

2011 Illinois Governor's Sustainability Awards



- photo by Scott Butner

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**ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER**
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Governor's Sustainability Awards

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and the Office of the Governor are honoring the “Sustainability Stars” of Illinois. Twenty five Illinois companies and organizations are being honored this year for their significant achievements in protecting the environment, helping sustain the future, and improving the economy. Since 1987, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) has presented Governor’s Awards to organizations in Illinois that have demonstrated a commitment to environmental excellence through outstanding and innovative sustainability practices. Any Illinois public or private organization is eligible to apply for an award. Winners are selected through a rigorous process of review and examination by ISTC technical assistance experts.

Organizations that are winning for the first time receive the Sustainability Award. Those organizations that have won in past years and are continuing their environmental efforts are awarded a Continuous Improvement Award.

“The efforts of these businesses and organizations demonstrate that it is possible to meet social and economic needs while minimizing impacts on the environment. Present and future generations will appreciate their foresight,” said Manohar Kulkarni, ISTC Director.

ISTC is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois.



Governor's Sustainability Awards

Agenda

- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Registration and Networking, Displays
- 11:00 a.m. Welcome and housekeeping remarks –
Master of Ceremonies (Deb Jacobson)
- Introductory Remarks – Dr. Manohar Kulkarni, Director,
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
- University of Illinois Prairie Research Institute –
Dr. William Shilts, Executive Director
- University of Illinois – Dr. Phyllis Wise, Vice President &
Chancellor (invited)
- Governor (or his designee) Remarks
- Retrospective of Governor's Awards – Dr. Gary Miller, Associate
Director, Prairie Research Institute
- 11:45 a.m. Break
- 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:15 p.m. Plenary Speaker – Dr. Robert (Doc) Hall
- 1:15 p.m. Presentation of Awards – Bob Iverson
(followed by additional photo opportunities, networking)
- Dr. Manohar Kulkarni & Governor (or his designee)
to Present Trophy
- 2:30 & 3:00 p.m. Optional Tour of ISTC



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(Project information supplied by the organizations)


ActOnEnergy Business Program -- Peoria Sustainability Award

In June 2008, Ameren Illinois launched the Act On Energy® program -- an invitation for customers to partner with us to create positive change. Act On Energy promotes energy efficiency among nearly 1.1 million business and residential customers served by Ameren Illinois in its 43,700-square-mile territory. Through Act On Energy, Ameren Illinois educates customers on using energy wisely and provides financial incentives to residential, commercial, and industrial customers to identify and implement a variety of energy-saving improvements. The program also encourages qualified businesses to become registered Act On Energy Program Allies and provide energy-efficient products and services to participants. Act On Energy will help businesses implement more than 3,000 energy-efficiency projects and save more than \$41 million dollars annually in energy costs. These projects will reduce energy use by more than 239,000,000 kWh -- equivalent to powering 21,911 homes for an entire year. These projects will also cut carbon emissions by 188,000 metric tons.

Argonne National Laboratory -- Argonne Continuous Improvement Award

Argonne National Laboratory has adopted an aggressive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, improve water and energy use efficiency, increase use of energy efficient vehicles, and to improve the efficiency of buildings. Argonne has a Sustainability Team that has created a Site Sustainability Plan. The Plan focuses on Transportation, Energy and Water Conservation, Clean and Renewable Energy, Pollution Prevention, Education, and Outreach. The Team has established a Sustainability Idea



Exchange website to solicit comments, ideas and suggestions from employees. To date many of the ideas have been adopted and others will be evaluated by the Team.

Another of Argonne's challenges remains the managing of sustainability goals during a period in which the Laboratory is growing. Recently, four major facilities have come on line. Even with investment in efficiency projects, electricity use has increased due to the power demand of these new facilities. To balance this growth, Argonne is retrofitting existing facilities and demolishing unnecessary facilities. Argonne has created a Site Innovation Team that is focusing on clean energy technologies that can be deployed over the next 10 years.

