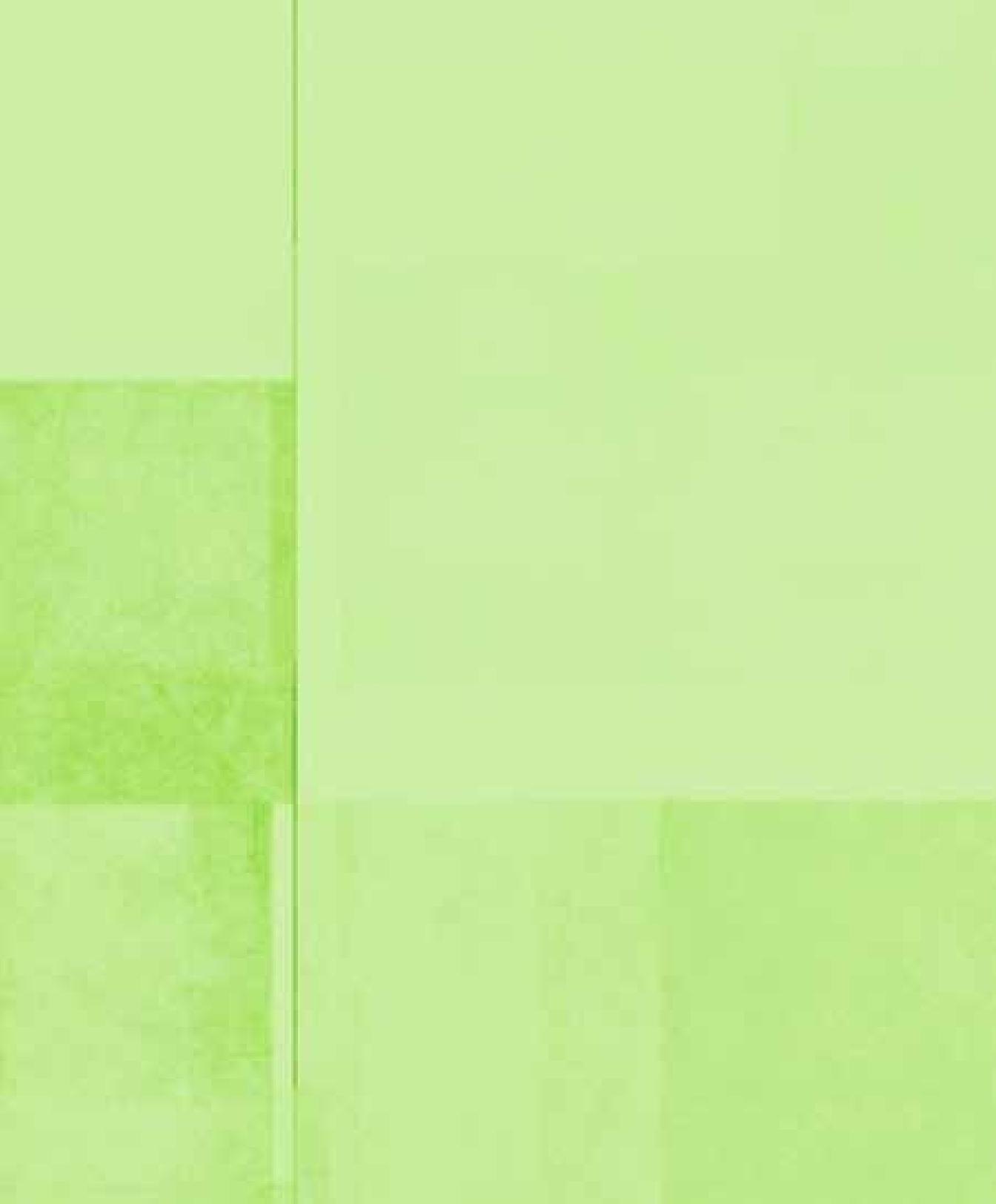




what's
your
carbon
footprint?

2012-13 Annual Sustainability Report

*Prepared by
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Sustainability Center Annual Update

Below is a list of the larger sustainability initiatives and events that occurred in fiscal year 2013. This list is not all inclusive and does not include all details. For more information, please contact Alessandra Cairo at (708) 709-3764 or acairo@prairiestate.edu.

Facilities And Operations

Sustainability Revenue

In fiscal year 2013, sustainability brought in \$69,473.60 in sponsorships, grants and rebates, \$11,216.39 in the sale of recycled goods, and an additional \$7,595.00 in value for goods and services received for a total of \$88,284.99. These totals do not include energy savings from system upgrades.

