

Greetings,

We are excited to welcome you to Shelburne Farms for the inaugural course of UVM's MSLS program. NR311, *Leadership for Sustainability*, is a residential/on-line hybrid course that will provide an experiential and theoretical orientation to foundational practices, principles, skills and questions at the heart of this 2-year program. The cornerstone experience of this course is a week-long residential program at Shelburne Farms from August 31-September 6.

This will be a collaborative and participatory experience where we will:

- Introduce and practice a variety of foundational leadership skills (conscious communication, inquiry, awareness practices, working with difference, and more)
- Cultivate a dynamic learning community; creating opportunities for relationship building among students, faculty, and staff
- Introduce practices for connecting with and learning from nature and place
- Engage in a critical inquiry of sustainability frameworks
- Introduce frameworks, principles, and practices of ecological/system thinking
- Reflect on implications and applications of these themes/practices in our own work, leadership style, and home organizations

**What to expect:**

In addition to short plenary sessions, exercises, and facilitated conversations, we'll engage in a variety of experiential practices and activities such as dialogue, time on the land (and possibly in the water), open space, and working with our hands to explore a variety of approaches to leadership for sustainability. While some time will be spent together with the whole group, there will be many opportunities for people to engage in solo and small group activities. We ask that you come with beginner's mind and be willing to be changed by what we do together. This is a space for new ideas, intelligences, and ways of being and doing to emerge. We also ask that you bring the richness of your experiences to this learning community. There will be many opportunities for us to learn from each other, including a daily open space session for group skill sharing, so consider what you might bring/offer to the group.

**Disability Services**

Please let us know in advance if you have special needs or require assistance due to a disabling condition while you are attending this program.

### Logistics

The Orchard Cove House at Shelburne Farms is located on the shores of Lake Champlain in Shelburne, Vermont, about 10 miles from the Burlington International Airport. (Check out these photos of the [Orchard Cove House](#), where we will be staying): **Please plan to arrive anytime after 1 pm on Monday August 31st to settle in and fully arrive. The program will formally begin at 3 pm.** Our program will conclude by 11 am on September 6th. The structure of our daily schedule will be as follows:

	<i><b>Monday August 31st</b></i>	<i><b>Tuesday Sept 1st - Saturday September 5th</b></i>	<i><b>Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup></b></i>
7:30-8:30am		Breakfast and personal time	Breakfast and personal time
9am		Morning group activity	Closing and wrap up. Depart 11am
noon		Lunch	
1-2pm	Arrival and settle in	Peer and Affiliate Coaching & Reflection time	
2-4pm	3pm Opening circle, welcome, and orientation	Afternoon group activity	
4:30 - 5:30		Open Space & Skill Share	
6pm	Dinner	Dinner	
7:30	Evening activity	Evening activity, stories, presentations	

A more detailed schedule, syllabus, and pre-residential learning module will be made available soon.

### Travel

Please add your travel information to this [google sheet](#) which is designed to help you to coordinate travel plans and car sharing to cut down on costs and cars. Please note that you are responsible for coordinating your own travel plans to and from Shelburne Farms. The following information may be helpful as you make your plans.

**Burlington International Airport (BTV)** is approximately 10 miles from Shelburne Farm's Orchard Cove Campus. **If you are flying in and out of BTV, please give yourself at least 30 mins for the commute to and from Orchard Cove House.**

**Rental car information** is available at:

<http://www.burlingtonintlairport.com/index.php/ground-transportation/rental-cars>

**Taxi Services** are available from BTV to Orchard Cove House at Shelburne Farms. For more information, visit: <http://www.btv.aero/index.php/ground-transportation/taxi>

**Bus Transportation** to the Burlington area is also available from Boston, NYC, and Montreal via Megabus and Greyhound. **Train Transportation** is available through Amtrak (Ethan Allen Express and The Vermonter)

**Accommodations:**

Double-occupancy rooms are available at Orchard Cove House with shared bathrooms. Linens and towels are provided. Camping is also available for those of you who may prefer that option (bathrooms/showers are available in the house). Please remember to fill out the this [questionnaire](#) to provide your accommodation preferences, health information, and dietary restrictions.

**What to bring:**

- Raingear
- Comfortable and weather-appropriate clothing and footwear (temps can range from the low 50's to mid 90's during early September)
- Small bottle of water from your home landscape
- Any inspirational art supplies that you feel drawn to bring
- Journal, pen and pencils
- Optional: musical instrument, some of your favorite songs, poetry or stories, or a sampling of any craft/leadership skills/practices you might want to share with the group

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best regards,

Matt Kolan, Kaylynn TwoTrees, & Emil Tsao