

## **Sustainable University News and Updates January 2009**

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. Saint Xavier University Opens Office of Sustainability**

Saint Xavier University has opened an Office of Sustainability to coordinate environmentally friendly initiatives on campus. Student employees and interns have begun working on green projects ranging from searching for grants, collecting data for a green house gas audit, and maintaining Saint Xavier's new GreenBike program, which allows students to borrow bikes from computerized kiosks around the campus.

For more information on all our signers, please visit:

[http://www.sxu.edu/Administrative/Media\\_Relations/news\\_story.asp?iNewsID=899&strBack=%2Fdefault.asp](http://www.sxu.edu/Administrative/Media_Relations/news_story.asp?iNewsID=899&strBack=%2Fdefault.asp)

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### **2. RecycleMania (January 18 – March 28, 2009)**

RecycleMania invites higher education institutions to register for its 2009 competition. RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Over a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. The 2009 RecycleMania will feature a number of changes over past years including a restructuring of the division system and the implementation of new reporting standards for the official rankings. Schools will have the choice of participating in the traditional rankings (Competition Division) or opting for the less formal Benchmarking Division. The deadline to sign up is January 15, 2009.

The following Illinois higher education institutions have signed up to participate so far:

- Augustana College
- City Colleges of Chicago-Harry S Truman College

- Eastern Illinois University
- Governors State University
- Illinois State University
- Loyola University Chicago
- Monmouth College
- Moody Bible Institute
- Saint Xavier University
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- University of Chicago
- University of Illinois at Chicago

For more information, please visit: <http://www.recyclemaniacs.org/index.htm>

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### **3. Illinois Institute of Technology Green Dorm Comparison Project**

The Illinois Institute of Technology has announced plans to build two new identical residence halls. The only difference between the two buildings will be their green features. One facility will aim to achieve LEED Gold and the other will aim to achieve LEED Platinum. Both buildings will feature greenhouses, green roofs, and solar chimneys, but the LEED Platinum building will feature solar panels for hot water and electricity, wind turbines, geothermal heating and cooling, and a gray-water system, several real-time energy monitoring systems, and underground ducts which will help to moderate the temperature of indoor air. IIT officials plan to monitor the energy use of each building and use the data for a case study on green building. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2009.

For more information, visit: <http://chronicle.com/blogs/architecture/2632/two-buildings-that-will-look-the-same-but-only-on-the-outside>

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### **4. Southern Illinois University Carbondale Strives for Energy Efficiency**

Members of the Southern Illinois University Carbondale community are continuing to explore ways to improve efficiency of energy usage on campus. A study is being conducted to determine the potential of using a wind turbine to generate between 2 and 4 percent of the campus' energy usage. In addition to the wind turbine feasibility study, the university recently finished a \$4 million energy efficiency project that has already reduced the campus' electricity bill 13 percent from 2001, which will save the university about \$1 million per year.

One group of students, administrators and other members of the SIUC community are moving forward with a proposal that would give a boost to energy efficiency projects on campus. The Eco Dawgs Task Force is proposing a student "green fee" that would raise about \$300,000 per year to be used on energy projects and research on campus.

For more information, visit:  
[http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2008/12/21/front\\_page/27261437.txt](http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2008/12/21/front_page/27261437.txt)

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### **5. Illinois State University Dedicates Center for Renewable Energy**

Illinois State University has dedicated its new Center for Renewable Energy. The Center coordinates education, outreach, and research efforts on wind, solar, bio-fuel and other alternative energy sources. In addition, the Center brings together faculty from several academic disciplines and colleges at ISU to support the University's renewable energy major, provide the public with objective research-based information on renewable energy, and facilitate applied research through collaborations with other universities. The Center was established through a grant awarded by the Department of Energy.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.mediarelations.ilstu.edu/news\\_releases/0809/dec/renewenergycenter.asp](http://www.mediarelations.ilstu.edu/news_releases/0809/dec/renewenergycenter.asp)

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## **6. Saint Xavier University Residence Hall Receives LEED Gold**

Saint Xavier University's Agatha O'Brien Hall has received LEED Gold certification. The new 36,664 square foot residence hall features natural and mechanical ventilation, a 50-foot high circular glass stair tower that draws tempered air to assist in summer night pre-cooling and winter heating, and a solar reflection system on the roof. In addition, 100 percent of the building's energy use is being offset by renewable energy sources.

For more information, visit:

[http://www.sxu.edu/Administrative/Media\\_Relations/news\\_story.asp?iNewsID=909&strBack=%2Fdefault.asp](http://www.sxu.edu/Administrative/Media_Relations/news_story.asp?iNewsID=909&strBack=%2Fdefault.asp)

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## **7. Revolving Loan Fund and Green Fees Resources**

Campus InPower has posted two new resource pages on its website. The Green Fees page contains sample bylaws, a campaign timeline and guide, a volunteer training guide, and sample flyers. The Revolving Loan Fund page features an RLF overview, a payback guide, and AASHE's Clean Energy Revolving Loan Fund guide.

For more information, visit: [http://campusinpower.org/Campus\\_INpower/GREEN\\_FEES.html](http://campusinpower.org/Campus_INpower/GREEN_FEES.html) or [http://campusinpower.org/Campus\\_INpower/REVOLVING\\_FUNDS.html](http://campusinpower.org/Campus_INpower/REVOLVING_FUNDS.html)

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## **8. Sustainable University Compact Information**

Interested in having your institution featured in this monthly newsletter? Email me with the information you would like to share, and it will be added to next month's newsletter.

If you need to update your contact information with our office, please submit those changes to me as well.

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