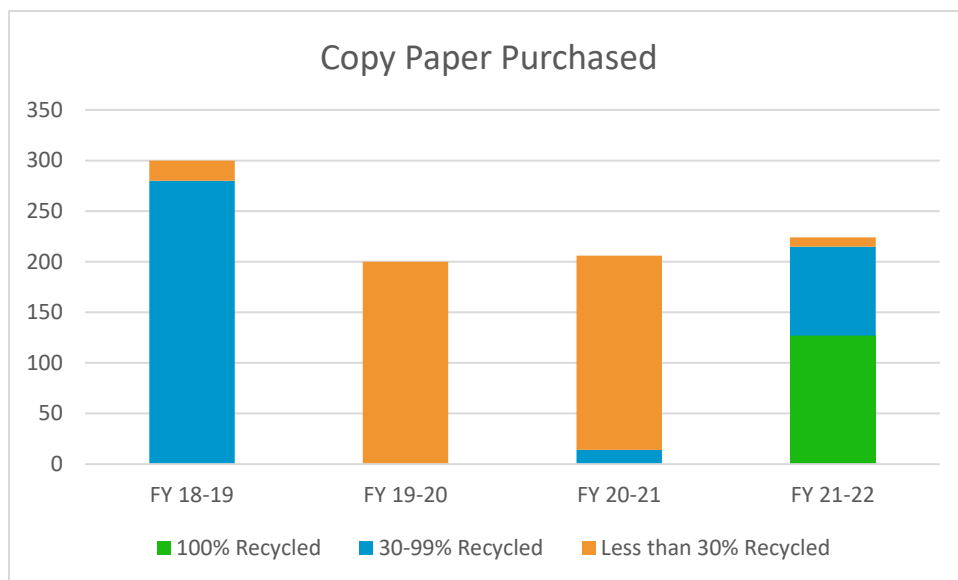
### **2.2- Electric Lawn Equipment**

CNYRTA invested in electric lawn mowers and string trimmers for the Syracuse and Oswego locations in FY 21. As existing gas-powered lawn equipment reaches the end of its useful life, CNYRTA plans to replace with electric powered alternatives. FY 23 will see the purchase of an electric zero turn mower to replace the current gas powered zero turn at the Syracuse facility.



### **2.3- Paper Reduction**

FY 22 saw an initiative to procure 100% recycled content paper. While the initiative was successful, it was impacted by supply chain issues.



Led by the Sustainability Team, CNYRTA is currently researching and investing in new technologies to reduce the amount of paper necessary in our daily processes. FY 23 will begin the purchase of devices that allow mobility throughout the day, allowing staff to always have notes and files with them, reducing the need to print documents.

### **2.4- Electric Hand Dryers**

CNYRTA began researching, planning, and testing hand dryers in FY 22. Energy efficient hand dryers were installed in two admin bathrooms for testing purposes; to get feedback from staff, test the product and develop a plan to roll out to the remainder of the company.





### 2.5- Earth Day Clean Up

To support CNYRTA's growing effort to be an integral part of the Syracuse community, FY 22 saw the first annual Earth Day cleanup. Volunteers from the Sustainability Team, Admin staff and Operations participated in Earth Day Cleanup 2021 where they cleaned 3.5 miles of sidewalk in the area around the Syracuse Transit Hub and the neighborhood surrounding CNYRTA's main office.

### 2.6- Quarterly Newsletters

In FY 22 the Sustainability team launched the Sustainability Newsletter to educate and inform employees about everyday practices and choices that would help reduce CNYRTA's environmental impact and carbon footprint. They also published an informational campaign titled "7 Actions to Reduce Your Impact on the Environment" encouraging employees to ride public transit, conserve water, and reduce energy use. (See Section 5- Appendix for additional information)

### 2.7- Trash/Recycling

The Sustainability team completed a trash and recycling audit to ensure an adequate number of trash cans and recycling bins could be found throughout each facility. Updated signage was also placed near containers to give staff guidelines on

what can/cannot be recycled.

### 2.8- Energy Efficiency

FY 22 saw the completion of the LED upgrade project. CNYRTA contracted with a third party to assess all facilities and upgrade the necessary lighting to LED fixtures. The main Syracuse facility was not covered by this program and was completed in house on a base by case basis.

## Part 3- A Sustainable Future

### 3.1- Zero Emission Vehicles

The CNYRTA started a commitment to a lower emission fleet back in 1991 when compressed natural gas fueled buses were first introduced. The CNYRTA plans to continue that commitment through the transition to zero emissions bus technology.

