



Environmental Engineering & Sciences

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
CEE 595AG Seminar

Friday, September 29, 2023 | 10:00 – 10:50 a.m. CST | 2311 Yeh Center

Advancing Sustainability Initiatives at the University of Illinois: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies

Despite increased awareness of the urgency to respond to climate change and the need for more sustainable practices at the University of Illinois, advancing campus sustainability initiatives remains challenging. The decentralized organizational structure of the university, fiscal constraints, and the plurality of attitudes, goals and priorities among campus stakeholders enhance the complexity of identifying and implementing sustainable solutions. At the same time, there are abundant opportunities to make progress toward achieving the goals laid out in the Illinois Climate Action Plan. In this presentation, I illustrate these issues in the context of a recent initiative to reduce single-use plastic consumption on campus. Through this lens, I aim to provide critical insights into how to catalyze, intensify, and accelerate actions that will improve campus sustainability.

Jennifer M Fraterrigo Professor UIUC Natural Resources & Environmental Science



Education

- B.S., Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1997
- M.S., Ecology, Colorado State University, 2000
- Ph.D., Zoology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2005

Biography - Research Interests

Professor Fraterrigo works at the interface of ecosystem and landscape ecology. Her goals are twofold: (1) to provide the knowledge needed to predict how ecosystems, and the services that they supply, will respond to future environmental change; and (2) to use this information to scale up and support decision-making that enhances ecosystem resilience. To achieve these goals, she brings together information about ecological processes that operate over multiple spatial and temporal scales. Although her research takes place in many different areas, it is unified by a focus on two main questions:

1. How do vegetation patterns respond to environmental change and disturbance?
2. How do these changes affect biodiversity and ecosystem function, including the retention and storage of nutrients and carbon in plants and soils?

Professor Fraterrigo currently serves as the Associate Director for Campus Sustainability for the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) at UIUC.