

Lane Community College

EUGENE, OREGON

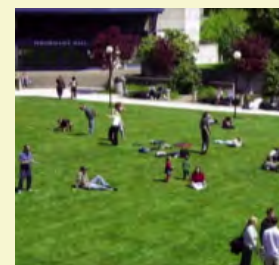
Few postsecondary institutions have made a more substantial commitment to climate change and promoting environmental stewardship than Lane Community College. Four years ago, Lane set a goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050, hired a full-time sustainability coordinator, and established benchmarks and mechanisms for tracking the progress and impact of its efforts over time.

The college, which already purchases 10 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, has implemented a variety of energy-conservation measures on its campuses in Eugene, Cottage Grove, and Florence, Oregon. To date, students at the college have installed nearly five kW of photovoltaic arrays on campuses, including a one kW system that serves the college's child care center. Student volunteers also helped retrofit water faucet aerators from 2.2 gallons per minute (gpm) to between 0.5 and 1.5 gpm.

Lane's motor pool and maintenance fleet is being converted to energy-efficient and alternative-energy vehicles, and students on the main campus receive a free bus pass as part of a cooperative plan with the Lane Transit District. The college has a comprehensive recycling program that includes paper, cardboard, metal, plastic, glass and wood, and an in-vessel composter that processes more than 13 tons of food trimmings, sawdust, and other material each year. Reuse opportunities include a clothing exchange for students and an office-supply exchange for faculty and staff.

In addition to the Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree programs in renewable energy technology, water conservation, and energy management, Lane offers cross-disciplinary courses such as global ecology, environmental politics, and natural resource economics; continuing-education courses ranging from sustainable landscaping to voluntary simplicity; and extracurricular activities that include a Green Chemistry Club and environmental/earth science field trips. There are approximately 90 first-year students enrolled in these programs annually. Nearly all of Lane's graduates are placed in related jobs around the country and the college has begun to assist other community colleges in developing similar programs.

Lane is also home to the Northwest Energy Education Institute, which provides energy- and building-related continuing education across the U.S. Courses include the Energy Management Certification, Building Operators Certification, Bonneville Power Administration Residential Auditor Certification, and National Sustainable Building Advisor's Program. Early last year, Lane hosted the first Conference on Sustainability for Community Colleges, which included representatives of more than 40 colleges from 16 different states.



To learn more about the scope, progress, and impact of Lane's sustainability initiatives, go to www.lanecc.edu/sustainability/susprog.html or contact Jennifer Hayward, Sustainability Coordinator at (541) 463-5594 or haywardj@lanecc.edu.