

# Sustainability at Cuyahoga Community College

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) aspires to instill in our students, faculty, and staff a sense of stewardship toward the environment by giving them the information and support to continue sustainability efforts beyond the campus environment.

Sustainability at Tri-C means achieving the College's educational and community missions with a sense of responsibility for preserving the environment, promoting the economy, and improving society as a whole.

Tri-C created a Sustainability Plan in 2010 to guide sustainability efforts with specific focus on the six categories below.

## Energy, Climate, and Transportation

**Goal: Strive for carbon neutrality at Tri-C by increasing energy efficiency, exploring renewable energy options, and reducing the College's transportation footprint.**

- 29% energy use reduction in existing buildings since 2000 (per square foot and adjusted for student population & weather)
- Signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment in November 2010
- Discounted RTA passes available for students
- Compiling a greenhouse gas inventory in spring 2012

## Green Buildings and Grounds

**Goal: Reduce the impacts of Tri-C's buildings by following the USGBC's LEED standards and other best sustainable design and construction practices; creating healthy spaces and programs; and improving stormwater management.**

- Four recently constructed buildings built to LEED standards and currently awaiting final LEED certification; one building designed to LEED standards currently under construction
- 30% reduction in potable water use in existing buildings since 2000
- 28,000 gallon cistern at the Eastern Campus Health Careers and Technology building captures precipitation runoff from the roof for later use for irrigation
- Westshore Campus design allows for 90% of the average annual precipitation to be contained and naturally treated on-site



## Procurement

**Goal: Apply sustainability to procurement by: (1) Adopting clear and transparent criteria so that full life cycle impacts will be considered in purchasing and contracting decisions; (2) Reducing consumption of goods and reducing the impact of chemical usage; and (3) Providing training and necessary tools and resources to procurement staff.**

- Over Over 5 million pieces of paper saved annually due to double-sided printing on print/fax/copy hubs
- Purchasing office paper that is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified with a minimum of 30% post consumer recycled content
- Purchasing energy efficient technology equipment

## Recycling and Waste Reduction

**Goal: Increase Tri-C's waste diversion recycling rate to 50% by 2025.**

- 25% waste diversion rate in 2011
- Composting food prep waste from the Hospitality Management program at the Eastern Campus and Public Square locations

## Academics & Workforce Training

**Goal: Tri-C faculty and instructors will infuse sustainability literacy throughout the curriculum. Tri-C students will recognize and understand the basic concepts of sustainability and effectively communicate those concepts to others in the community.**

- Academic programs with subject matter directly relevant to sustainability include Environmental Health and Safety Technology, Plant Science & Landscape Technology, Automotive Technology, and Construction Engineering Technology programs
- Workforce training offers classes in LEED™, Certified Energy Management, and building commissioning.

## Communications and Community

**Goal: Increase awareness of sustainability issues among campus and community members through education and outreach and empower sustainability action on campus and within the broader community.**

- Earth Day events educate students and the community about sustainability issues
- Community gardens at the Metro and Western campuses
- Environmental Action Club at the Western Campus and Environmental Health and Safety club at the Eastern Campus

**For more information on the Tri-C sustainability story visit [www.tri-c.edu/sustainability](http://www.tri-c.edu/sustainability).**

Where futures begin<sup>SM</sup>

