

Sustainability At Kankakee Community College 2010 Annual Report



Bert Jacobson and Richard Schultz
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FROM THE DEAN

This past year we have continued to define the role of sustainability at KCC. With Dr. John Avendano, the new President, sustainability remains a strategic priority of the college.

Campus and community sustainability initiatives are gaining momentum, and KCC’s involvement in state, regional, and national sustainability efforts remains strong.

We have come a long way in the two years since we have embraced sustainability as a way to prepare students to successfully negotiate inevitable challenges and to live happy and constructive lives. And I am indebted to the many faculty, staff, and students that have contributed to KCC’s sustainability efforts. We are confident that 2011 will bring new opportunities for our campus and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bert Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bert Jacobson
Dean for Environmental and Institutional Sustainability



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One of the six priorities of the Kankakee Community College Strategic Plan (2009-2013) is to “grow sustainability initiatives as a locally and regionally recognized feature of the college.” Our Sustainability Vision is to be “a model of sustainability for District 520, for Illinois higher education, and for Community Colleges nationwide. KCC will also be a leader in sustainability education, preparing students to successfully negotiate inevitable challenges and to live happy and constructive lives that serve the betterment of humanity and future generations”.

To support this Vision, KCC will achieve four goals:

1. Achieve carbon neutrality for the KCC campus by involving faculty, staff, and students in creating and maintaining a campus culture that embodies the ideals of sustainability.
2. Expand KCC’s curriculum to support sustainability and the growing renewable energy industry
3. Create models that illustrate sustainability and share these models and expanded curriculum with the local community as well as with educational institutions across Illinois.
4. Create partnerships between KCC and other community organizations to promote and nurture sustainability beyond the confines of the KCC campus.

This Sustainability Annual Report addresses progress made in achieving these goals in five areas: Campus, Community, Regional, and State-Wide and National Initiatives.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Campus Sustainability Advisory Committee (CSAC)

The purpose of CSAC is to advance sustainability on the Kankakee Community College campus and to provide input on initiatives to accomplish our sustainability goals.



Campus Initiatives in 2010 included:

- A review of KCC's **Sustainability Strategic Plan**
- Creation of **Green Flash** messages placed weekly in Update and included in the Dean of Student's Letter to Students.
- **Greening Your Curriculum** pilot course offered to twelve faculty members to facilitate discussions with faculty about how and why to add sustainability related content and learning outcomes to their courses. The pilot was a success with many easy and innovative projects presented by faculty. There was a follow-up at the January 2011 Faculty Inservice, and plans to roll out a regular faculty development course in the Spring.
- **Sustainability Week EXPO** is held every year during Earth Week. In April 2010, the 41st Earth day and our third Sustainability Week at KCC, 42 exhibitors and over 300 visitors participated in the EXPO. Everything from micro greens production to microprocessor recycling, from electric generators to electric boats—and scores of green technologies and alternatives—were showcased. We screened "The Story of Stuff" by Annie Lawrence, and "Food, Inc."
- **Student Sustainability Literacy** Pilot Survey was developed and issued to Baccalaureate Scholars and Student Ambassadors in December 2010. The purpose of the survey is to establish a mechanism to measure the sustainability learning that occurs at KCC over a typical two-year matriculation. The goal is to work toward a general learning outcome for all graduates at KCC. The pilot group was selected because they are an identifiable cohort that stays together for the two years.
- **Faculty Curriculum Sustainability Survey** was developed and issued to all faculty in December 2010 as a way to understand if and how sustainability is currently being incorporated into curriculum across the campus. The goal of the survey is to be able to identify those courses containing sustainability-related material and to indicate those courses in the KCC Course catalogue.
- **Agriculture and Horticulture** sustainability related initiatives:
 - **Greenhouse open house** event - 2 September 2010; approximately 200 in attendance
 - **Tissue culture workshop** - 18 September 2010; 32 attendees
 - **Teaching vegetable field** - established by students March 2010; crops used in teaching credit classes, Kids Day at the KCC Student Farm, and donated to college employees

- **Rain garden** - established by Fundamentals of Horticulture students August 2010; captures and filters rainwater runoff from teaching greenhouse roof; water used to irrigate vegetable field



- **KCC high tunnel** - 20 ft. x 36 ft. high tunnel erected by Horticulture Program students and volunteers from Hopkins Park June 2010; used for the production of heirloom tomatoes by horticulture students in 2010 growing season
- **Black Oaks high tunnel** - 20 ft. x 48 ft. high tunnel on permanent loan to Black Oaks Center for Sustainable Renewable Living; to be used for sustainable agriculture crop production during the 2011 growing season
- **Composting facility** - small composting facility constructed by horticulture students Summer 2010; facility accepts compostable materials from the Horticulture and Agriculture Programs

