

# South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium



## Regionally Organizing for Sustainability

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2011 Governor Quinn's  
GGCC Sustainable University  
And Colleges Symposium  
Heartland Community  
College  
October 28, 2011

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# Mission

To network our institutions in order to strengthen our capacity to leverage resources and information particular to sustainability and the application of renewable practices.



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# Regionally Organizing for Sustainability

- Origin of SMHEC Sustainability Task Force
- Conference Planning
- Conference Outcomes



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# Conference Planning

“Sustainability efforts at all institutions are weak in some areas and strong in others. We will be able to do more collectively than as an individual institution.”

President Michael Vinciguerra  
University of St. Francis



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# Planning Elements

- Top down approach
- Invitees
- Program
- Green logistics
- Funding
- Metrics
- Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact



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# Planned Objectives

- Collecting baseline data
- Develop individualized plans for each institution
- Building a community of peers



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# Community of Peers

- Academics
- Operations (and IT)
- Procurement, Finance
- Student Services
- Student Empowerment
- (Workforce Development)
- (Marketing)



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# Template Example

	<i>HOW NOW (what is our institution doing now?)</i>		<i>HOW OTHERS</i>	<i>HOW NEXT</i>	
Appendix Reference:	STUDENT ENGAGEMENT GRID	Y/N	If Yes: (follow the prompts)	Examples of what others are doing	Next Steps
SE 1	<b>Sustainability in New Student Orientation</b>				
	Institution includes sustainability prominently in its new student orientation activities and programming		See Appendix for examples, describe your program:		
			# students reached		
			Implementation date		
SE 2	<b>Student Sustainability Outreach Campaign(s)</b>				
	Institution holds at least one sustainability-related outreach campaign directed at students.		Describe campaign(s) Name: Type: Who sponsored it: Important lessons learned: Attach examples: Add information for as many campaigns as possible		
			The campaign yields measurable, positive results in advancing sustainability.		



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# Template Example 2

	<i>HOW NOW (what is our institution doing now?)</i>			<i>HOW OTHERS</i>
Appendix Reference:	<b>OPERATIONS GRID</b>	Y/N	If Yes: (follow the prompts)	Examples of what others are doing (to be completed day of workshop)
<b>O1</b>	<b>Building Operations and Maintenance</b>			
Building Operations and Maintenance	Institution owns and operates buildings that are <b>Certified</b> under the LEED® for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Green Building Rating System			
	Institution owns and operates buildings that are <b>operated and maintained</b> in accordance with LEED® for Existing Buildings: Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Green Building Rating System			
<b>O2</b>	<b>Reducing Building Energy Consumption</b>			
Reducing Building Energy Consumption	Have you set measurable objectives or targets to reduce your total building energy consumption per gross square foot of building space? *		Describe measures and timeframes	
	<b>Timers for Temperature Control:</b> Institution uses timers to regulate temperatures based on occupancy hours in at least one building.		Include a brief description of the technology used	
	<b>Lighting Sensors:</b> Institution uses motion, infrared, and/or light sensors to reduce energy use for lighting in at least one building.		Include a brief description of the technology used	
	<b>LED Lighting:</b> Institution uses Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology in at least one lighting application (LED applications in exit signs and remote controls do not count).		Include a brief description of the technology used	
	<b>Vending Machine Sensors:</b> Institution has installed vending machine motion sensors for at least one vending machine.		Include a brief description of the technology used	



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# Academics

- Sustainability Course Identification
- Sustainability Learning Outcomes
- Sustainability Literacy Assessment
- Sustainability Incentives



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# Building Operations

- Reducing energy consumption
- Increasing use of clean and renewable energy
- Reducing waste and diversion to landfill
- Reducing water consumption
- Increasing sustainable Grounds and storm water management



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# Procurement

- Computer, Electronic & Appliances
- Cleaning Products Purchasing
- Office Paper/Supplies/other Vendor operations
- Campus Fleet
- Investments



