

Sustainable University News and Updates December 2008

The Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is committed to serving as a resource for your institution as you pursue sustainability opportunities on campus. Our office periodically sends out news and updates to alert you about grant opportunities, events, and initiatives related to energy efficiency, water conservation, green building, and other sustainability issues concerning universities and colleges.

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1. Update on Illinois Sustainable University Compact

We are proud to announce that we now have 50 signers to the Illinois Sustainable University Compact program. Since the August Sustainable University Symposium, there have been four new signers: **Lewis and Clark Community College, Southwestern Illinois College, Northern Illinois University and Benedictine University.**

The Illinois Sustainable University Compact outlines 12 environmental goals universities and community colleges may adopt on their campuses. The Compact includes objectives such as purchasing renewable energy, implementing green building practices, developing sustainable transportation options, improving water conservation, and incorporating sustainable dining practices.

For more information on all our signers, please visit:
http://www.standingupforillinois.org/green/compact_cu.php

2. Western Illinois University Installs Vegetated Roofs on New Multicultural Center

Western Illinois University has installed four vegetated roofs on the school's new Multicultural Center. All of the plants used on the roof are native to Illinois and are drought resistant. The plants, which are all species of sedum, will grow between 5 and 6 inches tall and will resemble a course shrub. Four separate roofs on the school's new two-story \$6.5 million center will be covered with vegetation, which is projected to double the roof's life. The finished building will hold offices for WIU's Gwendolyn Brooks Cultural Center, the Women's Center, Casa Latina and

the International Friendship Club.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/batavia/state_news/x1588596989/WIU-plans-to-use-vegetation-to-extend-life-of-roofs

3. University of Chicago hires new Sustainability Director

The University of Chicago has hired Ilsa Flanagan as the University's first Sustainability Director. Flanagan will work to develop a program to help the University incorporate sustainability into its academic pursuits. She will also work with the campus's Sustainability Project Manager, Associate Vice President, and the Sustainability Council to establish a campus-wide definition of sustainability. She will work closely with Sustainability Project Manager Eric Heineman, Associate Vice President and University Architect Steven Wiesenthal, and the Sustainability Council, a campus group of students, staff, and faculty that has run events like the Battle of the Bulbs and that has promoted energy efficiency and sustainable purchasing across campus dining and coffee shops.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.chicagomaroon.com/2008/11/18/universitys-first-sustainability-director-will-lead-efforts-to-catch-up-with-peer-institutions>

4. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Breaks Ground for Supercomputer Center

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has broken ground for its new 88,000 square foot building that will house a new petascale supercomputer, which will be online in 2011. The IBM machine, for which the National Science Foundation is giving the university a \$208-million grant, will be called Blue Waters and "will have greater computing capacity than all the current Top 500 supercomputers combined. The University of Illinois plans to keep the new machine cool by routing chilled water into the frame that holds the computer's processors, which should reduce energy use by approximately 40 percent. The facility is expected to earn LEED Gold.

For more information, please visit: <http://chronicle.com/wiredcampus/article/3435/u-of-illinois-starts-construction-of-sustainable-supercomputer-center>

5. University of Illinois at Chicago Establishes Community Garden, Replaces Light Bulbs

The University of Illinois at Chicago has established a new community garden on campus. The 40 foot by 30 foot plot is currently managed by one farmer, but the University hopes to open it up to more community helpers in the spring. In addition, the University's Office of Sustainability recently started an initiative to replace all incandescent light bulbs on campus with more efficient compact florescent bulbs. The Office estimates that by changing all of the bulbs in the main administrative building on campus, the University will save \$170,000 annually.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.chicagojournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=60&ArticleID=6450&TM=37057.13>

6. USGBC Higher Education Update

The U.S. Green Building Council has launched a new newsletter on green buildings at higher education institutions. The Higher Education Update's first issue features an introduction from the USGBC's Higher Education Sector Manager, an interview with a student from St. Mary's College of Maryland, and information on Harvard University's Green Building Resource.

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1852#state> &
http://communicate.usgbc.org/newsletters/Higher_Ed-LEED/1108_long.html

7. Whitepaper on Writing a Climate Action Plan

Environmental Health & Engineering (EH&E) has released a free whitepaper entitled "Striving for Climate Neutrality on Campus: 7 Steps to Writing a Climate Action Plan for a Reduced Carbon Footprint." The paper describes seven distinct steps to creating a university planning document that provides a roadmap for achieving a greenhouse gas reduction target.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.eheinc.com/download/SevenStepsDevelCAP.pdf> &
http://www.eheinc.com/mark_higher_ed.htm

8. World Wildlife Fund Announces Earth Hour 2009

Earth Hour offers a wonderful opportunity to educate young people about climate change and soon they will be unveiling our new Earth Hour/Climate Change curriculum for K-12 schools. As part of their outreach efforts, they will be reaching out to more than 300 colleges across the US and inviting them to participate.

Earth Hour 2009 will be officially launched on December 10th at a press event held during the UN climate conference in Poznan, Poland. The theme for Earth Hour 2009 is "Turn Out. Take Action". The event is scheduled for **8:30 pm on March 28th**

Earth Hour 2008 was a major success, as lights dimmed at such iconic landmarks as the Sydney Opera House, the Coliseum in Rome, the Empire State Building in New York, Sears Tower in Chicago and the Golden Gate Bridge to name just a few. Millions of people around the world demonstrated their concern about climate change by turning out their lights, helping to raise awareness about the urgent need to find solutions to the escalating climate crisis.

For more information, please visit: www.earthhour.org

9. Hydrogen Student Design Contest – December 19, 2008

The Hydrogen Education Foundation invites submissions for its Hydrogen Student Design Contest. The contest challenges teams of university-level students from the U.S. and abroad to develop and design hydrogen applications for real-world use. This year's competition challenges teams to design a new green Student Center powered by hydrogen for the State University of New York, Farmingdale with an imaginary budget of \$28 million. **Entries are due on December 19, 2008.**

For more information, please visit: <http://www.hydrogencontest.org/index.asp>

10. Subscription Information

You are receiving this email as a member of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact.

For more information about the Lt. Governor's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit www.GreenSolutions.il.gov.

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable University News and Updates, or wish to add a colleague to our list, please contact Jamie Campbell, Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov, (312) 814-6671.