METRICS

- **Macro and Micro-Scorecards** were developed to measure the impact of sustainability efforts.

| | FY 2009 Performance as Baseline Target | FY 2010 Performance change from 2009 2010 absolute value | FY 2011 Target | FY 2012 Target | FY 2013 Target |
|--|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Performance Indicator | | | | | |
| Annual energy use | 51,842 MBTU ¹ | -4% 49,791 MBTU ¹ ↑ | | | |
| Annual energy cost | \$668,169 | -3.2% \$640,326 ↑ | | | |
| Student understanding of sustainability principles | Pilot Group Pre-Test | | | | |
| Curricula incorporating sustainability concepts | Faculty Training Initiated | | | | |

The measures are targeted to Operations (the alignment of KCC operations with the goal of sustainability), Education and Research (the enhancement of a culture of sustainability through education and research), and Planning, Administration & Engagement (providing administrative and financial support for sustainability initiatives). In 2010 we measured the annual reduction in energy consumption (there was a 4 % decrease in consumption and a corresponding 3.2 % decrease in cost, a savings of \$27,843.05) and began the student understanding of sustainability principles with the survey mentioned in 1 d. above.

- **An Energy Scorecard** was developed to track Energy Consumption month by month to track trends and measure reductions in consumption. All energy saving initiatives were supported in part by grants (see 3 below).

| Year | Natural Gas Therms | MBTU | MT CO2e | Electricity KWh | MBTU | MT CO2e | Total MBTU | Total CO2e | Change MBTU | Cost | Change In Cost |
|------|--------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 2005 | 205,664 | 20,566.40 | 1,028 | 4,818,707 | 16,446.25 | 3,461 | 37,012.65 | 4,489 | ----- | \$579,058.88 | ----- |
| 2007 | 231,143 | 23,114.30 | 1,156 | 5,660,819 | 19,320.38 | 4,065 | 42,434.68 | 5,221 | +14.6% | \$684,833.28 | +18.3% |
| 2008 | 258,115 | 25,811.50 | 1,291 | 5,911,397 | 20,175.60 | 4,245 | 45,987.10 | 5,536 | + 8.4% | \$829,501.37 | +21.1% |
| 2009 | 320,899 | 32,089.90 | 1,604 | 5,787,367 | 19,752.28 | 4,156 | 51,842.18 | 7,312 | +12.7% | \$868,168.96 | +4.7% |
| 2010 | 319,290 | 31,929.09 | 1,596 | 5,531,244 | 18,878.14 | 3,972 | 50,807.23 | 5,568 | -2.0% | \$840,325.91 | - 3.2% |

- **STARS.** KCC became a Charter member of STARS (Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System) a program of AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education), of which we are also a member. The STARS measurement system helps us to document our sustainability initiatives and benchmark them on a national level. We were one of seven out of the 250-member colleges and universities that submitted our first report. The report, submitted January 2011, gave us a Bronze rating, see link at: <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/kankakee-community-college-il/report/2011-01-03/> .



- **ACUPCC.** KCC's President, Dr. Jerry Weber signed The American College and University President's Climate Commitment in 2007. The Commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in training the people who will develop

the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming. Presidents signing the Commitment pledged to eliminate their campuses' greenhouse gas emissions over time. This involves: Completing an emissions inventory, within two years, setting a target date and interim milestones for becoming climate neutral, taking immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by choosing from a list of short-term actions, integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience, and making the action plan, inventory and progress reports publicly available.

We have accomplished these requirements by conducting an original **Green House Gas Inventory** in 2009 and updated it in 2010, creating a **Climate Action Plan** in 2010, and piloting the **Greening Your Curriculum** course (mentioned in 1 c, above). The reports are publicly available on our KCC website: <http://www.kcc.edu/Community/sustainability/Pages/goals.aspx> and on the ACUPCC website: http://acupcc.aashe.org/search/?institution_name=Kankakee+Community+College&carnegie_class=%3F%3F&state_or_province=%3F%3F

- **Waste Reduction Plan**—5 year Update. In April, 2010 KCC submitted a mandatory 5-year Waste Reduction Plan to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in accordance with Illinois Public Act 86-1363, Section 415 ILCS 20/3.1. The report indicated that current waste land filled per student decreased 34.735% compared to the amount land filled in 1987. The College will continue in its commitment to waste reduction by increasing diversion of materials from the waste stream by recycling and, in the future, composting.