Cabot Corporation -- Tuscola Sustainability Award

Cabot Corporation's Tuscola facility produces fumed metal oxides, including fumed silica and alumina, and hydrochloric acid. The facility has been actively pursuing new ideas for environmental improvement and sustainability over the last few years. Key projects that have been implemented as a part of the overall improvement process, include:

- A new recycling program for waste packaging materials such as paper bags, plastic film and cardboard along with office wastes resulted in 76 tons of material being recycled rather than landfilled and savings of approximately \$28,000 for otherwise disposing of the material.
- Upgrade of two plant scrubbing systems into one recirculating system that is saving an average of 18.5 gallons of water per minute, amounting to 9,723,600 gallons per year.
- A packaging efficiency project resulting in elimination



of over 51,280 cardboard pallets and 78,820 pounds of shrink wrap from the packaging process. This resulted in savings in excess of \$762,000.

- Replacement of inefficient lighting and installation of energy saving motion sensors through key areas of the plant, resulting in a reduction of electric usage by 840,000 kWh annually.

City of Evanston – Evanston Sustainability Award

In October 2006 the Evanston City Council voted unanimously to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the City quickly moved to develop an Evanston Climate Action Plan (ECAP). The plan was developed as a collaborative effort between the City and the community including representatives from Evanston institutions, residents, businesses and existing sustainability groups. The ECAP was developed with input of over 130 community members and includes more than 200 strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the community. The City's Office of Sustainability has been working to implement projects and programs which support the ECAP with the goal of reducing the City's emissions by 13% by 2013. To date Evanston has initiated, completed or is in progress of implementing over 110 of the 200 strategies with activities at both the municipal and community wide level. The City's municipal operations efficiency activities have resulted in a 22% reduction in municipal greenhouse gas emissions below the 2005 baseline. At the community wide level, efficiency projects and education and outreach have resulted in a smaller reduction in emissions associated with energy usage, although efforts continue. Implementation activities continue in 2011 with specific



focus on reducing emissions associated with energy usage and transportation activities. The City continues to fund the fulltime Sustainable Programs Coordinator to facilitate and lead the City's sustainability and carbon reduction efforts.

**City of Naperville -- Naperville
Sustainability Award**

Thanks to funding from the Department of Energy, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the City of Naperville created the Home Energy Savings Program (HESP). Through the program, the City of Naperville provided nearly 400 households a free home energy evaluation by a Certified Energy Technician in 2010. Due to the overwhelming success of the program, the City of Naperville announced Phase II of the program, which will provide a minimum of an additional 100 residents a free home energy evaluation. During the evaluation, the City's trained energy technicians determine a home's existing energy efficiency by using specialized equipment. The equipment identifies air leaks and reveals hard to detect areas of infiltration and missing insulation. Taking actions to improve the energy efficiency of a home can increase a resident's overall comfort and save significant amounts of money in utility bills over time. Additionally, participating residents qualified for a 50 percent reimbursement, up to a maximum of \$1,500, from the City of Naperville for energy improvements made in concert with the home energy evaluation. Over 70% of the households in the program made energy efficient improvements in their homes. The corresponding reduction in total greenhouse gases is estimated to be nearly 700,000 pounds annually.



DuPage County – Wheaton Sustainability Award

Serving over 900,000 residents, DuPage County has long been committed to conserving and preserving our natural resources for generations to come. In 2010, DuPage County developed and implemented numerous sustainability projects, with measured success. These initiatives lessened the impact to our environment in many ways.

- energy-efficiency projects that drastically cut energy use and led to cost savings
- waste reduction and diversion programs which reduced use of natural resources and led to increased recycling, with hundreds of thousand of pounds of waste diverted from landfills
- promotion of alternative transportation programs
- synchronization of traffic signals projects, which reduced idling, congestion, fuel consumption and emissions

Earth Friendly Products -- Addison Sustainability Award

Earth Friendly Products, a pioneer in the manufacturing of green household and commercial cleaning products, has undertaken to create green products in the most environmentally friendly manner. EFP is committed to excellence, quality and community leadership in all of its activities. EFP aims to fulfill obligations to sustainability leadership by supporting activities which contribute to environmental and social justice, human rights and a sustainable environment. EFP is achieving ZERO waste goal by integrating Re-think into Reducing, Reusing, Recycling. EFP offsets their carbon footprint by purchasing renewable sources. EFP is conducting a detailed Life Cycle Assessment on our products in order to study the environmental



impacts and find the best practical solution to eliminate the impacts. EFP has implemented a number of sustainability guides which aim to promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and zero waste to landfill. EFP monitors and provides support to its vendors in order to comply with the sustainability goals. EFP provides sustainability training and resources for employees. The company is committed to:

- Reduce Direct Emissions - reducing the in-house carbon footprint and creating bottom line savings by implementing all cost-effective carbon reduction measures.
- Reduce indirect emissions - working with other organizations, e.g. suppliers to reduce emissions.