Strategic Sustainability Plan

A revised version of the strategic sustainability plan is now available. The plan includes a modified vision statement to better reflect the true meaning of sustainability and suggestions for the integration of community outreach and education. A few of the major accomplishments of the plan include:

- Installation of six water bottle filling stations around campus
- Installation of two electric vehicle charging stations
- Implementation of green parking
- Upgraded recycling receptacles on campus
- A small-scale lighting upgrade on the second floor
- Implementation of automatic computer shut downs
- The revision and consistent updating of the sustainability website at prairiestate.edu/sustainability
- A successful second year of the community garden
- Start of a student sustainability club

\$69,474

in sponsorships, grants
and rebates brought in
by sustainability in
fiscal year 2013.





Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and Green Parking

In December 2012, two electric vehicle (EV) charging stations were installed behind the tech-wing and are available for employee, student, and community use. This initiative is part of a larger state-wide effort to build the infrastructure necessary to promote the purchase and use of electric vehicles.

As part of the EV initiative, eight spots were identified and converted to green parking in front of the main entrance. Parking permits are required and can be obtained through campus police. Valid vehicle registration is required to be shown to confirm vehicles meet the requirements for green parking. Hybrids, electric and low emission vehicles (those receiving more than 35 mpg city/highway combined) are eligible.

\$46,316

Approximate annual
energy savings
impact of campus
computer shutdown.

Automatic Computer Shutdown

In a joint effort for sustainability, Information Technology Resources began powering-down approximately 300 campus computers as an energy-saving initiative in January 2013.

A typical computer with monitor operates at approximately 550 watts and accounts for approximately 25% of the PSC electrical energy demand. While this doesn't seem like much individually, in aggregate, it accounts for 40% of the energy consumption after the college closes.

Impact: Approximate energy savings of \$46,316 annually.¹



¹ (0.55kwh x 720 hours/month x .069 cents/kwh x 300 computers)-
(0.55kwh x 376 hours/month x .069 cents/kwh x 300 computers)

Water Bottle Filling Stations

In January, the first water bottle filling stations were installed on campus in the atrium near the Pioneer Café. The station provides free, filtered water while reducing the number of plastic bottles disposed of on campus. The eco-friendly counter on the station will calculate how many 12 ounce water bottles were eliminated by refilling bottles using this station. An additional water cooler was installed on the second floor faculty/staff lounge, providing additional filtered hot or cold water options.

In April, four more hydration stations were installed at PSC's main campus, positive feedback was received from students.

In honor of Earth Week, PSC was awarded a free bottle filling station due to PSC's commitment to sustainability. The station was donated by Magic Pure and Elkay increasing the total number of stations on campus to six.

Impact: Eliminated 12,534 water bottles from entering the waste stream.²

Energy Efficiency Pilot Program

In May, PSC installed an energy dashboard system (funds provided by DCEO through the Illinois Green Economy Network for the Health Tech building) to monitor gas and electric usage in the building. Smart power strips also were installed to automatically turn off all peripheral devices (printers, monitors, etc.), as well as providing employees with a one-touch option to power down devices upon leaving the office.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is conducting a research component of this program, which includes modeling of the Health Tech building, monitoring energy usage and changes, and conducting surveys that examine current energy attitudes and behaviors.

PSC was one of four community colleges in the state selected to participate in this pilot program.

² Number of 12 ounce fills from January 25, 2013-June 25, 2013 based on stations' eco-counter.



12,534

water bottles prevented
from entering the waste
stream.



State And National Initiatives

Illinois Campus Sustainability Compact

In December, PSC was recognized by Governor Quinn and the Green Governments Coordinating Council as a Bronze Level Compact School. To achieve this recognition, PSC:

- Adopted a written statement acknowledging support for sustainability.
- Created a focal point to lead sustainability work across the campus.
- Created a website that raises awareness and generates interest about the institution's sustainability efforts.
- Created opportunities for students and faculty to provide suggestions for advancing sustainability on campus.

PSC will continue to work toward achieving Gold Level recognition.

The National Council for Science and The Environment's (NCSE) Community College Affiliate Program (CCAP)

PSC was invited to be a founding member of the Community College Affiliate Program, a program that will deliver services that have a significant impact on the sustainability efforts on PSC's campus and community.

CCAP will advance:

- the quality of interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability education
- student engagement, leadership and research
- collaboration with other community colleges, 4-year institutions and federal agencies
- the participation of administrators, faculty, and staff in environmental and sustainability efforts

As a founding member, PSC will shape the organization to meet the needs of the PSC campus and will be recognized on a national level. Allesandra Cairo, sustainability coordinator was elected to serve a two-year term as Co-Chair of the organization.



