

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICY ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Value Statements

- ACC is committed to minimize the district's impact on the environment, stewardship of the environment and reducing the district's dependence on non-renewable energy.
- ACC seeks to foster environmental awareness by providing educational leadership in energy conservation efforts, efficient energy use, renewable energy and recycling.

ACC is committed to stewardship of the environment and to reducing ACC's dependence on non-renewable energy sources. With this commitment in mind, ACC operations district wide shall:

- Incorporate the principles of energy efficiency and sustainability in all capital projects, renovation projects, operations and maintenance within budgetary constraints and programmatic requirements.
- Minimize the use of non-renewable energy sources on behalf of ACC's built environment by creating a portfolio approach to energy use, including the use of local renewable energy as well as conservation measures that reduce energy consumption.
- Incorporate alternative means of transportation to/from the campuses to improve the quality of life on campus and in the surrounding community.
- Track, report and minimize greenhouse gas emissions on behalf of ACC operations.
- Minimize the amount of ACC generated waste sent to landfill.
- Utilize ACC's purchasing power to meet its sustainability objectives.

The President will annually report to the Board on the Policy's impact on capital and operating costs, and overall ACC sustainable practices.

The guidelines that follow are intended to provide specific scope, direction, and expectations underlying from the Policy on Sustainable Practices.

POLICY GUIDELINES

I. Green Building Design

New Buildings

- a. ACC will design and build all new buildings to a minimum standard equivalent to a *LEED*[™] "Silver" rating or higher, whenever possible within the constraints of program needs and standard budget parameters.

- b. The measures required by this Policy Guideline will be incorporated into all new building projects, submitted for a formal request for proposals and budget approval as of September 1, 2009.

Building Renovations

- a. Any significant renovation projects involving existing buildings will also apply sustainability principles to the systems, components and portions of the building being renovated. At Budget Approval, all renovation projects should include a listing of sustainable measures under consideration.
- b. Renovation of buildings that require 100% replacement of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and replacement of over 50% of all non-shell areas (interior walls, doors, floor coverings and ceiling systems) should at a minimum comply with an equivalent to a LEED “certified” rating.
- c. The green building requirements provided above will apply to the listed categories of renovations, receiving budget approval after September 1, 2009.

General/Miscellaneous

- a. ACC will work with regulatory agencies and other entities to speed the development, approval, and implementation of products and technologies that improve energy efficiency and support sustainable design, construction, and operating practices.
- b. ACC will develop a program for sharing of best practices.
- c. ACC will incorporate the Green Building Design policy into existing facilities-related training programs, with the aim of promoting and maintaining the goals of the policy.

II. Clean Energy Standard

- a. ACC will implement a district wide portfolio approach to reduce consumption of non-renewable energy. The portfolio will include a combination of energy efficiency projects, the incorporation of local renewable power measures for existing and new facilities and other energy measures with equivalent demonstrable effect on the environment and reduction in fossil fuel usage. The appropriate mix of measures to be adopted within the portfolio will be determined under each of the individual campus master plans.
- b. ACC will strive to achieve procuring 20 percent of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020.
- c. With a goal of reducing district wide non-renewable energy consumption, ACC will develop a strategic plan for implementing energy efficiency projects for existing buildings and infrastructure to include operational changes and the integration of best practices. ACC will monitor industry progress in energy retrofits and implement technical improvements as they

become available. As with renewable energy projects, ACC will develop funding sources and establish a program for financing retrofit projects. The initial goal for energy efficiency retrofit projects will be to reduce district wide growth-adjusted energy consumption by 10 percent or more by 2015 from the year 2010 base consumption level. ACC will strive to achieve even greater savings as additional potential is identified and funding becomes available.

- d. ACC will continuously evaluate the feasibility of other energy-saving measures with equivalent demonstrable effect on the environment and reduction in fossil fuel usage.
- e. ACC will develop a variety of funding sources and financing alternatives for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean energy projects that will enable ACC to be flexible in addressing its energy needs.