Elmhurst Park District -- Elmhurst Continuous Improvement Award

During 2010, Elmhurst Park District continued to distinguish itself as an environmental leader in the community while reinforcing its ongoing mission to provide “Lifetime Enjoyment.” Sustainability continued to permeate the organization through a variety of activities:

- Incorporated “Green Impact” into the Prioritization of Capital Projects, resulting in fifteen projects identified as having a positive impact on the environment.
- Recognized by Clean Air Counts for reducing smog forming emissions by 137 lbs and creating a health benefit of \$137,390 through the use of B-20 biodiesel.
- Partnered with EnerNOC to voluntarily reduce power consumption during peak periods at Courts Plus, resulting in expected savings of \$450 per month.
- Bid Specifications for new construction included requirements aimed at reducing pollution and achieving continual environmental performance.

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- Developed Natural Area Management Plan to address practices of invasive pest control, preservation and restoration of natural areas.
 - Reinforced ongoing Commitment to Sustainability through annual planting of 125 trees and 9,000 prairie plugs, ensuring nature for future generations.
 - Ecological programming expanded to include plant life, water cycles, effects of pollution, erosion and animal traits.
 - Landscape beautification at Churchville School.

The Elmhurst Park District continues to provide for future sustainability through a five-year environmental action plan and its ongoing commitment to expand environmental initiatives.

Gabriel Environmental Services – Chicago Sustainability Award

Gabriel Environmental Services is an environmental consulting firm. In more than 35 years of business, Gabriel has become leading experts in the areas of Phase I environmental site assessments, soil borings, and industrial wastewater monitoring. In recent years the company has begun offering renewable energy services. In an effort to practice what we preach, Gabriel has undertaken several energy efficiency projects:

- Installation of two geothermal energy systems
- Installation of six solar thermal panels, plus three 120 gallon hot water tanks/heat exchangers
- Installation of 36 solar photo-voltaic panels, one of the ten largest commercial arrays in Illinois
- Retrofit of 116 lighting fixtures to more energy efficient bulbs and fixtures, plus motion sensor control of lighting throughout most of the building
- Installation of additional insulation throughout the building



These efforts have resulted in an overall 23% reduction in electricity usage and a 17% reduction in electricity usage during the peak summer season. Our geothermal system has resulted in an overall 25% reduction in gas usage and a 29% reduction in gas usage during the peak winter season. In addition, Gabriel has started a number of other internal sustainability practices including:

- Composting our kitchen scraps and landscape trimmings
- Internal recycling of nearly all paper, metal, and plastics
- Growing vegetables in a raised garden bed
- Installing a 30,000 gallon rain harvesting system to water our grass and award-winning gardens
- Fertilizing our gardens with recycled biosolids

Gabriel has also switched our electrical power supplier to a 100% renewable source. Coupled with its own generated power, our carbon footprint for electrical use is zero.

GE Healthcare IT – Barrington Continuous Improvement

GE Healthcare is committed to achieving environmental, health and safety excellence. GE Healthcare strives to provide a safe, healthy working environment and avoid adverse impact to the environment and the communities in which we do business. GE Healthcare IT Barrington is meeting it's environmental obligation and addressing climate change by reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2010, GE upgraded its HVAC and lighting control systems, and reduced building and personal electricity consumption through a diverse range of projects.

- A building envelope audit identified more than 40 energy saving opportunities.

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- The environmental impact initiative resulted in a reduction of 35 tons of ice control salt.
 - The Barrington Green Team raised awareness and encouraged participation in environmental activities including Earth Day, expanded recycling program and a campaign for elimination of polystyrene consumables.

The 2010 efforts resulted in an annual reduction of 254,250 kWh of electricity which equates to a decrease of 179.46 metric tons of carbon dioxide. GE Healthcare IT focused on making energy improvements a top priority. However, the greatest impact was with employees and their engagement in green activities and sustainability efforts.

