

SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY COMPACT 2007 PROGRESS REPORT

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT

August 24, 2007

Last year, ISU became a signatory to the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council's Sustainable University Compact. With that signature, ISU specified 9 goals that it pledged to achieve by the year 2010. It is a pleasure to report that we are well on our way. We have made progress toward each of these goals and in fact, three goals have already been reached or surpassed.

Completed:

1. Compost at least 5,000 cubic yards of the organic waste produced on campus.
 - As result of a partnership with the University Farm, Campus Dining Services, Facilities Management, and the Town of Normal we annually compost more than 30,000 cubic yards.
2. Reduce pesticide use by establishing integrated pest management practices at all facilities on campus.
 - Here again we are ahead of the curve. ISU has been using integrated pest management (IPM) for 20 years, well before it was a common practice. Complete at least one stormwater management project.
 - We were the first in the state to install a permeable concrete parking lot. We now have two such lots and another one in design.
 - A bio-swale¹ is currently under construction near Gregory Street and should be completed before winter. This project will use native plants and create habitats for small animals.

In Progress:

3. Promote more sustainable transportation options.
 - ISU has already purchased four flex-fuel vehicles² and use B-10 bio-diesel vehicles³. We are exploring the possibility of using higher bio-diesel blends.
 - There are several bus lines that are available to students, faculty, and staff free of charge. These include: Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System, Redbird Express campus shuttle, NiteRide and Late NiteRide. All of these bus services currently utilize some blend of bio-diesel fuels.
 - Future efforts will include:
 - Development of a carpooling or rideshare program on campus.
 - Placement of additional bike racks.
4. Purchase non-toxic cleaning products whenever practical.

¹ Bio-swales are a type of vegetation lined channel to help filter out pollutants from stormwater and runoff.

² Flex-Fuel vehicles are designed to run on either gasoline or a blended fuel of up to 85% ethanol.

³ B-10 is a blend of 10% Bio-diesel and 90% regular diesel fuel.

- The university does not use toxic cleaning products and has incorporated “green” where possible. Currently, Metcalf and U-High are cleaned exclusively with “green” cleaning products.
 - We are considering an audit of our cleaning systems to identify additional opportunities where environmentally friendly products can be used.
5. Acquire at least 3 percent of the energy for our campus from renewable sources.
 - Our current energy contract allows us to purchase renewable energy credits for a premium. As this cost would be in addition to our existing energy procurement, this option is under evaluation.
 6. Join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR Challenge to increase energy efficiency on campus.
 - ISU has made considerable strides in energy efficiency and management.
 - Through grants from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, we have been able to upgrade lighting in the university’s K-12 lab schools, ISU classrooms, and administrative buildings resulting in a combined reduction of 950 kilowatts of required electricity. That could supply electricity to more than 800 homes for one year!
 - The Heating Plant boiler efficiency program⁴ reduces the consumption of natural gas by approximately 10% without impacting reliability.
 - The campus district cooling program will see the opening of two new chiller plants in the coming year. In combination with the Quad loop chiller plant, these plants will reduce the amount of energy required to air condition campus and at the same time provide redundancy in reliability for all facilities on the loops.
 - Because of these and several other initiatives, we believe we are already complying with Energy Star protocol; and therefore will seek the proper recognition in the next year.

Areas where student participation is critical:

7. Reduce water usage on campus by at least 15 percent.
 - The two biggest consumers of water on campus are the residence halls and the cooling towers. We have and will continue to install water saving appliances and technologies. Since water saving appliances have already been installed in the residence halls, the amount we are able to conserve is largely dependent on the decisions and habits of our students.
 - The district cooling program has reduced the number of cooling towers required. This will significantly reduce the amount of water required to cool our campus.
8. Increase the amount of overall waste recycled on campus by at least 15 percent.
 - At a glance our recycling numbers are impressive. Last year we recycled 1646.27 Tons of material. However of that amount only 113 Tons, or roughly

⁴ Through this program, our most efficient boilers are used first. As our heating needs dictate, additional boilers are brought online. In this way we use less energy to get the same amount of heat.

7 percent, came from residence halls. There is a tremendous opportunity to increase our recycling collection rates, especially within the residence halls.

Our success is dependent upon ISU as a community. We can and will implement policies and procedures, but these are only tools which need to be used in order to be effective. The only way we will truly see progress is in the decisions that each of us make: recycling whenever possible, turning off lights when we leave the room, turning off the computer and unplugging cell phone chargers when they are not in use, promptly reporting leaks, etc. Each of these small actions can add up to a big impact. So as the Green Team's motto states: "Think about it."