



**Maryland
Green Registry
MEMBER**

The Maryland Green Registry promotes and recognizes sustainable practices at organizations of all types and sizes. Members agree to share at least five environmental practices and one measurable result while striving to continually improve their environmental performance.

Howard Community College



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www.howardcc.edu/green
Higher Education
Member since September 2009

Management and Leadership



Environmental Team

The Howard Community College Green Team meets quarterly to develop and monitor a comprehensive sustainability plan and facilities improvements program and consists of representatives from all college constituency groups. In April 2007, the college's board of trustees and president made a bold statement by signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. This agreement demonstrates HCC's leadership within the college community and throughout society to minimize global warming emissions as well as provide the knowledge and education to achieve climate neutrality.



Environmental Policy Statement

To provide leadership and coordination in the advancement of campus facilities, systems, and infrastructure that promote buildings that are environmentally and socially responsible, efficient and healthy places to work and learn. We strive to develop a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality complimented by an inclusive capital improvements program. We endeavor to respond to the needs of our students, employees, college and larger community; to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and practices required to create a sustainable, thriving, ethical and civil environment.

Environmentally Preferable Procurement

Recognizing its role as a major purchaser of goods and services, the college shall seek opportunities to encourage and influence markets for environmentally preferable products through employee education; supporting pilot testing of potential new products; adopting innovative product standards, specifications, and contracts; leveraging campus-wide buying expertise and buying-power through programs; and embarking on cooperative ventures with other government entities.

Each college department shall use, where feasible, products that perform and have the least damaging/most beneficial environmental impact, including new environmentally preferable products, reusable products, recycled content, and recycled products.

Environmental factors to be considered in selecting products include life cycle assessment of:

- * Pollutant releases, especially persistent bio-accumulative toxins (PBTs)*
- * Waste generation;*
- * Greenhouse gas emissions;*
- * Recycled content;*
- * Energy consumption;*
- * Depletion of natural resources; and*
- * Potential impact on human health and the environment.*

As an example, we have worked with our supplier for cleaning products and changed our cleaning supplies to more environmentally friendly materials and saved money in the process. In addition, our new floor machines now use water instead of chemicals to clean the tile with better results. Also, working with our outside food vendor, Sodexo, the college cafeteria has converted to eco-friendly products. Our paper products contain recycled materials.

Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects

Howard Community College has been designated as a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. The entire campus is an arboretum and nature trails have been designated around the perimeter and stream valleys. All new landscaping is done with native plants, rain garden and xeriscaping gardens have been installed to replace exotic plantings. Certified as Bay-Wise Landscaping by Maryland Master Gardeners and for the fourth year in a row HCC has been judged a Gold Plant Community by the DNR for its ongoing landscaping/forest and tree care programs.

Invasive species removal projects are conducted every year along with trail improvements and tree planting as service projects by students, staff and community members. Weed Warrior training course is offered along with the Columbia Association to the community twice a year.

HCC hosts the annual Howard County Greenfest and other Earth Day events. Six months from Earth Day each year HCC holds a National Campus Sustainability Day. The daytime event is focused on HCC students, but the evening is a public education event.

During the year the Master Gardeners, Boy & Girl Scouts and neighbors have joined in the funding, planning, and executing conservation projects across the campus.

Waste

Recycling

The college collects paper, glass, plastic, and other recyclable materials in blue or marked recycling containers. Environmental Services staff take the materials to recycling dumpsters. The dumpsters are emptied weekly and transported to a local single stream sorting facility. Batteries, electronics, and fluorescent lamps are also recycled in separate programs.

Composting

Compostable materials including serving and dining ware are collected along with food waste for composting at the Howard County compost facility.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

By shutting down student workstation computers automatically each evening HCC saves over \$50,000 per year in energy costs. Software turns off monitors and CPUs when not in use but will not interrupt running applications. Usage and savings reports are also generated. The software runs on each workstation independently so that only those in use are using power.

The campus is lit almost entirely with LED lamps and all appliances are ENERGY STAR rated. New buildings and renovations are designed to LEED specifications.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

HCC has replaced three cars with hybrids. Two trucks were replaced with electric utility vehicles. Three golf carts and two gators were replaced with electric versions. Since we started using the hybrids and electric vehicles monthly motor pool gasoline charges have been reduced by 57%.

Green Building

LEED Gold

HCC has exceeded the required LEED Silver standards on our two newest Buildings which earned LEED Gold ratings and our latest renovations are expected to reach Gold as well.

Profile Updated March 2022



Help build a greener, more sustainable Maryland through voluntary practices that reduce environmental impacts and save money.

Learn more at green.maryland.gov