Harris Corporation – Quincy Continuous Improvement Award

The Harris Corporation–Broadcast Communications Division (BCD) manufactures radio and television transmitters. It has achieved ISO14001 certification and has a long-standing energy efficiency and pollution prevention program. Environmental impact reduction projects implemented during 2010 include:

- Replacement of the Building 1 Diesel Generator with an Electric Motor Generator
- Use of groundwater for non-contact cooling water for a liquid ring pump
- Use of conductivity controls to regulate metal finishing rinse waters
- Ducting heat from the electric motor generator room to the north shipping docks
- Campus-wide Lighting Audit
- Tank Room Boiler Timers
- Water Heater Replacement
- Vending Miser to reduce energy use



These projects produced a number of economic benefits including:

- Raw Material Savings - Diesel fuel reduction – 43,800 gallons/year or \$112,128/year. Reduction in chemical usage in waste water pretreatment operations.
- Water Savings – 2,673,000 gallons/year or \$15,152/year
- Electricity Savings – 14,000kwh/year or \$3,590/year
- Natural Gas Savings – 3,585 therms/year or \$6,444/year

J.L. Clark – Rockford Sustainability Award

J.L. Clark is a manufacturing company that produces decorated metal tins and decorated plastic containers to major industries and consumers. As J.L. Clark has been in its current facility 100 years, the facility has become outdated and energy inefficient. Though small changes made a difference, to make a big difference big changes had to be made. With a facility this old, no change was minor. The changes and installations involved many departments, resources, rebate programs and many hours of planning and work. Providers of electric and gas, as well as outside Environmental Engineers and Service Engineers reviewed Clark's current processes and made suggestions on improvements that would provide the optimal green/sustainable result. Improvement programs were done with project leaders and often during non-peak hours to least impact production. The company not only completed major projects, which resulted in major changes to the facility's environment, it aggressively involved J.L. Clark employees. Employees were educated on the recycling of each item from cans, paper, ink cartridges and other daily waste. Clark recycled scraps from the Plastics Injection Molding Division and then looked further to find ways to make that even more sustainable by grinding the plastic. J.L. Clark is now looking to go "Zero Waste to Landfill"



**John A. Logan College -- Carterville
Sustainability Award**

John A. Logan College (JALC) has become a leader in sustainability among community colleges in Illinois with the establishment of environmentally sustainable practices on campus and a focus on campus energy efficiency. Three years ago the College signed the Illinois Sustainable Universities Compact to reduce energy usage by 10 percent per square foot by 2010. JALC has not only achieved this goal, but has exceeded it. On the main campus from 2008 to 2010, electric usage per square foot fell by 18%. This represents a total reduction of 1,154,996 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. In addition to efforts to reduce energy consumption, the College is dedicated to creating a culture of environmental responsibility. A College Green Committee assists in incorporating sustainable thinking in all college decision making processes and encourages environmental responsibility in the construction of new facilities. A campus Sustainability Center was established to promote sustainable practices in campus departments, educate students about sustainability issues, encourage faculty to integrate sustainability into curriculum, and serve as a source of green information for the community at large. In a recent e-mail announcement, It really is the little things we do that make great things possible.

**Lewis and Clark Community College – Godfrey
Sustainability Award**

Lewis and Clark Community College is taking an aggressive approach to integrating sustainability across its campuses, from the way it operates to the content of the courses in teaches and training it provides. Between 2008-2010, the



college recorded a 14.4% reduction in energy use from energy conservation measures. These steps were from a comprehensive energy audit and carbon footprint assessment begun in 2008. The full assessment was completed in 2009, and strategies to reduce the college's energy use and carbon emissions were implemented almost immediately. Four primary energy conservation measures are credited for the savings, two structural and two more policy or behavior related. Lewis and Clark understands that it takes a multi-faceted approach to advance sustainability, improving facilities while also transforming the behavior of individuals and the way the institution operates. The goal is to adopt multiple strategies in order to model these "best practices" and infuse the lessons learned into the curriculum and the community served. Reducing energy is just the beginning of a long journey of choices that Lewis and Clark will make to become a "greener" culture.

**Lincoln Park Zoological Society – Chicago
Sustainability Award**

Lincoln Park Zoo is the only privately-managed free zoo in the United States. The Zoo transformed and restored the pond adjacent to Café Brauer into "Nature Boardwalk" to provide a haven for native birds, frogs, turtles, fish, insects, mammals and native plants. It also serves as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages.

