

ESF Provides a ‘Green Sweep’ for St. Patrick’s Parade

City of Syracuse street sweepers are fueled by biodiesel

In addition to donating sustainable fuel to the parade effort, 60 members of the college community are marching in the annual Syracuse St. Patrick’s Parade.

The SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) donated 40 gallons of sustainable biodiesel fuel to the city of Syracuse for use during the annual St. Patrick’s Parade.

The biodiesel, made with used fryer oil as part of a broader ESF research project on the development of sustainable energy, was to be mixed with traditional diesel and used to fuel street sweepers. The sweepers work early to prepare the parade route for some 140 marching units and up to 50,000 spectators. The sweepers are busy again after the three-hour event.

The donation, initiated by ESF President Cornelius B. Murphy, Jr., who was the parade grand marshal in 2007, is part of the St. Patrick’s Parade Committee’s effort to make the annual event more sustainable. The number of vehicles in the lineup has been limited this year, participants were urged to construct floats from recyclable — or recycled — material, and spectators were encouraged to use mass transit to travel to downtown Syracuse.

About 60 members of the ESF community are marching in the parade behind the college’s signature “I Bleed Green” banner. In keeping with the parade theme, “Tir na nOg — Land of Eternal Youth,” the ESF contingent also has dozens of Earth balloons and banners that read, “Keeping the earth eternally young, ESF gets it done.”

The ESF marchers are distributing 5,000 packets of non-invasive sunflower seeds to help welcome spring to Central New York.