Research has begun on both battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicles. Staff has begun evaluating infrastructure needs, maintenance demands, range of the vehicles, etc. between the two options to determine the best path forward for CNYRTA.

### 3.2- Solar Panels

The CNYRTA has programmed \$3,000,000 in the current NY Statewide transportation improvement program for the installation of up to 2 MW of solar panels at the Syracuse, NY garage and office complex. Installation is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026.



## Part 4- A History of Sustainability

### 4.1- LEED Certifications

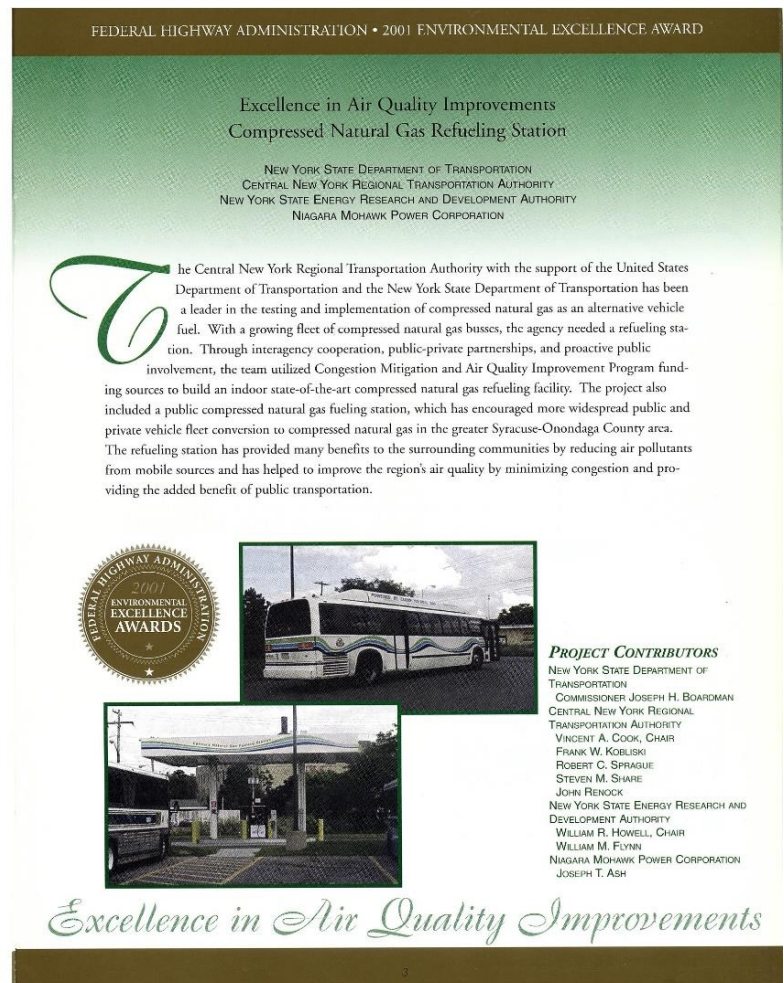
CNYRTA's \$18.8M state-of-the-art Transit Hub located in the heart of downtown Syracuse has received Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) for its green construction and design. LEED certification is regarded as the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green construction projects. CNYRTA accomplished this by the following LEED/Sustainability features:

- i. Heated bus platforms and sidewalks that utilize radiant heat to prevent icing and snow build-up in winters.
- ii. A storm water infiltration system that captures rainwater and removes particulates via a hydrodynamic device prevents the need for treatment at a sewage plant and reduces taxpayer costs. Funding for this project component was provided by Onondaga County's "Save the Rain" program.
- iii. LED overhead lights with automatic brightness sensors maintain uniform lighting throughout the Hub, and sensors turn lights on and off throughout the day and night depending on needs.
- iv. A 55,000-square-foot roof canopy above the center platform contains skylights to allow in natural sunlight.
- v. An energy management system that automatically controls heat, cooling, and lighting based on current conditions and occupancy.
- vi. Low flow plumbing fixtures that contribute to a 32% reduction in water use.

The CNYRTA Transit Hub is a tremendous asset to the Syracuse community and an excellent example of sustainable architecture integrated into the City's urban fabric.

### 4.2- Air Quality Excellence

The CNYRTA was the head of the New York State consortium that first introduced CNG fueled transit vehicles in 1992. That first procurement introduced eight (8) CNG fueled vehicles into the CNYRTA fleet. Shortly thereafter, the CNYRTA accepted an additional five (5) from a member of the consortium that abandoned CNG technology. In 2001, CNYRTA won a Federal Highway Administration Environmental Excellence Award in the Air Quality Improvement category.



