

2013 Governor's Sustainability Award Winner



ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

LEWIS AND CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Lewis and Clark Community College (L&C) is a two-year higher education institution centered in Godfrey, IL near the

Mississippi River. The college is committed to being climate neutral by 2058, requiring them to accommodate growth while reducing or offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions related to campus operations.

L&C has made strong and early progress on their goal, reducing emissions by nearly 25 percent since 2008 when the college's Climate Action Plan was released. The journey to climate neutrality has touched every aspect of campus activity, from operations to coursework, and spawned sustainability projects in a variety of areas. These activities earned L&C the Governor's Sustainability Award in 2011 and 2013.

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND OUTLOOK

Sustainability projects at L&C are initiated by student groups, professors, and operations teams. The Green Oversight Committee - formed in 2008 and composed of faculty, staff, and administration - meets every semester to provide direction, advice, and oversight for the Office of Sustainability and tracks progress on initiatives. The committee also ensures that the college is pursuing the full definition of sustainability by ensuring projects are carried out in each of five categories: Energy Conservation, Renewable Energy Production, Recycling and Reuse, Commuting and Campus Fleets, and Policy/Behavior Change/Student Engagement.

In 2012, the campus completed fifteen projects, which spanned each of these areas and saved the college over \$10,000 annually. More importantly, L&C's sustainability initiatives have promoted a strong culture of innovation and conservation on campus.

"The first phase of our sustainability mission involved knocking out the low-hanging fruit... Now we tackle the hard task of being a true agent of change."

- Nate Keener, Sustainability Director



KEY STATS

Environmental outcomes in FY2012

Outcomes



1,260 gallons of gasoline reduced



7,662 pounds of material recycled



2,504 tons of CO₂ emissions avoided



\$19,500 annual savings

ABOUT LEWIS AND CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Founded: **1970**

Main Campus: **Godfrey, IL**

of Students: **26,000**

Sector: **Higher Education**

NAICS Code: **611210**

ABOUT THE ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Since 1987, ISTC has presented Governor's Sustainability Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to sustaining our environmental and economic health.

Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply.

Find out more at:

istc.illinois.edu/govsawards

or email istc-govsawards@illinois.edu

INGREDIENTS FOR SUCCESS

A breakdown of strategies and technologies that help Lewis & Clark Community College increase efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

Air Emissions

- ✓ Carbon Offsets

Community Engagement

- ✓ National Great Rivers Research & Education Center (NGRREC)

Energy Use

- ✓ Boiler upgrade
- ✓ Energy use dashboards
- ✓ LED lighting
- ✓ Renewable Energy Production
- ✓ Variable frequency drives
- ✓ Fuel cell technology

Sustainability Management

- ✓ Climate action plan
- ✓ Green oversight committee

Transportation Fuel

- ✓ Clean commute incentives
- ✓ EV charging stations

Waste Reduction & Recycling

- ✓ Disposable water bottle reduction
- ✓ E-waste drive
- ✓ Food scrap diversion
- ✓ Waste characterization and strategy



LEWIS AND CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ENERGY USE & EMISSIONS REDUCTION



Since 2011, L&C has increased enrollment by 10 percent and added 30,000 square feet of LEED-designed building space. In spite of this growth, they decreased their net greenhouse gas emissions by nine percent. This achievement is due largely to energy

reduction initiatives, including replacement of outdoor lighting with LED's, replacement of three outdated boilers, and the use of variable frequency drives on all air handlers.

The college recently installed energy dashboards – flat panel displays showing energy and water usage statistics –in campus buildings. These tools raised awareness among the campus community and fostered competition among campus buildings.



L&C students interact with an Energy Dashboard on campus

TRANSPORTATION FUEL

In targeting transportation emissions, L&C has launched several initiatives to reduce single-rider vehicles and traditional fuel use on campus. Students and staff are offered incentives to track their efforts at reducing mileage. Bus riders receive bus passes and carpoolers receive gas cards. During Fall Semester 2012, this program recorded a total of 31,000 traditional commuter miles reduced. The L&C campus is also home to three electric vehicle charging stations, making it easier for students and staff to consider electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle options.



RECYCLING



The L&C campus recently transitioned to a single-stream recycling system and increased the number of recycling receptacles throughout campus. Since the launch of the *Kick the Can* campaign, over 50 L&C employees have gotten rid of their deskside trash bins and committed to a “recycling only” office space.

L&C has also been working with an electronics recycling company to host one e-waste drive per semester. These drives have been hugely successful, collecting over 70 tons of electronics since program inception. The public is able to drop off e-waste at these events, making L&C a go-to resource for recycling information among the local community.