III. Climate Protection Practices

- a. With an overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while maintaining enrollment accessibility for every eligible student, enhancing research, promoting community service and operating campus facilities more efficiently, ACC will develop a long term strategy to reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels. ACC will pursue the goal of reducing GHG emissions to 2000 levels by 2020 and provide an action plan for becoming climate neutral.

IV. Sustainable Transportation Practices

Metrics and Benchmarking

- a. In implementing a most efficient and effective economic and environmental strategy for ACC fleets, ACC shall implement practicable and cost-effective measures, including, but not necessarily limited to, the purchase of the cleanest and most efficient vehicles and replacement tires, the use of alternative fuels, and other conservation measures.
- b. ACC will strive to increase the number of low (PZEV) or zero-emission vehicles (ZEV) by 20% by the year 2020 and/or to convert campus vehicles to 50% non-carbon based fuel by year 2015.
- c. ACC will work with regulatory agencies and other entities (e.g., regional transit agencies, air quality management districts) to speed the development, approval, and implementation of programs and technologies that support the goals of sustainable transportation as related to the increased use of biodiesel or other alternative fuel sources.

Transportation Programs

- a. ACC will continue to facilitate the sharing of best practices within ACC and among other educational institutions.

- b. ACC will develop a mechanism for ongoing involvement of students in efforts toward achieving sustainable campus transportation.
- c. By September 1, 2009, ACC will implement a pre-tax transit pass program to facilitate the purchase of transit passes by ACC employees, or will establish a transit pass program for employees.
- d. ACC will pursue the introduction of ride-share programs at each campus for all eligible program participants, where available. In conjunction with this effort, campuses will engage in advocacy efforts with local transit districts to improve routes in order to better serve student and staff ridership.

V. Sustainable Operations

- a. For existing buildings, ACC will explore the development of a standard methodology for sustainable practices and standards for facilities management.
- b. For existing buildings, ACC will develop a plan to operate and maintain all buildings at a minimum standard equivalent to a LEED “Certified” rating. The implementation for certification will be carried out through the individual campus master plans.
- c. ACC will incorporate these Sustainable Operations Policy Guidelines into existing facilities-related training programs, with the aim of promoting and maintaining the goals of the Policy.
- d. ACC will work closely with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to address the needs and concerns of each campus in the further development of the LEED rating system. As information and requirements are determined from the USGBC’s rating system; ACC will update this policy as appropriate.
- e. ACC will explore ways to connect the buildings it certifies through LEED with ACC’s educational and research mission, using the buildings as living, learning laboratories.

VI. Recycling and Waste Management

- a. In response to the City of Austin’s goal of “zero waste by 2040”, ACC voluntarily adopts the following waste diversion goals:
 - 50% by September 1, 2020
 - 75% by September 1, 2030
 - Ultimate goal of zero waste by 2040
- b. ACC will develop a district wide waste management plan by September 1, 2009.

- c. Waste reduction and recycling elements shall be integrated in Green Building Design and Sustainable Operation implementation goals and into campus operations as they are developed.
- d. ACC will seek to develop funding sources for financing waste reduction projects.

VII. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Practices

Sustainable Economy

- a. ACC will utilize its purchasing power and academic and research excellence to advance the development of sustainable technologies by pressing markets to continually improve resource productivity.
- b. For products and services that do not currently offer environmentally preferable alternatives, ACC will work with its existing and potential suppliers to develop options.
- c. “Cradle to cradle” is the preferred purchasing standard and is defined as accountable, responsible, and environmentally preferable supply chain management from material extraction, production, marketing, sale, use, disposal, collection, re-use and the web of closed loop cycles and processes.
- d. ACC will continue to transition all locations toward electronic and paperless processes and utilize web-based catalogs and programs.
- e. ACC will incorporate the credit requirements set forth by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) into product and service sourcing and procurement.
- f. ACC will evaluate total cost of ownership including purchase price, operating cost, maintenance, collection and disposal, and recycling costs when selecting suppliers.

