

MC's Green Routine

Fiscal Year 2020, 10-3-19

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide a list of Montgomery College's resource conservation and sustainable activities. This list updates its information as received. Comments and suggestions are welcome from the College community. Find this document on the College's Energy Conservation & Sustainability web site and distributed as appropriate.

Resource Conservation Program Overview

- Since the first energy crisis of the 1970s Montgomery College has been a leader in sustainability, energy and resource conservation and cost containment. Integrated life cycle management practices have reduced the College's environmental footprint while avoiding capital and operating cost. The following list is a brief description of the activities.

Benchmarking

- The process of reporting annual energy use and comparing the use to other building's energy use of similar building type.
- This process increases awareness of a building's energy consumption and provides opportunities for improvement.
- Benchmarking became a legislatively mandated requirement with the passing of Montgomery County Council Building Benchmarking Law, Bill 2-14 in May 2014.

Strategic Master Planning

- Managing a quality planning process whose goal is to integrate resource conservation principals into the College infrastructure. Plans are developed for programs, space, facility condition assessment, utilities, energy management, and information technology infrastructure, building automation, life safety systems, emergency response, environmental safety and print management.

Storm Water Management

- Minimizing environmental effects of storm water run-off by reducing impervious surfaces, increasing on-site biodiversity, installing, and maintaining storm water structures on the campus.
- Use of green roofs to reduce storm water run-off and reduce heat island effect.

Heat Island Effect

- Use of high albedo (reflective) roofs, green roofs and enhanced landscape to reduce urban temperatures due to absorption of solar radiation and heating of structures.

Light Pollution and Dark Sky

- Best practices to optimize site lighting to provide appropriate lighting for occupants while reducing energy, reducing light pollution from spilling over into neighboring sites and limiting light pollution above the horizontal plane (DarkSky).

Sustainable Sites

- Goal to limit consumption of undeveloped land by redevelopment of urban sites or development of existing sites in order to minimize impact of campus expansion. Properties already served by transportation, storm water and utility infrastructure tends to minimize environmental impacts and preserve and improve existing urban settings.
- Improved transportation management practices.

Water Conservation

- Best practices for conservation of water resources and utility costs through specification, installation and maintenance of low water consuming devices.
- Use of drought resistant native plant species.
- Capture of condensate from air handling units and re-use as make-up water for cooling towers.
- Evaluation of rainwater capture systems for domestic water use and storm water management reduction.

Forest Conservation & Native Plant Species

- Natural Resource Inventory and Forest Stand Delineation and preparation of Forest Conservation Plans for each campus.
- Conservation and maintenance of natural tree cover and native plant species to provide impervious surface, reduce the heat island effect, and capture carbon dioxide.
- Plant species that have long lives, are resistance to pests and drought, are less dependent on chemicals and watering.

Renewable Energy

- Site generated solar electricity, and purchase of renewable energy certificates (REC) reduce consumption of energy from other less environmentally friendly energy sources. Annually 290,276 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of photovoltaic (PV) electricity are generated college-wide.
- 200% of the Colleges projected fiscal year 2010 electricity is obtained from wind energy RECs.
- Renewable energy displaces approximately 211 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually.

High Performance Buildings

- Since 1985, new and renovated buildings have been designed, constructed and maintained to minimize the impact on the environment.
- Energy efficiency, occupant comfort, indoor environmental quality, daylighting, high performance building automation systems, high performance lighting systems, high performance envelope systems, whole building total quality commissioning, environmentally friendly building materials and site infrastructure are routinely integrated into building designs.
- New and renovated buildings are U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED Gold targeted, which exceeds the County Council, mandated LEED Silver Certification.

Transportation Management

- Encourage students to use the MC Shuttle that goes from campus to campus Monday through Friday at no cost to student/faculty or staff as long as they show MC ID and can track real time arrival of the shuttle on the “RLS Shuttle App.”
- Montgomery County’s Ride-On bus system are free to students with ID. Metrobus and Metrorail are also available using a SmartTrip card.
- Montgomery County Bikeshare is accessible at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring and Rockville Campus. Full automation of parking management systems for issue of parking passes, tickets and payments.
- Faculty and staff incentives: transportation flexible spending, telework, job share and flextime.

Utility Management

- Management of utility accounts, payment of bills, tracking consumption, auditing costs and utility database management is a basic function of utility cost center accounting. Maintaining accurate utility consumption records also provides measurement and verification of resource conservation program performance. Montgomery College has participated with other County Agencies in the procurement of deregulated natural gas and electricity procurement.

Utility Demand Management & Smart Grid Technologies

- Since the early 1990s the College has incorporated demand management features in central plants that are able to reduce utility peak demand and capable of responding to Smart Grid pricing signals.
- Five central plants include ice thermal storage with low temperature high efficient chillers and ammonia (R-717) refrigerant. Ice is made at night during low demand rate periods and melted during the day during high demand rate periods reducing electrical demand charges thus more efficiently using the utility grid. Colder chilled water is then made available to the system, which reduces pumping energy and improves heat transfer performance.