In addition to creating a safe experience for the public, the zoo restored the pond to a more naturalistic environment. The sharp concrete and steel border were replaced with natural earthen sloped edges. Native vegetation naturally filters the water, creating cleaner and healthier water quality. Native wildlife were reintroduced to create a natural ecosystem. The pond is now more aesthetically pleasing for



the public and is home to wildlife and migratory birds. A boardwalk, made from durable recycled plastic resembling wood, surrounds the entire pond and provides a 14-acre outdoor wilderness classroom with naturalist interpreters. It provides a wide range of educational programs and mobile labs designed to promote hands-on learning that engages the public about our city's native wildlife and the importance of preserving wetlands and freshwater ecosystems. More than 100 newly planted trees and acres of prairie and wetland grasses and plants provide shade, food and habitat for local wildlife. Rare migratory birds, such as the black-crowned night heron, can be spotted nesting, while turtles sun themselves and dragonflies skim the water. The newly restored habitat is expected to attract many more spectacular wildlife sightings than ever before in the pond's 140-year history.

**NOW Foods, Inc. -- Bloomingdale
Continuous Improvement Award**

Established in 1968, NOW Foods manufactures the natural product industry's most comprehensive line of natural health products, including dietary supplements, sports nutrition, foods, and personal care items. NOW products are sold in close to 70 countries, and packaged in over a dozen languages. In addition to a passion for nutritional excellence, NOW supports social and environmental efforts throughout their industry and community. NOW regularly hosts conservation and clean-up events in support of Make a Difference Day and Earth Week; a tradition which goes back over a decade. In addition, NOW is exploring the feasibility of geothermal cooling for their warehouses.

Recent sustainability efforts include

1. the purchase and use of a Diversi-Tech Dust Cartridge/

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- Filter Cleaning Machine which allows for the in-house cleaning and reuse of dust collector filter cartridges,
2. installation of a automatic night cooling system which allow more efficient control of warehouse temperatures,
 3. expansion of in-house recycling and reuse programs to include food dust collections. This material is offered for beneficial reuse as hog feed supplement,
 4. holding a Christmas light recycling drive,
 5. installation of a rain/moisture sensor to prevent unnecessary landscape watering,
 6. providing free barrels to the Village of Bloomingdale for use as trash receptacles in parks, and for use in resource collection drives, and
 7. hosting an educational booth at the Green Fair.

**PortionPac Chemical Corporation -- Chicago
Continuous Improvement Award**

PortionPac makes controlled packaging and concentrated cleaning detergents. It combines this with education and support programs. New 2010 initiatives include:

- Transportation and logistics - PortionPac has converted its fleet of 46 vehicles from conventional autos to 35% clean Diesel vans and 30% hybrids. The rest of the fleet will be replaced over time. The company also greatly reduced travel by expanding its use of video conferencing. This reduced the carbon footprint while increasing communication.
- Window restoration which uncovered and re-glazed six large windows. The new windows provide more pleasant natural light and save energy.
- Warehouse door replace with a new electric rollup model which is weather tight and more efficient.
- Corporate and sales staff have conducted sustainability



courses plus lectures in graduate schools. The sales staff also donated time and materials to the Academy for Global Citizenship in Chicago.

- PortionPac helps more than 9,000 school food services to reduce detergent, water, energy and power consumption. It also initiated a plan to integrate sustainable projects and programs into correctional institutions.
- The company has encouraged its suppliers to increase their use of recycled plastic and recycled content in their packaging.
- PortionPac also continues to install more efficient lights in its headquarters and improve the efficiency of its packaging process.

Rock Valley College -- Rockford Sustainability Award

Rock Valley College (RVC) renovated the Physical Education Center from 2008 through the fall of 2009. During design and construction, RVC followed the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED green building rating system for existing buildings. The Center was awarded LEED Gold Level Certification for sustainable and green design. The Physical Education Center is the first LEED Gold Certified facility in Winnebago County, and the first Illinois Community College facility to achieve Gold Level Certification. This high level of achievement reflects an assessment of the facility and its operations by the USGBC on factors such as site and landscaping design, water and energy efficiency, use of sustainable materials and resources, recycling of construction waste, indoor air quality and innovative green design. LEED buildings use less energy, water, and natural resources. They create less waste.



LEED buildings are healthier and more comfortable for the students and faculty. Rock Valley College has a sustainability committee that promotes many sustainable efforts which includes offering credit and non-credit classes, recycling efforts and partnerships with community groups.