## Part 5- Appendix

### 5.1- Paper Edition



## SUSTAINABILITY TEAM NEWSLETTER- AUGUST 2021

# Save Paper

### WELCOME TO CENTRO'S SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER!

The Sustainability Team will be distributing regular newsletters with tips on how to incorporate "Green" habits into your everyday life- work, home, on-the-go- there are so many ways we can make more eco-conscious decisions that still fit within our individual lifestyle.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Paper use has **increased** most in the computer age despite technological advances like electronic communication, which should offer good alternatives
- A staggering **45% of office printouts end up in the bin by the end of the day they are printed**
- Since the 1960s, **world consumption of paper has quadrupled** and use of printing paper has increased six-fold

(As per [Environmental Paper Network](#))

### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Set your printer preferences to **double sided**
- **Email agendas** prior to meetings- let participants know, you will not be providing hard copies
- **Use Microsoft OneNote**- this is a **great** note taking program that we already have on our Centro desktops
- Make **scrap paper** out of printed copies that you no longer need
- **Recycle** any used paper
- **Eliminate unnecessary paper forms/files- Go paperless!**

**Be Green-  
Keep it on  
the screen!**

## 5.2- Janitorial Paper Edition



### WELCOME TO CENTRO'S SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER!

This newsletter is focusing on the waste produced by single use paper towels.

Any product that is single use is inherently not sustainable. Whenever possible, find a reusable option to any single use products you currently use!



## SUSTAINABILITY TEAM NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER 2021



### DID YOU KNOW?

- Centro uses approximately **350 cases of paper towels** each year.
- Paper towels can be produced with **100% recycled content** but **cannot themselves be recycled**.
- Americans use around **13 billion pounds of paper towels annually**. This is equivalent to throwing out 270 million trees every year!
- According to the EPA, paper and paperboard products make up the **largest percentage of all municipal solid waste**, at 25.9%.

<https://blog.molheauds.com/2019/06/22/the-paper-towel-trash-problem-and-how-you-can-help/>  
<https://terrapass.com/carbon-footprint-of-paper-towels>

### WHAT CAN I DO?

- **SHAKE IT, DON'T WASTE IT!**
  - Shake your hands 12 times. Take one paper towel, fold it in half and dry your hands.
- Consider using old t-shirts/towels to clean up spills at home.
- Rinse and re-use paper towels, when possible.
- Visit the [Sustainability Intranet page](#) for videos to help shape your sustainable habits (direct links below)

[How to Use ONE Paper Towel](#)

[Paper Towels vs. Hand Dryers](#)



### 5.3- Reusing Supplies Edition



#### WELCOME TO CENTRO'S SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER!

This newsletter is focusing on purchasing sustainable and reusable office supplies.

Centro encourages the use of office supplies that are reusable, energy-efficient (or have greater efficiencies than industry standards), are made with post-consumer materials, have reduced toxicity properties, are manufactured with minimal environmental impact, and are delivered in eco-responsible packaging.

Visit the [Sustainability Intranet Page](#) for more information on choosing sustainable and reusable supplies.

## SUSTAINABILITY TEAM NEWSLETTER- NOVEMBER 2021

*Build Eco-Friendly Office Space With*

### Sustainable Office Supplies

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Centro now purchases **100% recycled paper**.
- The EPA estimates **1.6 billion disposable pens** are thrown away every year.
- Over **82,000 trees** are cut down annually to produce pencils.
- It is estimated that **70%** of a business's landfill waste can be **recycled!**

<https://earth911.com/home-garden/infographic-sustainable-pens-pencils/>  
<https://www.reducereprint.com/blog/office-waste-waste-generation>

#### WHAT CAN I DO?

- Search supplies on Staples.com and refine your selection by choosing one of the [Environmental Filters](#).
- Choose erasable calendars and planners over paper versions.
  - If you use paper, make sure to RECYCLE the pages.
- Choose refillable writing implements over disposable.
- Choose a reusable notebook (like a [Rocketbook](#)) over paper notepads. Bonus: You get a searchable transcript of your notes!
- Choose erasable sticky notes, notebooks, or whiteboards over single use Post-It notes.
  - Microsoft OneNote and Sticky Notes are digital options already available on your Centro desktop.
- Try using metal paper clips instead of staples.