- Ammonia is also a highly efficient natural refrigerant with no global warming potential (GWP), no ozone depletion potential (ODP) and a low total equivalent warming index (TEWI).
- Building heating, cooling and power technologies (BHCP) are incorporated which reduce electrical demand while more efficiently using the available energy in the fuels. Three of the College's central plants use natural gas fired engine driven chillers during peak electrical periods to make chilled water for cooling while recovering waste exhaust and engine jacket heat for use in the central heating distribution systems.
- The College participates in a peak demand response program and receives rebates based off performance reduction when notified to reduce electrical load.

Operations & Maintenance

- Operation and maintenance of College resources in a safe, reliable and economical manner, which maximizes the occupants experience, while minimizing life cycle costs.
- Best practice use of cleaning and pesticide chemicals reduce costs and environmental impacts.
- Best practice vehicle fleet management maximizes life cycle costs.
- Management of recycling programs
- Use of recycled or reusable plastic instead of virgin materials such as woods for storage and moving containers.
- Grounds and landscape best practices to handle drought and disease use of insect resistant native species, and high efficiency, low emitting electrical grounds equipment.

Educational Programs

- Credit, non-credit and certificate programs related to sustainable or "green" collar jobs are offered at the College while many traditional courses have integrated sustainable concepts into their syllabi.
- Montgomery College has collaborated with Montgomery County Government, University of Maryland, and the State of Maryland to support the new Clean Energy Center at the University of Maryland Shady Grove with the intent to further promote and stimulate sustainable programs and "green" collar jobs training.
- The College is developing strategic partnerships with commercial enterprises in the local clean energy industry to identify and address the workforce needs of the industry through training.
- Montgomery College is the "green" trainer for various state and local sustainability efforts such as the Montgomery County Government's Green e-Biz Certification Program.

Interagency Coordination

- Coordination with government and professional organizations maximizes communication and shares resources such as energy management, deregulated utility management, procurement, building systems and information technology.
- Participate in development of Montgomery County Climate Protection Plan, Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Clean Energy Center, climate change, greenhouse gas reduction and legislative green initiatives working groups.
- Participate with NIST & ASHRAE in building system research studies and building automation systems standards development

Occupant Awareness & Outreach

- Publish annual Resource Conservation Plan and promote occupant awareness through various media outlet such as electronic and paper newsletter, e-mail distribution and management of the Montgomery College Speaker's Bureau.
- Organize and manage the College's Sustainability Committee, MC Green Team. Representation by all College stakeholders.
- Support for student MC Student Green Club.
- Production of Montgomery College Television (MCTV) programs highlighting sustainability efforts at Montgomery College.
- Spectrum Lecture Series on the Germantown Campus, since 1980 offers lectures from experts in the field of energy and the environment.

Environmental Safety

- Since late 1970s, management of occupational and environmental safety issues, including OSHA, asbestos abatement, hazardous waste stream management, occupant awareness and indoor environmental quality (IEQ).
- College-wide adherence to GS-42, Green Seal Standard for Commercial and Institutional Cleaning. Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus was the first community college in the country to get this certification.

Recycling

- Montgomery College started its recycling program in 1990 by voluntarily recycling aluminum cans and computer papers. In calendar year 2018, Montgomery College recycled 95.8% of its waste stream, far exceeding the County's legally mandated 70% recycling requirement.
- MC was awarded the County's Excellence in Recycling Award seven times.
- Recycling has increased from two million pounds in 2002 to 31 million pounds in 2018.

Building Automation Systems

- Planning, design, operations and management of multivendor, open protocol (BACnet) fully integrated building automation systems. Integrating direct digital systems that control, monitor, operate and record heating and air conditioning systems (HVAC), lighting systems, occupancy sensing, electrical system, fire protection systems, security, and access control.

Administrative Functions

- Digital automation and management of administrative functions reduce time, paper and postage such as electronic processing and direct deposit of employee paychecks.
- Electronic distribution of W-2s.
- Provide automated web based financial systems for student bill paying and transportation management functions such as parking stickers and traffic enforcement.
- Print management studies and College-wide print management collaboration.
- Included sustainability language into the mission, vision and values statement.
- Beginning to address issues such as formal policy statements, employee handbook and employee orientation.
- Automated Clearing House (ACH) bill pay for electrical bills was set up in May 2019 preventing unnecessary costs in late fees.

Information Technology Systems

- Efficient management of information technology resources (IT). Use of high performance ENERGY STAR equipment and low energy consuming LCD screens.
- Participation in interagency committees to share information and resources.
- Master planning for information technology life cycle infrastructure management.
- Use of e-mail and electronic newsletters rather than paper or mail distribution.
- Re-use and recycling of used computer equipment.

Procurement

- Digital automation of procurement process to reduce time and paper. Use of electronic media to reach out to broader audience, opportunity for more competition and reduced cost.
- Purchase material using existing procurement contracts to reduce administrative duplication.
- Purchase ENERGY STAR equipment to reduce energy consumption.
- Participate in interagency committees to share information and resources and work towards common procurement guidance for purchase of “green” materials.
- Property control program which includes inventory control, internal redistribution, centralized property auction, recycled, and to landfill as last resort.

Print Management

- Recycling of printer and toner cartridges.
- Pay for printing replaces free printing in an effort to control costs and reduce waste.

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