Sherwin-Williams Company -- Effingham Sustainability Award

Founded in 1866, the Sherwin-Williams Company is a global leader in the manufacture, development, distribution, and sale of coatings and related products to professional, industrial, commercial, and retail customers. The Effingham Distribution Center is the largest facility in the company at 1.3 million square feet and ships and receives nearly 1.5 billion pounds of paint and paint related material yearly. The Effingham site demonstrates that employees are engaged and contribute to our sustainability efforts. Effingham's electricity rate improved 22% from .85 in 2008 to .66 in 2010 with KW usage reduced from 6.7M to 5.1M on relatively flat volume. Non-hazardous solid waste pounds were reduced 69% from 374,000 pounds in 2008 to 117,000 pounds in 2010. The facility has adopted a "Sustainability by Design" approach. As Sherwin-Williams conducts new projects, it is constantly looking at ways to reduce waste, energy consumption, or use alternate materials to provide a more sustainable process. The Effingham site works with employees and the local community to help in their sustainability efforts. The site has done the following during the past year:

- Provide empty totes to local businesses for recycle of stretch wrap.
- The site baled 262,343 pounds of stretch wrap in 2010.
- The Effingham Team hosted the local chapter of the



Waste to Profit Network.

- Increased the recovery rate from 77% in 2008 to 93% in 2010.
- The plan recycles stretch wrap, cardboard, pallets, aluminum, plastic, paper, etc.

Sherwin-Williams works with suppliers and customers to continue to reduce waste generated at the site.

Solberg Manufacturing-- Itasca Sustainability Award

For more than 40 years, Solberg Manufacturing has embraced the ideal of industrial growth while advocating environmental responsibility. Solberg manufactures and distributes filtration, separation and silencing components for industrial equipment, that protect mission critical machinery while safeguarding the surrounding environment. The mission statement is: *We partner with customers, colleagues, & suppliers to help them innovate and discover new possibilities.*

Solberg's sustainable efforts began by changing a chemical dye to a food grade one and getting a compactor in the mid-1980s. The compactor has been useful in condensing production scrap and received plastic and cardboard. In fact, Solberg diverted 88% of their waste in 2010 actually making more money from recycling than they paid for garbage.

In 2010, Solberg retrofit all lights in both of the facilities which effectively reduced the power load by 50%. It replaced metal halides and copper ballasts with the highest efficient GE eco lights and electronic ultra-efficient ballasts. Solberg also received a state grant for 210 solar panels worth 48kw on their roof which is estimated to generate roughly 15% of the building's daily energy use. These efforts realized a 26% reduction in energy use based on the baseline



year of 2008. The company has initiated a green seal and no VOC cleaning program that has reduced costs compared to the past cleaning plan.

**Southwestern Illinois College-- Belleville
Sustainability Award**

In April 2010, Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) established the Office of Sustainability as part of the College's commitment to the Illinois Community College Sustainability Network. The office provides leadership, guidance and resources to help the college implement the many sustainability projects it is undertaking. The SWIC Board of Trustees authorized the creation of a full-time administrative position, Director of Sustainability in August 2009. The Strategic Plan was also amended to include the development of collaborative practices and curricula that promote and implement sustainability and position the College as a regional model. The College President established a Sustainability Leadership Team, which has focused on campus and community efforts. SWIC has campuses at Red Bud, Belleville, and Granite City. SWIC is committed to using less energy and fewer resources while minimizing waste. SWIC is recognized statewide as a leader in the sustainability effort. In 2010, SWIC rolled out a host of green initiatives designed to shrink its ecological footprint and increase environmental awareness.

Campus initiatives included: establishing the Sustainability Center, recycling, green dining services, reducing paper, energy and water conservation, incentives to use public transportation, green class offerings and many others.

Community activities included: electronics recycling, a prescription drop box in St. Clair County, and green class offerings.