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# Student Engagement

- Sustainability in New Student Orientation
- Student Sustainability Outreach Campaigns
- Sustainability Outreach and Publications
- Other Student Engagement Opportunities



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# Sustainability

- Strategic Plan
- Physical Campus Plan
- Sustainability Plan
- Climate Action Plan
- Coordination/Declarations



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# Lewis University

joins the **Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact** at the

**Silver**

as presented by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council  
and in cooperation with universities and colleges across Illinois

### Program Overview

Welcome to the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact. The goal of the compact is to encourage universities and colleges within the state to incorporate sustainability into their campus operations, academic and research programs, student activities and community outreach. An institution may pledge at any level provided it has implemented a sustainability program that meets the preceding requirements. The institution may remain at a participation level as long as it continues to make progress toward its commitments. If the institution achieves each of the goals for a given level, it may apply for higher recognition level at any time. As a compact participant, an institution is expected to report annually to the IGCC on the progress it is making toward achieving the program goals.

The Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact offers universities and colleges three levels of participation:

- Bronze** Institutions making a commitment to creating a sustainability program and engaging the campus community.
- Silver** Institutions which are ready to make targeted commitments to greening their operations and monitoring performance.
- Gold** for institutions that are integrating sustainability throughout their campus and working towards measured improvement.

**Bronze Level** To qualify for this designation, the institution pledges to achieve three of the following goals by 2015:

- Endorse a written statement, declaration or policy acknowledging support for sustainability.
- Designate a focal point to lead and/or coordinate sustainability efforts across the campus:
  - steering committee, task force, sustainability office or dedicated staff.
- Create a website that highlights the institution's sustainability programs, with the purpose of:
  - increasing awareness and generating interest.
- Create opportunities for students and faculty to provide suggestions for advancing sustainability on campus.

**Silver Level** Once Bronze level is attained, greater recognition can be achieved by pledging to achieve the following goals by 2015:

- Foster student involvement on steering committees or advisory councils that guide administration on issues of campus sustainability.
- Set measurable sustainability objectives or targets and include a timeframe for meeting the objectives. The sustainability objectives should address the generation of waste and at least three (3) other significant environmental impacts from buildings or operations. Institutions are encouraged to set realistic, yet challenging objectives. The environmental impacts that are addressed may include, but are not limited to: energy consumption, water use, stormwater runoff, vehicle use, local food purchases, paper use, habitat preservation and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Establish a system to monitor and assess the progress of campus sustainability projects and goals.
- Implement at least three (3) of the following sustainability best practices. New initiatives are encouraged for fulfilling these measures, though institutions will be credited for recent or existing initiatives.
  - o Target at least three (3) products and/or services for a green purchasing initiative.
  - o Adapt a policy or guidelines that commit to a specific green building rating system for new construction and major renovation (e.g., LEED® Green Building Rating System).
  - o At least once a year, hold an event on campus that encourages students to adopt or try a sustainability practice(s).
  - o Partner with at least one local entity (e.g. K-12 school, government agency, civic organization, business association) on a project that promotes sustainability at the community level.
  - o Establish mechanisms and incentives that encourage integration of sustainability themes and topics into existing curricula through learning outcomes, course objectives and student assignments.

**Gold Level** Once Silver level is attained, greater recognition can be achieved by pledging to achieve two of the following goals by 2015:

- Endorse or participate in at least one national or international program that recognizes and encourages progress towards sustainability in higher education, such as the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, AAASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or an equivalent program that provides a framework for continual improvement towards sustainability.
- Integrate sustainability broadly into campus operations and management by adopting one or more of the following actions:
  - o Develop a sustainability plan that covers multiple topics and issues;
  - o Incorporate sustainability at a high level in the institution's strategic plan;
  - o Include sustainability as a key principle in the campus master plan.
- On an annual basis, notify the campus community of progress toward achieving the institution's sustainability goals.