Energy and Water

- a. For product categories that have ENERGY STAR® rated products available, ACC will focus its procurement efforts only on products with an ENERGY STAR® rating.
- b. For all electronic equipment, the supplier will deliver the items to ACC with energy efficiency and conservation features enabled.
- c. ACC will utilize its strategic purchasing program to negotiate better pricing for rated commodities.
- d. ACC shall establish an ongoing partnership with the ENERGY STAR® Program administered by the EPA, and continually press the market for greater energy efficiency for the products and services regularly purchased by ACC.

- e. For products and services requiring the use of water, ACC will give preference to technologies that ensure the efficient use of water resources.

Recycled Content

- a. ACC will phase out the use of virgin paper and adopt a minimum standard of 30% Post Consumer Waste (PCW) recycled content paper for all office supplies.
- b. For uncut paper uses, including but not limited to janitorial supplies, ACC will adopt a standard of 100% PCW recycled content paper.
- c. ACC will utilize its strategic purchasing program to negotiate better pricing for commodities with recycled content as compared to commodities without recycled content.
- d. ACC will continually work towards increasing the procurement of products with high recycled content.
- e. Outside suppliers and consultants shall be encouraged to print proposals and reports on both sides, using recycled content paper or provided electronically.

Green Seal Certified Products

- a. ACC will work to phase in Green Seal certified products.

Reduction of Hazardous Electronic Waste

- a. ACC will recycle all electronic waste in a responsible manner.

Environmentally Responsible Packaging

- a. Packaging for electronics products should be designed, produced, and managed in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- b. ACC will specify that all packing materials abide by at least one of, and preferably all of, the criteria listed below:
 - o *Made from 100% post-consumer recycled materials and be recyclable, reusable, or*
 - o *Be non-toxic,*
 - o *Be biodegradable,*
 - o *Be produced with the minimum of resources and sized as small as possible, while still maintaining product protection during shipping. Where feasible, packaging materials should be eliminated, if unnecessary.*

- c. ACC will work with its suppliers to ensure effective waste management and recycling programs are in place for all business operations.

Effective Recycling and Manufacturer Take-Backs

- a. ACC will work to incorporate effective end-of-life recycling programs into each commodity as applicable.
- b. ACC will work with its suppliers to establish, re-use or recycling “take-backs” at no extra cost to ACC, and in compliance with environmental standards that abide by Federal, State, and local legislation regarding waste disposal.

Supply Chain Environmental Responsibility

- a. ACC will encourage suppliers to demonstrate environmental stewardship through their Environmental Management Programs.

Training and Annual Plan and Report

- a. ACC will incorporate the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy into existing strategic sourcing and other training programs, with the aim of promoting and maintaining the goals of the policy. ACC shall provide training seminars, supplier fairs, and workshops on purchasing environmentally preferred products and establish educational programs and materials for faculty, staff, and students.
- b. An annual plan and report shall be completed by the purchasing department to define their environmental purchasing plan and report their efforts.

VIII. Authority and Report Schedule

On an annual basis, the President will provide a report to the Board detailing the impact of ACC’s sustainability efforts on the overall capital program, operating costs, energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, solid waste diversion, campus environmentally preferable purchasing and campus transportation practices. ACC’s sustainability guidelines will be subject to continuous review. The Policy Guidelines for Sustainable Practices will be reviewed at a minimum every two years, with the intent of developing and strengthening implementation provisions and assessing the influence of the guidelines on existing facilities, new capital projects, plant operating costs, fleet and transportation services, and campus accessibility, mobility, and livability. ACC will provide means for the ongoing active participation of students, faculty, administrators, and external representatives in further development and implementation of the Policy on Sustainable Practices.