

## Summary of CPCC Environmental Initiatives Based on Mecklenburg County Principles

### PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN ALL CPCC FACILITIES.

CPCC seeks to comply in all facilities at all times.

### PRINCIPLE 2: ENERGY CONSERVATION

- During summer 2009, the College implemented a 4-day work week, resulting in reduced commuting costs for employees and students and savings in utilities costs of more than 5% of budget.
- CPCC uses learning management systems in which online enrollment has increased 54% since 2006 with no incremental increase in electrical power, HVAC or other facilities costs.
- Workstation, printer and projector power management systems are used to remotely power-down equipment when it is not in use.
- Virtualization of servers and desktops are deployed whenever possible to maximize their use to maintain and/or reduce power consumption and cooling requirements.
- All new computers and monitors that are purchased have an Energy Star rating. CRT monitors are being replaced with flat panel LCD monitors to reduce power consumption at a rate of 500 KW/hour.
- Energy efficiency components are incorporated into construction and renovation projects, including the new Culinary Arts Building; some examples include compact fluorescent lighting, motion detection lighting systems, auto shut-off faucets, energy efficient appliances in the various labs.
- All vending machines have been replaced with energy efficient models.
- The College promotes and facilitates the use of conferencing technologies as opposed to driving among campuses for meetings.

### PRINCIPLE 3: PRACTICE WASTE MINIMIZATION AND RECYCLING IN ALL COUNTY FACILITIES.

- Plastic, glass and aluminum recycling was implemented at campuses.
- Ongoing outdoor recycling efforts continued, including 100% of grass clippings recycled and 80% of leaves composted.
- All surplus obsolete College electronics are recycled, donated or sold to other entities, or are disposed of through Mecklenburg County's LUESA.
- The College transfers surplus assets with remaining useful lives to other community colleges, school systems or local governments in North Carolina or resells these items through the State's Surplus Property Office.

- CPCC was one of the first institutions to offer online self-service admission, registration, bill payment, grades viewing, and other services that significantly reduce the quantity of paper previously required in these processes.
- CPCC Human Resources implemented PeopleClick online employment application system, including online approvals, to significantly reduce the quantity of paper required in this process.
- CPCC is working to maximize electronic communications and storage through programs such as “Report to Web” and the migration of the majority of communications with students from paper-based methods to electronic methods.
- Used oil from the CPCC Automotive/Transport Technology programs is 100% recycled (no hazardous waste generated).
- Solvent Recycler is also utilized in the College’s Auto Body program to recycle wastes.
- A program has been implemented college wide for printer toner cartridges to be conveniently recycled for all types of cartridges.

**PRINCIPLE 4: VEHICLE EMISSIONS**

- Four of the College’s six vehicles in its Motor Pool Fleet are hybrid vehicles (67%). The two non-hybrid vehicles are not scheduled for replacement for at least five years.
- Two of the College’s six utility vehicles (20%) are electrically powered. The remaining vehicles have not reached the criteria for replacement.

**PRINCIPLE 5: GREEN PURCHASING PRACTICES**

- Per NC General Statute 143-58 and by Executive Order, state agencies are directed to use products containing recycled materials. CPCC is in 100% compliance with the State’s goal of purchasing all paper products (office papers, envelopes, towels, tissue, etc.) with recycled content and is in 100% compliance for purchasing remanufactured inkjet, laser and toner cartridges.
- CPCC has also switched to dry toner-based laser printing from flammable solvent methods that will result in a 99% reduction of flammable solvents in the Campus Printing Department.
- Chemical substitutions are being implemented in the CPCC Chemistry Department to reduce hazardous materials storage.
- The College continues using the Orkin Green Program for pest management.

- All pesticides used by College Grounds are water based and have no petroleum components.
- Cleaning products used by the housekeeping contractor are green cleaning products.
- In keeping with the College's program of for green carpeting, a recent library remodeling project included 100% recyclable carpet.

**PRINCIPLE 6: EMPLOYEE OPPORTUNITIES AND INCENTIVES TO PRACTICE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND BEHAVIORS.**

- The College kicked off *You Have The Power* in Fall Semester 2009 to provide opportunities for all employees to learn more and engage in recycling and energy conservation practices at work and home.
- "Kill A Watt", an electrical usage monitor device, is made available to students and staff.
- CPCC is a supportive member of Carolinas Clean Air Coalition.
- CPCC is a supporting member of the National Wildlife Federation
- CPCC Student Life and Biology Department partner in the Little Sugar Creek Adopt-a-Stream program of the County's Storm Water Department.
- CPCC Student Life and Service-Learning coordinates America Recycles Day events.
- CPCC's Service-Learning and the Center for Sustainability sponsor Charlotte's largest Earth Day event "Charlotte-Clean and Green: An Earth Day Celebration" on Central Campus each April.
- CPCC's Center for Sustainability and Service-Learning Center partner with the County's Stormwater Department, Charlotte Public Tree Fund, and Sierra Club in the Creek Releaf Program, designed to coordinate reforestation activities in riparian areas in Mecklenburg County.
- CPCC environmental service-learning projects in Welding, Graphic Design, Marketing, and Horticulture classes at Reedy Creek Park and Evergreen Nature Preserve receive national recognition in the 2009 NACO Achievement Awards.
- CPCC Sustainable Technologies program participates in service-learning partnership with Sierra Club Cool Cities program and Habitat for Humanity to conduct energy audits and weatherize homes owned by low income residents in the Charlotte area.
- Additional environmental services projects conducted each semester include Carolina Raptor Center projects, Wing Haven Gardens, Greenway Park Elementary School environmental projects, Joshua's Farm, Carolina Wildcare, and Adopt-A-Street projects.

**PRINCIPLE 7: ACQUIRE, MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE LAND TO PROTECT THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

- All six CPCC Campuses are registered with the National Wildlife Federation as Certified Wildlife Habitats.
- The College is establishing Ozone Gardens in partnership with Carolinas Clean Air Coalition, placing ozone sensitive native plants into our wildlife habitats.

**PRINCIPLE 12: DEVELOP PROCESSES FOR CONTINUOUS REVIEW TO REALIZE CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT.**

- CPCC's Center for Sustainability focuses on topics and programs that will support environmental education, renewable energy, and workforce development in the Charlotte region.
- CPCC has a dedicated Executive Director working to increase awareness, promote continuing education and community programs, and encourage sustainability thinking in all elements of instruction and college operations.
- CPCC is a member of AASHE – American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education. All employees have access to member resources provided by the organization.