*Bradley J. Applegate, Ph.D.*

Name

*President*

Title

*September 16, 2010*

Date

Signature of "Petitioner"

By the end of the workshop each institution developed its own plan for participating in the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact



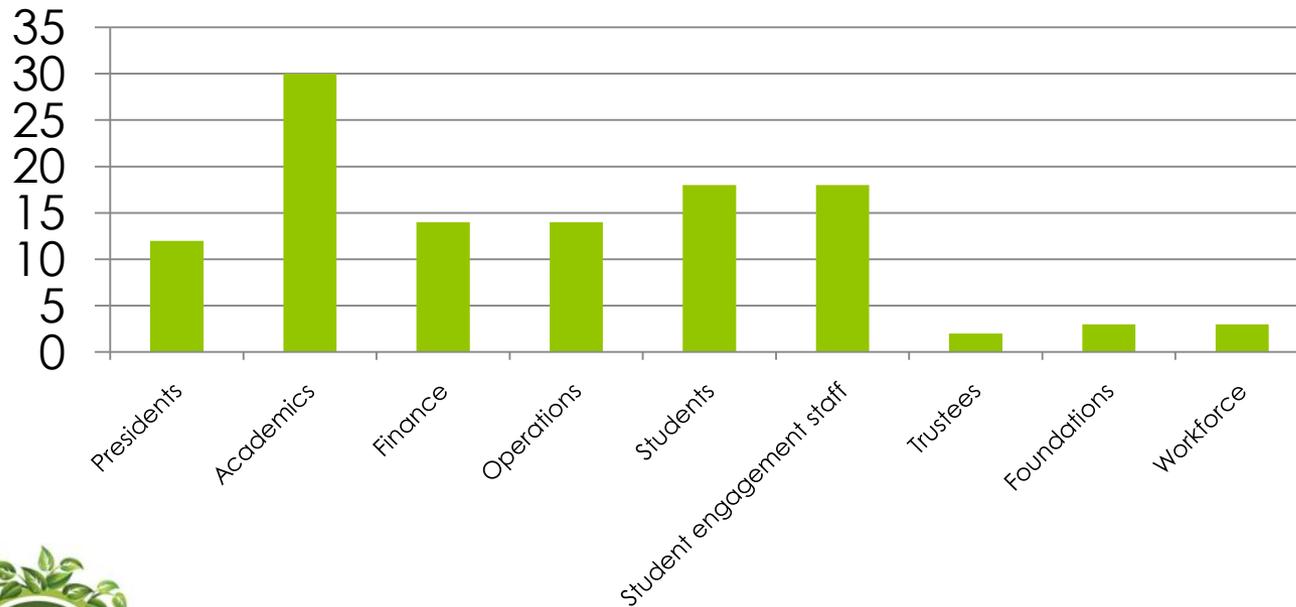
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# Joint Presidential Signing of the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact



# Attendees



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# Participant Feedback

- Valuable sessions
- Worthwhile to include administration
- Future group meetings are imperative
- Create workforce development peer group



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# Planning Committee Feedback

- Developing a community of peers is powerful
- Peer pressure pushed institutions beyond what they would have done on their own
- Student voices make a difference
- Sponsorships are viable but come with challenges



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# Post-Conference Activities

- *Generally* – Development of institutional teams
- *Academics* – “Infusing Sustainability into your Curriculum” summer workshop
- *Students* – Formed official student organization
- *Operations* – Investigating joint electricity purchase
- *Procurement* – Helped CFOs understand their role in sustainability
- *Sustainability* – Adopted concept at administrative level



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Steinkamp Photography

**Bert Jacobson, Ph.D.**  
**Dean, Environmental and**  
**Institutional Sustainability**  
**[bjacobson@kcc.edu](mailto:bjacobson@kcc.edu)**

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Bert Jacobson, Ph.D.  
Dean, Environmental and  
Institutional Sustainability  
[bjacobson@kcc.edu](mailto:bjacobson@kcc.edu)