PSC was invited to be a founding member of the Community College Affiliate Program.

Waste Diversion

Recycling Initiatives

PSC partnered with SouthSTAR Services' EcoSafe Processors and Savers in April to host a community-wide recycling drive for Earth Week, providing responsible alternatives for disposing of unwanted household items.

In May, SouthSTAR Services' EcoSafe Processors visited PSC and removed 90 CPU's, monitors, keyboards, and other miscellaneous electronic items for electronic recycling. Proper destruction of PSC hard drives was supervised. Members of the sustainability club visited the EcoSafe Processor facility in Steger to learn how e-waste is processed, what to look out for when scrapping, how this initiative is providing people with disabilities opportunities in the green economy.

PSC was awarded a recycling grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to expand recycling efforts on campus. The grant provided the college funds necessary to purchase new recycling receptacles for high traffic areas making recycling on campus easier.

Impact: Recycled 23.95 tons of material.³

Clear Your Clutter

In January, the first "Clear Your Clutter" office supply swap was held. Faculty and staff were invited to donate unwanted office supplies for other to use. The event promoted PSC's recycling model of 1) Reduce 2) Reuse 3) Recycle by encouraging faculty and staff to reduce the amount of supplies PSC purchases by reusing someone else's office supplies and recycling unwanted ones.

Excellent feedback was received regarding this event. Although many supplies were brought to the staff lounge - few remained by the end of the day.

To continue the effort in between events, space was identified at the loading dock as the repository for donated office supplies.

³ Weight (in tons) is provided by Republic Services (formerly Skyline Disposal) when recycling is picked up from the College. Data range is July 2012-June 2013.



23.95 TONS
of material recycled
in fiscal year 2013.





Battery Collection

The sustainability center partnered with Girl Scout Troop 60607 to collect dead batteries. The goal was originally to collect 500 batteries over the course of several months. However, within one day of announcing the collection drive, Prairie State far exceeded the goal of 500. The college collected so many the troop chose to measure the dead batteries by weight.

The goal of collecting 500 batteries over the course of several months was met within one day of announcing the collection drive.

Student Engagement

Student Sustainability Club

Several students began a student sustainability club in the spring 2013 semester. Students participated in Earth Week activities, started a Red Solo Cup fundraiser, and took a field trip to SouthSTAR Services' EcoSafe Processors facility to learn how e-waste is disassembled, processed, and recycled.

Student Engagement Through Service Learning

Several student groups from Professor Schwarz's communications classes and Professor Mulling's sociology classes worked closely with the sustainability coordinator as part of their coursework. There were a total of five groups working on sustainability initiatives in the fall, including the nature preserve, community garden, and campus sustainability day. The spring groups focused their attention on Earth Week, the community garden, nature preserve, and recycling.





Community Engagement

Community Garden

A general manager was hired in January 2013 through the work study program. This student assisted in the development of a management plan for the 2013 gardening season. The plan addressed several challenges faced in 2012, including lack of management and accountability, successful donations to Respond Now, and proper growing practices.

In May 2013, the PSC community garden opened for a second growing season. PSC again provided garden tools, gloves, water, and soil. Community gardeners were welcome to use all supplies provided by the college as they cared for their plots. Eight (8) plots were purchased by community members for the season, while the remaining plots were used as demonstration and learning plots for the sustainability center and biology classes.

With a second successful growing season behind us, the community garden will continue in 2014.

**The 2013 growing season
saw gardeners of all ages
working together to grow
local, healthy food.**

Classes

Energy Demand Reduction Trainings

Under the Illinois Green Economy Network's (IGEN) Illinois Community College Targeted Energy Management Training (ICCTEMT) program, PSC offered four energy demand reduction training courses to college faculty and staff, as well as key employees of local businesses, free of charge. The four courses PSC was selected to offer were:

- Met Energy Demand: Effective Maintenance and Reliability Best Practices
- Met Energy Demand: Introduction to Maintenance Planning and Scheduling
- Met Energy Demand: Introduction to Preventative and Predictive Maintenance
- Creating Sustainable Change

All four programs ran successfully and were well received.

Successful Gardening: From Seedling to Harvest

The Sustainability Coordinator offered a gardening class for beginners through the continuing education department. The class was successful and most of the students enrolled in the class also bought plots at the PSC community garden, extending their hands-on learning experience.



PSC offered 4 energy demand reduction training courses to college faculty, staff, and key employees of local businesses, free of charge.



