



KNOX COLLEGE

joins the *Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact* at the

Silver Level

as presented by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council
and in cooperation with universities and colleges across Illinois

Program Overview

Welcome to the Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact. The goal of the compact is to encourage universities and colleges within the state to incorporate sustainability into their campus operations, academic and research programs, student activities and community outreach. An institution may pledge at any level provided it has implemented a sustainability program that meets the preceding requirements. The institution may remain at a participation level as long as it continues to make progress toward its commitments. If the institution achieves each of the goals for a given level, it may apply for higher recognition level at any time. As a compact participant, an institution is expected to report annually to the GGCC on the progress it is making toward achieving the program goals.

The Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact offers universities and colleges three levels of participation:

Bronze	institutions making a commitment to creating a sustainability program and engaging the campus community.
Silver	institutions which are ready to make targeted commitments to greening their operations and monitoring performance.
Gold	for institutions that are integrating sustainability throughout their campus and working towards measured improvement.

Bronze Level To qualify for this designation, the institution pledges to achieve three of the following goals by 2015:

- Endorse a written statement, declaration or policy acknowledging support for sustainability.
- Designate a focal point to lead and/or coordinate sustainability efforts across the campus:
 - steering committee, task force, sustainability office or dedicated staff.
- Create a web site that highlights the institution's sustainability programs with the purpose of:
 - increasing awareness and generating interest.
- Create opportunities for students and faculty to provide suggestions for advancing sustainability on campus.

Silver Level Once Bronze level is attained, greater recognition can be achieved by pledging to achieve the following goals by 2015:

- Foster student involvement on steering committees or advisory councils that guide administration on issues of campus sustainability.
- Set measurable sustainability objectives or targets and include a timeframe for meeting the objectives. The sustainability objectives should address the generation of waste and at least three (3) other significant environmental impacts from buildings or operations. Institutions are encouraged to set realistic, yet challenging objectives. The environmental impacts that are addressed may include, but are not limited to: energy consumption, water use, stormwater runoff, vehicle use, local food purchases, paper use, habitat preservation and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Establish a system to monitor and assess the progress of campus sustainability projects and goals.
- Implement at least three (3) of the following sustainability best practices. New initiatives are encouraged for fulfilling these measures, though institutions will be credited for recent or existing initiatives.
 - o Target at least three (3) products and/or services for a green purchasing initiative.
 - o Adopt a policy or guidelines that commit to a specific green building rating system for new construction and major renovation (e.g., LEED® Green Building Rating System).
 - o At least once a year, hold an event on campus that encourages students to adopt or try a sustainability practice(s).
 - o Partner with at least one local entity (e.g. K-12 school, government agency, civic organization, business association) on a project that promotes sustainability at the community level.
 - o Establish mechanisms and incentives that encourage integration of sustainability themes and topics into existing curricula through learning outcomes, course objectives and student assignments.

Gold Level Once Silver level is attained, greater recognition can be achieved by pledging to achieve two of the following goals by 2015:

- Endorse or participate in at least one national or international program that recognizes and encourages progress towards sustainability in higher education, such as the American College and University President's Climate Commitment, AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System, or an equivalent program that provides a framework for continual improvement towards sustainability.
- Integrate sustainability broadly into campus operations and management by adopting one or more of the following actions:
 - o Develop a sustainability plan that covers multiple topics and issues;
 - o Incorporate sustainability at a high level in the institution's strategic plan;
 - o Include sustainability as a key principle in the campus master plan.
- On an annual basis, notify the campus community of progress toward achieving the institution's sustainability goals.

KNOX COLLEGE

Silver Level:

Box 1:

“Foster student involvement on steering committees or advisory councils that guide administration on issues of campus sustainability.”

- The Knox College Student Senate Sustainability Committee regularly reports to the President, promotes student initiatives, and makes suggestions to the College Administration.
- Students, including the Chair of the Student Senate Sustainability Committee, are members of the President’s Task Force on Sustainability. The task force meets regularly to consider ways to promote a culture of sustainability at Knox.

