

## **Sustainable University News and Updates**

The Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn is committed to serving as a resource for your institution as a member of the Illinois Sustainable University Compact. 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.

### **Topics covered in this week's News and Updates:**

1. Illinois Rain Garden Initiative
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  4. Energy Innovation Conference 2008 – Lake Land College
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### **Illinois Rain Garden Initiative**

The Illinois Rain Garden Initiative is designed to empower students and communities to confront local flooding concerns, restore native Illinois prairie habitats, and learn about green solutions to storm water management. The Lieutenant Governor's Office will award 22 grants of \$500 each to plant rain gardens. Eligible organizations include public institutions, non-profit groups and schools. The application deadline has been extended to February 29.

For more information and application materials, see:

[http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rg\\_index.php](http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rg_index.php)

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### **Green Schools Program**

The Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) and the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) will work together to retrofit hundreds of colleges and universities across the US, helping them to meet their commitment to attain climate neutrality while lowering their energy bills.

CCI and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) will also work with K-12 schools throughout the nation to establish a Green Schools Program to reduce the energy consumption of school buildings.

Additional partners in the Green Schools Program include: Allegheny College, American Federation of Teachers, Arizona State University, Association of Sustainability in Higher Education, Chicago Public Schools, College of the Atlantic, Council of Educational Facilities Planners International, Dakota County Technical College, EcoAmerica, Earth

Day Network, Illinois Association of School Board Members, Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, LA Community College District, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Middlebury College, National Association of School Boards, National Education Association, Ohio School Facilities Commission, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Second Nature, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Idaho, University of Illinois at Chicago and Washington, DC Public Schools.

To view CCI's press release, see: <http://www.clintonfoundation.org/110707-nr-cf-cci-pr-wjc-announces-major-partnerships-to-retrofit-public-and-private-buildings-nationwide.htm>

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### **NWF's Campus Climate Champions Program**

Through their Campus Climate Champions Program, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) reaches out to universities across to state and encourages them to reduce their GHG emissions 2% per year. They have successfully worked with students, parents, and communities through their Campus Ecology program, which has been helping individuals and campuses address sustainability and climate change since 1989.

By joining the Campus Climate Champions Program, your campus commits to reduce emissions 30% by 2020, averaging 2-3% each year (on pace to exceed 80% by 2050). By using greenhouse gas inventories to demonstrate these reductions, your university can be confident that this designation is reserved for schools that are actually implementing the strategies that will power a low-carbon future. Modeling these strategies is the first characteristic of climate leadership. The second is promoting these strategies and the benefits of climate action to peer institutions, policy-makers, and the surrounding community.

Since 1989, NWF has developed a wide array of high-quality resources to help campuses generate project ideas and learn from the experience of other colleges. The following resources are available to participants in the Campus Climate Champions Program:

- *Higher Education in a Warming World: The Business Case for Climate Action (2008)*
- National Campus Sustainability Report Card
- Annual Campus Ecology Yearbook featuring best practices and strategies for climate action
- Resource guides on green building, sustainable investments, and other topics.

A complete listing of resources is available at:

<http://www.nwf.org/campusEcology/resources/index.cfm>

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## **Energy Innovation Conference 2008 – Lake Land College**

[www.energyconf.org](http://www.energyconf.org).

Lake Land College will host the first annual conference on February 27-28, 2008 in Mattoon, Illinois. Keynote Speaker Jack Schultz, CEO of Agracel and author of *Boomtown U.S.A. — the 7 ½ Keys to Big Success in Small Towns*, will kick off the conference. Hear presentations and attend workshops about biofuels, energy efficient construction, renewable energy initiatives, green educational curriculum, and funding opportunities.

For more information about the conference, please contact David Turnbull at [dturnbul@lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:dturnbul@lakeland.cc.il.us) or Linda VonBehren at [lvonbehr@lakeland.cc.il.us](mailto:lvonbehr@lakeland.cc.il.us).

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### **Green Tip of the Day**

Remove yourself and your office from junk mail lists.

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### **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](http://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 Caston, [Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov](mailto:Jamie.Caston@illinois.gov), (312) 814-6671.