Events

Campus Sustainability Day

The PSC Sustainability Center hosted the first successful Campus Sustainability Day on October 24.

Staff and students visited and staffed the sustainability table in the atrium. A total of 16 students from Professor Burrough's earth science class participated in a poster session where they displayed posters representing various national parks, the environmental challenges the park system faces, and ways those challenges are being handled.

Additional activities included a successful clothing exchange, with students donating several boxes to Respond Now; a book swap; and a tour through the nature preserve.

Plugged In

On February 7, PSC hosted Plugged In, a public dedication ceremony to showcase the newly installed charging stations.

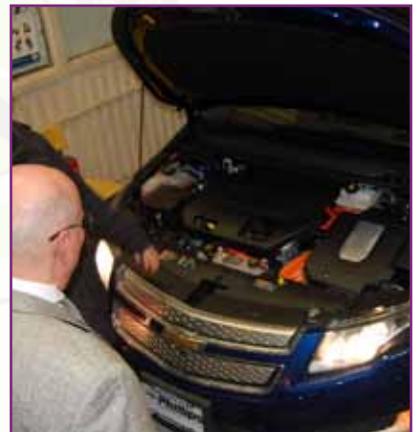
Representatives from Phillips Chevrolet and Carbon Day Automotive were on site to answer questions about 2013 state and federal rebates and incentives for purchasing an electric vehicle as well as to provide information on the ChargePoint network of charging stations.

Guests who attended the event were able to get a view of PSC's charging stations and the 2013 Chevy Volt.

The event was co-sponsored by Carbon Day Automotive.



The PSC Sustainability Center hosted the first successful Campus Sustainability Day.





The Governor's Sustainability Summit

PSC was represented at the 2013 Sustainable Schools Symposium on April 2. The conference was hosted by the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, Loyola University Chicago, and USGBC-Illinois Chapter.

Allessandra Cairo, Genny Boesen, Executive Director of the South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium (SMHEC), and Kevin Barto, Governors State University's Assistant Director in Facilities, presented an afternoon breakout session. Their presentation, Regionally Organizing for Sustainability, addressed what SMHEC institutions have done since 2009 as a result of their participation in the regional Sustainability Task Force. The task force was assembled in 2009 at the request of the university presidents who saw sustainability as an important common theme to advance at their institutions.

PSC also had a poster displayed highlighting several service learning projects connected to sustainability.

More than 100 students from 12 of the regional colleges and universities attended the SMHEC summit.

SMHEC Student Sustainability Summit

On April 12, PSC hosted the second annual South Metropolitan Higher Education Consortium Student Sustainability Summit. More than 100 students from 12 of the regional colleges and universities attended the summit, which was held in the Conference Center.

The summit featured a welcome address from Dr. Radtke, a key note presentation from Chad Pregrecke, Founder – Living lands and Water, and seven student-led presentations. Presentation topics included sustainability, local and organic agriculture, and land preservation and restoration. PSC students presented on the Nature Preserve.

Fratello's catered the event providing a locally-sourced and organic lunch.

The event was highly successful and provided PSC an opportunity to highlight their sustainability initiatives to colleges throughout the region.

A Successful Earth Week

The 2013 Earth Week was successful and educational. Faculty, students, and staff came together at several events showing their support for sustainability, PSC, and each other.

One inspiring example of this was during the nature preserve cleanup in which the Black Student Union tied staff from the Outreach committee for the most trash collected. The Anime Club came second finding a helium tank buried in the creek, followed by students from Erica Lannan's biology classes that found a decomposing trapped animal. Several other clubs came out to show support and to make a difference in the preserve.

Twenty-two (22) vendors participated in the green vendor fair providing information on the green industry, energy efficiency, e-recycling, eating healthy and more.

Students (and dogs) proved Kermit wrong by showing "It's Easy Being Green" in an eco-friendly fashion show where all items worn were made from eco-friendly materials or purchased in an otherwise eco-friendly manner.

The Student Government Association, The Student Review staff, and administration joined us in a special tree planting ceremony, and Jim Nesci of Cold Blooded Creatures was back by popular demand.

Eating healthy and eating local was a theme of Earth Week with a special cooking demonstration by Marco Caso and Adrian Martino of Fratello's, and a special presentation on Greening Your Body by Jan Dowell, Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist, Hunger and Environmental Nutrition Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The week ended with an employee picnic by the nature preserve to learn about the benefits of the preserve as an outdoor classroom, open space, and unique attribute to PSC. On April 27, PSC partnered with SouthSTAR Services' EcoSafe Processors and Savers to host a community-wide recycling drive.



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