



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 Facilities and Sustainability Team (FAST) meets bi-monthly 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, and college community; to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and practices required to create a 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 bioaccumulative 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 are recycled materials and some items such as straws are made from corn.

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. Invasive species removal projects are conducted every year along with trail improvements and tree planting as service projects by students, staff and community members.

HCC hosts the annual Howard County Greenfest and our own Earth Day events which include outdoor education and conservation projects. The Master Gardeners, Boy Scouts and neighbors have joined in the funding, planning and executing these projects.

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. This costs about 1/10th the cost of having trash hauled to the dump for a savings of over \$13,000 last year. Scrap metal, batteries, electronics and fluorescent lamps are also recycled in separate programs.

Energy

Energy Efficiency

By shutting down student work station 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.

Transportation

Fleet Vehicles

HCC has replaced two 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%.

Profile Updated December 2010



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

Learn more at www.green.maryland.gov/registry

