

Sustainable University News and Updates March 2009

The Office of the Lt. Governor 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 67 signers to the Illinois Sustainable University Compact program. Our newest Compact signers are:

**Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science
Quincy University
College of DuPage**

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.

If you have any questions regarding the Sustainable University Compact, please contact our office. The Compact is voluntary and participants are not required to check off every goal listed; only one will do. We encourage all institutions to participate and commit to finding greener solutions for today's environmental issues.

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

2. Energy Innovation Conference – Feb. 25-27 (Mattoon)

Date: February 25-27, 2009

Lake Land College
5001 Lake Land Blvd
Mattoon, IL 61938

Lake Land College will be hosting the second annual conference on Wednesday, Feb. 25th through Friday, Feb. 27th, 2009. Please join us for engaging discussions of alternative and renewable energy topics.

Keynote Address: The Honorable Chuck Hartke, former State Representative and former Director of Illinois Department of Agriculture; Wednesday, February 25th, 1:00pm-1:45pm in the Lake Land College Theater.

Wednesday Night Keynote: Doug Rye, Wednesday, February 25th, 4:00pm-5:30pm in the Lake Land College Theater. Join Doug as he provides you with solutions to your home energy questions. Stay after his engaging talk for the Energy Fair and Film Shorts competitions.

For more information, visit <http://www.energyconf.org>.

3. Illinois Rain Garden Initiative – March 2 deadline

Applications are due March 2, 2009

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 Lt. Governor's Office will award 20 grants of \$500 each to plant rain gardens.

This year we are pleased to announce that as part of the grant, we will be awarding rain barrels (at cost) that can be integrated into the rain gardens for a more sustainable project. Eligible organizations include: public institutions, non-profit groups and schools.

For more information and application materials, please visit: www.raingarden.il.gov or contact Jamie Campbell at 312-814-6671.

4. Energy Symposium - John A Logan College - March 10 (Carterville)

Date: March 10, 2009

Symposium Theme: Save Energy with Better Structures
Location: John A Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, IL

Speakers include representatives from the Illinois Capital Development Board, University of Illinois – SEDAC, Dept. of Commerce and Opportunity, as well as engineers and architects that specialize in energy efficient building.

For more information, contact J Kevin Roth at 618-201-5206 or salukidawgs@verizon.net.

5. Seminar on “Planning for the future: Green Initiatives” – Moraine Valley College – March 26 (Palos Hills)

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2009

Time: 9:00 – 12:00 p.m.

Location: MORAIN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE, T-BUILDING – FOGELSON THEATRE AND FOYER, 9000 W. COLLEGE PKWY, PALOS HILLS, ILLINOIS

Cost: \$25.00, includes continental breakfast and snacks

This seminar is intended for Public Works Directors and Supervisors. Topics will include:

- Sustainability Considerations
- Fuel Conservation Efforts
- Education & Public Outreach: studies & research
- Recycling
- Green Purchasing (Possible Green Grant Incentives)
- Alternative Fuel Sources
- And more

For additional information, please contact Eda Schrimple at 708-974-5714.

6. University of Illinois at Chicago to Start Community Garden

The University of Illinois, Chicago has announced plans to dig a community garden on campus. The new garden, which will offer 5' by 6' and 5' by 12' plots, will be run communally and gardeners will be required to practice sustainable and organic techniques and refrain from using genetically-modified seeds. The UIC Office of Sustainability plans to offer educational workshops at the new site on topics such as gardening techniques, sustainable practices, and cooking and preserving.

For more information, visit:

http://www.chicagoflame.com/home/index.cfm?event=displayArticle&uStory_id=a1499b2d-f6a6-4259-88c8-6870f1b14a60

7. Second Annual Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Summit – March 27 (Chicago)

The Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative is pleased to announce **Friday, March 27, 2009**, as the date of the Second Annual Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Summit. This year's event, at Kennedy-King College, will be the premier Midwestern event on the emerging field of green collar jobs. Once again the summit will feature speakers, presentations and exhibitions focused on three strategic areas: economic development, workforce development and public policy.

Register today at <http://greencollarchicago.eventbrite.com>. More information regarding speakers and the full summit schedule will be available shortly. Check out www.greencollarchicago.org for regularly updated information.

Should you have any interest in helping with the conference or sponsorship, please contact Paige Finnegan at paige@leedcouncil.org.