GRANT SUPPORT

In 2010 KCC secured 12 sustainability related grants totaling \$1,312,531.89, with another 2 grants pending for FY12 for \$2,885,942. The grants are supporting HVAC improvements, lighting projects, renewable energy curriculum development, renewable energy equipment (including a 50 kW wind turbine), weatherization training, sustainability coordinator, and a project in Hopkins Park. One of the pending grants is for continuation of the HVAC improvements and the other is a federal request for a Student Success Center. There are funds available for these energy conservation measures that we will continue to capture. The improvements will save KCC approximately 470,461 kWh per year in electricity at an annual savings of \$ 56,456.

| Funding Organization | Grant Purpose | Amount |
|---|--|------------|
| US Department of Education | Purchase and install renewable energy educational equipment, including a 50 KW wind turbine. | \$ 400,000 |
| US Department of Education | Support for Sustainability Coordinator | \$ 29,985 |
| Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation | Purchase and install renewable energy educational equipment, including a 50 KW wind turbine. | \$ 279,600 |
| Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation | Energy Efficient Gymnasium Lights | \$28,945 |
| Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity | HVAC Improvements | \$ 183,601 |
| Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity | Support for Sustainability Coordinator | \$ 64,952 |
| Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity | Sustainability equipment, outreach, and travel | \$ 14,000 |
| Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity | Support for Illinois Community College Sustainability Network Director | \$110,400 |
| Illinois Environmental Protection Agency | Repaint the Hopkins Park water tower | \$ 145,965 |
| Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program | Weatherization training | \$ 28,008 |
| National Science Foundation | Renewable Energy curriculum development | \$ 149,985 |



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

- **Council for Community Sustainability (CCS)** was formed to advance sustainability into our community with a structured approach. The goals of the Council are to:
 - Coordinate sustainability sectors, across a broad spectrum, affecting community development and quality of life. The Council has addressed housing, sustainable agriculture and local foods, sustainable education, facilities managers from the largest employers in Kankakee County, community and business groups, and green job development.
 - Be a driving force for sustainability in the Kankakee area, the quad-counties, and the South Chicago Region.
 - Share resources and knowledge in order to accelerate change.
 - Provide opportunities for and assistance with obtaining additional resources, such as grants and funding.
- **2010 Community Initiatives** include:
 - **Prescription Drug Drop-Off Boxes.** First approved at a special meeting of Mayors in August 2009, the Kankakee River Valley Prescription and Drug Disposal Program is now active at 11 sites around Kankakee County. The program has two clear benefits: it will help prevent the accidental or intentional misuse of prescription drugs and medications and help preserve water quality.
 - **Kankakee County Comprehensive Plan.** KCC has begun work with the Director of the Kankakee County Planning Department to incorporate sustainable planning into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

- **Green Happenings.** KCC’s Council for Community Sustainability and the Kankakee Public Library have teamed up to offer monthly “green happenings” at the library. Topics to date have included a series of films and discussions: “Food Inc.”, with discussion by Scott KCC’s Professor of Agriculture/Horticulture, “The Story of Stuff”, with discussion by the local waste hauler and recycler, “The 11th Hour,” with discussion by KCC’s Sustainability Coordinator, “Cool Cities”, with discussion by Cool Cities representative and local utility representatives, and “Carbon Nation”.



- **GreenScene.** We continue to produce quarterly editions of the GreenScene in partnership with the Daily Journal. The GreenScene goes to the Journal’s 47,000 subscribers (24,000 Daily Journal and 22,000 Kankakee Money Saver) and over 100,000 readers in our district as well as students in 53 schools or 129 K-12 classrooms through “Newspapers in Education.”

- **Green Minutes,** a series of 30 second spots on WKCC, the campus NPR radio station, run three times a day featuring sustainability tips.

- **City of Kankakee Planning.** Working with the Mayor of Kankakee, City Planner, local

architects and the Economic Alliance of Kankakee County to design and seek grant funding for a major renovation of Kankakee neighborhoods utilizing sustainability principles.

- **Economic Alliance of Kankakee.** Working with the Alliance to showcase sustainability in Kankakee, encourage sustainable projects with businesses in Kankakee, and attract new business and industry to the area.
- **River Roundtable Meetings.** Initially organized by the Kankakee County Economic Alliance, this group of interested stakeholders meets to discuss efforts to preserve, protect, and enhance the quality of the Kankakee River with respect to water supply, environmental resource preservation, recreation/tourism, and economic development.

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- **SMHEC Sustainability Task Force.** The South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium, consisting of 12 colleges and universities in the Chicago South suburbs (6 community colleges, 3 private and 3 public universities) formed a Sustainability Task Force. KCC has been an active member with SMHEC and the Sustainability Task Force. Members of SMHEC are KCC, Governors State University, Prairie State College, South Suburban College, Moraine Valley Community College, Illinois Institute of Technology, Joliet Junior College, Northwestern College, St. Xavier College, DeVry University, University of St. Francis, and Lewis University.
- **SMHEC Sustainability Planning Workshop** held on September 14 and 15, 2010 was an innovative project that brought together administrative teams from the 12 colleges and universities to share progress in sustainability initiatives and to explore next steps and develop plans for each participant.