Box 2:

“Set measurable objectives or targets and include a timeframe for meeting these objectives.”

- The College is converting all outside lighting from metal halite to LED. The conversion is being done as existing bulbs and ballasts need replacing. The conversion will be completed as soon as practicable.
- All sink aerators and shower heads are being converted from 2.5 gallons per minute to 1.5 gallons per minute. This conversion also is being done as existing aerators and shower heads need replacing. The time frame is also as soon as practicable.
- Green cleaning materials are being and will be purchased and used to the extent feasible and consistent with sanitary requirements. (Green products are not yet available that will eradicate certain bacteria.)
- Knox Dining Services eliminated the use of trays and will no longer use trays. Not washing trays saves about 40 gallons of water each day or about 9,000 gallons each year. Eliminating trays also reduces food waste (food taken but not eaten). The College estimates that 30% less food is thrown away. This results in a food cost savings of about \$23,000 annually.
- The Knox Dining Services recycles all washable and unsoiled plastic, paper and metal. This results in about 9,925 square feet of trash per school year, no longer going to the landfill.
- Knox Dining Services also recycles all cardboard packaging material, sending an average of two bails per week to the recycling facility, each weighing about 450 pounds. For one school year, that makes 28,350 pounds (12.8 tons).
- Eliminating to-go Styrofoam containers and replacing it with re-usable containers: 120,000 Styrofoam containers less per year in the landfill. A cost neutral exchange, with the benefit of using a green, non-polluting container to help raise awareness amongst students about good environmental practices. This also eliminates 40 to 70 times that volume in upstream waste.

Box 3:

“Establish a system to monitor and assess the progress of campus sustainability projects and goals.”

- The President’s Task Force on Sustainability will monitor and assess the progress of campus sustainability projects. The President’s Task Force on Sustainability will request the following for a summary of their prior year’s activities by July 30 and will assess the activities during the following fall academic term: the Student Senate Sustainability Committee, Facilities Services, and Dining Services.

KNOX COLLEGE

Box 4:

“Implement at least three of the following sustainability best practices.”

- “Target at least three (3) products and/or services for a green purchasing initiative.”
 - Since the 2005-2006 academic year, copy paper is recycled, except when manuscript originals are required.
 - Since September 2010, the College has purchased electricity from a vendor that provides 20% of the electricity from renewable sources.
 - See purchasing initiatives under paragraph 3.
- “At least once a year, hold an event on campus that encourages students to adopt or try a sustainability practice(s).”
 - Since 2008, Knox has celebrated its fall and spring “EquiKnox” by activities that include hosting speakers to meet with students, faculty, and staff to discuss sustainability and to make formal presentations on sustainability.
- “Partner with at least one local entity (e.g. K-12 school, government agency, civic organization, business association) on a project that promotes sustainability at the community level.”
 - Twice weekly delivery to Knox Dining Services of 24 three pound loaves of wholesome, organic, no preservative containing, fresh baked hearty breads from a local Baker/Sandwich shop called Q’s Cafe.
 - Every Sunday, delivery to Knox Dining Services of 50 dozen fresh made potato based doughnuts from a local doughnut shop called Spudos for our Sunday Brunch.
 - The entire selection of coffee drinks in the Knox Gizmo (our snack bar) is a fair trade, natural product, roasted right here in Galesburg by Innkeepers Coffee. We typically purchase an average of 30 pounds of fresh ground coffee and 15 pounds of espresso beans per week.
 - Late spring and mid to late fall, Dining Services gets weekly delivery of fresh produce from LGN (local growers network) of about 20 to 30 items, with a potential to reach 500 or more pounds per week.
- “Establish mechanisms and incentives that encourage integration of sustainability themes and topics into existing curricula through learning outcomes, course objectives and student assignments.”
 - During the summer of 2009, the President’s Task Force on Sustainability hosted a two day workshop on integrating sustainability into existing courses.
 - The Faculty Curriculum Committee has received course proposals for five sections of the First-Year Preceptorial which deal with sustainability.