8. Power Down for the Planet

Starts March 23, 2009

Climate Savers Computing, in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star program, invite higher education institutions to take part in "Power Down for the Planet," a challenge program designed to encourage universities and their campus communities to reduce their own IT power consumption and get their students, faculty, and staff involved in the fight against climate change. The challenge includes a month long competition to see which university can recruit the largest percentage of their campus community to pledge support to Climate Savers Computing. The pledge challenge will kick off on March 23 and conclude on April 17, 2009. The challenge winner and the collective results of all participants will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2009. In addition to the pledge challenge, students have the opportunity to create and submit a video that tells the Climate Savers Computing story. The winning videos will be selected based on a combination of content and relevance, as judged by Climate Savers Computing representatives. The winners of the student viral video challenge will receive technology prizes.

For more info, visit: <http://www.powerdownfortheplanet.org/about-the-challenge/about-power-down-for-the-planet/>

9. State of Illinois - Treasurer's Office Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship Program

Application deadline: Friday, May 29, 2009.

2009-2010 Scholarship Program: Ten \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to Illinois high school seniors who plan to pursue a college degree and career in agriculture or an agriculture-related field. Scholarship recipients are selected by a panel of Illinois agriculture agency representatives. Winners will be notified in writing by the Treasurer's Office prior to Friday, May 29, 2009 and will be honored at the Illinois State Fair.

For more information and an application, please visit:
<http://www.treasurer.il.gov/programs/cultivate-illinois/scholarships.aspx>.

10. Illinois State University Releases Sustainability Report

Illinois State University has released its first ever Sustainability Progress Report. The report covers fiscal year 2008 and highlights various campus efforts in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction, recycling, and grounds and facilities operations. Academic initiatives are also covered, including sustainability-themed courses in various academic

departments, faculty research, and campus-wide efforts to promote civic engagement by students.

For more information, visit: <http://www.greenteam.ilstu.edu/about/reporting.shtml>

11. Removing Market Barriers to Green Development: Principles and action projects to promote widespread adoption of green development practices

The Market Barriers to Green Development Initiative is a broad-based dialogue and research project that examined how the market may intentionally or unintentionally create barriers to green development practices. The final report, Removing Market Barriers to Green Development, describes six principles for removing market barriers to green development, and recommends action projects and next steps to address these barriers and further promote green development practices. Topics discussed include integrated design, initial vs. lifecycle costs, incentives and regulatory processes, building transactions and leasing agreements, and the quantification and dissemination of costs and benefits. Throughout the report, case studies illustrate how different organizations or communities have tackled these barriers. The ultimate goal of the report is to influence both public- and private-sector professionals in fields related to real estate development (construction, permitting, management, finance, valuation, etc.) to reach within and outside their networks to implement these recommendations and work together for solutions.

The initiative was convened and facilitated by the U.S. EPA Region 5, the Delta Institute, and the Northeast-Midwest Institute. It was funded by the Northeast-Midwest Institute through a U.S. EPA Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant.

Report and supplemental materials available for download at <http://www.delta-institute.org/marketbarriers> and <http://www.nemw.org/brownfields.htm#Reports>.

12. Sustainability Named a Top State Policy Issue for Higher Education (RESOURCE)

The American Association of State Colleges and University listed sustainability as a top state policy issue for higher education in its recent publication titled, "Top 10 State Policy Issues for Higher Education in 2009." The paper discusses the impact of gas prices on commuter students and institutions, the increase in renewable energy installations, and the possibility of 2009 federal and state policy actions that could accelerate campus sustainability projects and fund campus-based research endeavors.

For more information, visit: <http://www.aascu.org/media/pm/pdf/pmjan09.pdf>

13. University of Kentucky Approves Sustainability Policy (RESOURCE)

The University of Kentucky has approved a University Sustainability Policy, committing the institution to take steps towards reducing its carbon emissions and corresponding socio-economic problems. The policy calls upon all levels and constituencies of the University to participate in a continuous and on-going effort to institute the teaching, research, and practice of sustainability and to establish an institutional culture of sustainability. The document discusses sustainability in the areas of leadership, research, education, community engagement, administration, operations, unit planning, funding, accountability, and reporting.

For more information, visit: http://greenky.files.wordpress.com/2009/01/uk_sustainability.pdf

14. Proposal to Create Campus-Based Energy Innovation Institutes (RESOURCE)

The Brookings Institution has released a "Blueprint for American Prosperity" proposal entitled, "Energy Discovery-Innovation Institutes: A Step Toward America's Energy Sustainability." If the proposal is adopted, more money would become available for sustainability-related research at higher education institutions.

For more information, visit:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0209_energy_innovation_muro/0209_energy_innovation_muro_full.pdf

15. Subscription Information

For more information about Governor Pat Quinn'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.