The conference kick-off was a dinner with keynote Dr. Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College, OR. The workshop ended with the various schools announcing their level of commitment to Governor Quinn's new 2010-2015 Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact commitments (Bronze, Silver, Gold) and the immediate challenges they face. 8 of the 12 colleges committed to Gold and the remaining 4 committed to Silver. KCC was able to pledge at the Gold level. The SMHEC Sustainability Task Force members will follow-up with the colleges over the next several months to support their efforts.

STATE-WIDE AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

- **Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN).** The Illinois Community College Sustainability Network (ICCSN), founded by KCC, formally changed its name in 2010 to IGEN and hired a new Executive Director, Leith Sharp. There are currently 12 Illinois community colleges with funded Sustainability Coordinators and we are working to get the remaining 36 funded as well. IGEN is the only state-wide community college sustainability network in the country.



- Two major initiatives for 2010** are:
- **Greening Your Curriculum (GYC).** This is an IGEN-driven, state-wide effort to create a standardized Greening Your Curriculum for faculty. The 12 funded colleges met for a two-day train-the-trainer session which began a collaborative effort to create a standard sustainability curriculum for community colleges in Illinois. As a result, KCC was able to create a pilot GYC course for faculty, offered in November 2010. The course involves facilitated discussion with readings and resources for six modules with an expected deliverable of providing a description of how each faculty member will incorporate sustainability into their current curriculum. The modules are: Defining Sustainability, Developing Ecological Literacy, Social Equity and Environmental Justice, The Emerging Green Economy, and a Call to Action/Implementation. Twelve faculty members participated and are supplementing their curricula for the Spring semester. This marks the beginning of building momentum within the faculty at KCC for incorporating sustainability-related content into their curricula with the goal of making sustainability a learning outcome for all graduates at KCC.
 - **Task Forces.** At the December IGEN Retreat at Heartland Community College, the group decided to establish four task forces to explore and share best practices in the areas of local foods, transportation, weatherization, and sustainability and master planning.
 - **2010-2015 Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact.** KCC has been involved in the development of the revised 2010-2015 Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact of Gov. Quinn with the Green Universities and Colleges Subcommittee



Kankakee Community College
joins the *Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact* at the

Gold Level

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

of the Green Government Coordinating Council of Illinois. The new compact was unveiled around the same time that SMHEC used it for their Sustainability Planning Workshop (see Regional Initiatives, above)

- **Illinois Recycling Association (IRA).** KCC is taking the lead with IRA to create a community college continuing education curriculum to be used state-wide to certify and re-certify their 250 members annually. The project is slated to be completed in 2011.
- **HEASC Fellow.** Bert Jacobson, Ph.D. continues to participate in national sustainability initiatives as one on 12 Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC) Fellows.

PRESENTATIONS

- Jan. 22 “KCC’s process for Climate Action Planning and Green House Gas Inventory,” SMHEC at Moraine Valley Community College
- Jan. 23-26 “The Illinois Community College Sustainability Network – A Successful Model” 2010 Community College Futures Assembly, Orlando, Florida
- Mar. 16-18 Higher Education Panelist at Green Town at the College of Lake County.
- April 6&7 participated in a “DCEO Peer Exchange” at Starved Rock
- April 22 “Sustainability Expo” at KCC; 40 vendors, 300 participants.
- April 28 “Green Jobs” Iroquois West Students, Gilman.
- June 22, “Sustainability and KCC,” Kankakee Lions.
- July 13, “Lean Six Sigma and Sustainability” Olivet Nazarene University doctoral student class.
- Aug. 27 Panel discussant: “Introducing the 2010 Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact”, 2010 Sustainable University Symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Sept. 30, “Sustainability and KCC.” KIEO Professionals.
- Oct. 10-13, Panel discussant on two panels “Regional Sustainability Consortia” and “National Sustainability Fellows Projects”, Annual AASHE Conference, Denver, Colorado
- Oct. 15, 16 and 22, “Greening Your Curriculum” KCC
- October 26-29, networking, National Science Foundation Advanced Technology Education conference, Washington, D.C.
- Nov. 2 “KCC’s Sustainability Initiatives”, Education for Sustainable Development national conference call.

EXTERNAL RECOGNITION

- **Illinois Council of Community College Administrator’s (ICCCA) Innovation Award, 2009**
- **Illinois Governor’s Sustainability Award, 2009**
- **Community College Futures Assembly, Bellwether Award Finalist, 2010**