

- [Subscribe](#)
- [Foundation](#)
- [Magazine](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Contact](#)

Carsharing program in Ithaca, NY

Posted by Steve Welzer on 12/03/06

Forward from: Liz Walker

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2006

Here is a wonderful local success story. Several years ago, students in an Ithaca College “Sustainable Communities” class taught by EcoVillage at Ithaca resident Elan Shapiro (as part of a partnership between Ithaca College and EVI, funded by the National Science Foundation), were looking for a hands-on project. I worked with them to poll EVI residents on their dreams for alternative transportation. The most popular topics were: a car-sharing program, a passive solar bus shelter (it can be cold waiting for the bus on winter days here!), and an electronic ride-board program.

The ride-board program was implemented that semester, the bus shelter (which also has a living roof) was designed by Cornell students two years ago, and built last year using solar electricity, and the car-share program was the focus of an IC-EVI partnership mini- grant in both 2004 and 2005. Dan Roth, the EcoVillager who got the second mini-grant, decided to expand the focus to include the city of Ithaca. He pulled together a coalition of groups for a very successful summit in January, 2006, and organizing for the Ithaca Carshare began.

Steering committee members include members from Cornell, Ithaca College, the City of Ithaca, EcoVillage at Ithaca, and the Ithaca-Tompkins Transportation Council. (Many thanks go to Stephanie Greenwood, a new, car-free resident of EVI for coordinating the marketing of this project, and representing EVI.) Now a major grant has come through, and the first two cars will start at EVI, bringing the initial dreams back to reality in a full circle. This is very exciting!

Liz Walker, Director
EcoVillage at Ithaca