Uncommon Ground -- Chicago Continuous Improvement

Uncommon Ground operates two restaurants on the north side of Chicago. Uncommon Ground advocates the principals of local, sustainable, seasonal and organically produced food. What began as an innovative idea hatched from a passion for sustainability has grown to become a 2,500 square foot certified rooftop farm, rising 30 feet above Devon Avenue. The Midwest Organic Services Association designated the farm as organic, making it the first certified organic farm in the USA that resides on a rooftop. In 2010, both Uncommon Ground restaurants received a 3 Star Green Restaurant Association (GRA) Certification, making them the highest ranked, third party certified restaurants in Illinois. Uncommon Ground has significantly reduced its environmental impact. The restaurants have submitted for recertification with the GRA and have advanced their point totals, hoping to become the “greenest” resaturants in the nation by achieving a 4-star rating at both restaurants.

University of Illinois at Chicago, Office of Sustainability -- Chicago Sustainability Award

The University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) is a major research university located near downtown Chicago. With 25,000 students and 15 colleges, including the nation’s largest medical school, UIC is the largest university in the Chicago area. UIC sees the diversity of its student population as one of its greatest strengths. UIC’s Office of Sustainability works to minimize the environmental impact of the campus through academics, research and operations, and to make sustainable practices and policies visible and evident. UIC is being recognized for its work in the areas of recycling, LEED certification, energy savings, and sustainability



reporting. UIC has increased the campus recycling rate to 40% from just over 20% only two years ago. This equates to nearly 3,000 tons of materials diverted from landfills in 2010. This figure includes 2,500 tons of fiber and approximately 45 tons of bottles and cans.

UIC received LEED Gold rating for the renovation at Lincoln Hall, which incorporated numerous green features including potable water use reduction (42%), 61.5 MWh of electricity produced by a 51 kW photovoltaic system, geothermal heating and cooling system, advanced building automation to reduce energy consumption, high efficiency glazing, and extensive use of native landscaping. Each classroom has views to the outside and access to natural light, increasing occupants' comfort.

UIC has reduced its total energy consumption for heating and cooling, electricity and gas for other uses in buildings by 15% since 2004, while growing the physical campus footprint by 11%. This equates to 625,000 MMBTUs of energy saved in 2010.

University of Illinois Retrocommissioning Group -- Champaign Sustainability Award

The Retro-commissioning (RCx) team at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was established in 2007 and has been working to reduce energy consumption in campus buildings by repairing and optimizing their air and hydronic systems and restoring buildings to their required operating standards. To date, the RCx team has spent approximately \$6,000,000 visiting 27 of the campus' buildings and has garnered an average energy savings per building of 26%. This has lead to a cumulative savings of nearly 850,000 MBTU or \$9,730,000 in total utility costs at the university since RCx's inception. With a multidisciplinary team of



engineers, controls specialists, and tradesmen, the team is able to see a project through from design to implementation. Typical projects within buildings include: creating occupancy schedules, replacing or repairing worn small capital equipment, upgrading, and installing new sensors and controls. To ensure the sustainability of results, all buildings are monitored after the work is completed by the RCx team. The RCx teams actively mentor other organizations as well as students. RCx work has greatly improved the indoor air quality of buildings which increases comfort of students and staff in buildings. The efforts of the RCx team have made a major contribution to the campus' Energy Management Initiative which has resulted in the total campus energy being reduced by 54,500 BTU/sqft, or 17.3%, over a period of only three years in existing buildings. The RCx team has been honored by the Building Operating Management's FMXcellence Recognition Program for excellence in facilities management.

Village of Hoffman Estates – Hoffman Estates Sustainability Award

Hoffman Estates' culture of environmental sustainability has evolved over the past few years, and the Village is swiftly growing into a community that places great emphasis on efficiency, conservation and innovation. To put these concepts into action, the Village has adopted the mantra of "Growing to Greenness," which plays off our Village motto of "Growing to Greatness." The "Growing to Greenness" program encompasses all Village efforts in order to foster a more eco-friendly society. To bolster these measures, a Green Initiatives Commission was formed, complimenting the long-standing Environmental Commission. The Village actively engages all participants, including other governing bodies, businesses and residents. To grow to greenness,



Hoffman Estates has taken a comprehensive approach, from constructing two new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-Gold facilities and increasing the efficiency of existing buildings, to implementing internal policies and practices that are environmentally sound. The Village also offers green programs and resources that provide an opportunity for residents and businesses to join in on the effort. This multifaceted approach has resulted in significant savings, and it has increased conservational awareness. The Village will continue to take strides in its goal of “Growing to Greenness,” and be both a leader and partner in the greater objective of environmental sustainability for the region and the state of Illinois.



**ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER**
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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