Sustainability Committee
Progress Report
April 23, 2009

September 30, 2008, the President and Governing Board signed the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC).

- Kenny Keith attended 2009 PDMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODELS AND TECHNOLOGIES on March 6.
- College will provide access to an internet workshop on June 18 “Learn How to Turn Your Community College Campus Green.”
- Several faculty/staff groups discussed sustainability topics at the January 2009 College Convocation.
- The college Strategic Plan Pillar Six 2008-2011 Priority 4 is to “evaluate and implement the Higher Education President’s Climate Commitment.”

The elements of commitment:

A. Establish an institutional structure within two months – “to oversee the development and implementation of the school’s program to comply”. “The structure should be empowered with the authority necessary to implement the Commitment, and should include high-level participants who have the ability to enact elements of the plan. ...include staff, faculty, student, and administrator representatives.” (pg 9)

1. A committee of volunteers from NPC students, faculty and staff gathered late Fall 2008.
   a. Co-chairs for the oversight committee are – Dr. Jeanne Swarthout, Ernie Cunningham, Trudy Bender, Kenny Keith.
   b. February 2009 Chairs were appointed for the subcommittees
      Community Programs, Participation, Outreach – Joann Barnes-Slocum
      Facilities & Transportation – Ernie Cunningham
      NPC Carbon Footprint – Ernie Cunningham
      Recycling – Kenny Keith
      Student Participation – Jake Hinton-Rivera
      Sustainability Curriculum – Barbara Hockabout

2. The college chose its definition of sustainability which will be used to develop programs. “Meeting the needs of present generations, while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”
B. Complete an emissions inventory with one year
The emissions which must be measured, tracked and reduced to follow the Kyoto Protocol: CO2, CH4, N2O, HFCs, PFCs, SF6. “Signatories may choose to use GWPs from the Second Assessment Report, or the most up-to-date GWPs from the IPCC. ...”ACUPCC signatories agree to account for and report on emissions from Scopes 1 and 2. In addition, as specified in the Commitment, signatories agree to report some Scope 3 emissions, specifically those from commuting and from air travel paid for by or through the institution, to the extent that data are available.” (pg 11)

1. Ernie Cunningham obtained utility bills for the college for the last several.

2. Ernie Cunningham is completing the site survey for energy use at the NPC Springerville/Eagar Center.

3. Kenny Keith has made contact with the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University. He is making arrangements for an intern to come to NPC and complete a carbon footprint assessment and develop a climate action plan.

C. Mitigation strategies
“...signatories agree to initiate two or more of seven specified tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the climate action plan is being developed. The actions should be selected within two months and implemented within two years... It is acceptable to count policies and practices in place prior to signing the ACUPCC.” (pg 13)

1. Green Building Policy – The college has instituted several practices to reduce emissions. These do not necessarily fall under LEED standards.
   
   a. Central control over all NPC HVAC systems. This has already resulted in 16% reduction of BTUs of natural gas. (compared from 1st quarter of 2007 to 1st quarter of 2008) Estimated savings of $24,000.  
   
   b. Temperatures lowered 2 degrees in all buildings.
   
   c. Requested that all staff remove space heaters from their offices.
   
   d. The Maintenance Warehouse is being heated by recycled oil from the Fleet Maintenance Department. In addition, all lights not necessary are turned off in the building. Estimated that the electricity usage in that building has been reduced by 50%.
   
   e. The college has reduced electricity consumption by an estimated 10% (comparing 1st quarter 2007 to 1st quarter 2008). This is basically due to turning off equipment at the end of the work day, using ½ the lights in a room. The libraries turn off all equipment in libraries, open labs, video and audio classrooms.
f. Since 2003, the college has purchased Toyota Corolla – most reliable and fuel efficient automobiles which meet the college criteria. This vehicle has good gas mileage and low emission ratings.

g. The college has requested that faculty and staff ride-share. Estimated that 15% has been saved in 2009 due to reduced vehicle mileage affecting vehicle consumable maintenance materials.

2. Energy Star Procurement Policy (not yet explored)

3. Air Travel Offsetting (not yet explored)

4. Provision of Public Transportation – “To achieve this option, signatories must provide free or heavily subsidized (50% or more below retail price) public transportation passes to students, faculty and staff. ..Merely encouraging faculty, staff, and students to use public transportation is not sufficient to achieve this action option.” (pg 15)

a. District Governing Board 10/21/2008 authorized an Intergovernmental Agreement to partner with Regional Connector Transit Services to provide transportation between Snow Low and Holbrook with a resolution to contribute no more than $7595.00 in the first year.

b. The college negotiated a low fee of $60 per semester for student pass on the Regional Connector Transit Service – stops at WMC, SCC and PDC campuses.

b. Ernie Cunningham submitted a proposal was made to purchase software providing cooperation for students to arrange ride shares as well as faculty and staff. Approved for Fall 2009.

5. Green Power Production or Purchasing – “Begin purchasing or producing at least 15% of our institution’s electricity consumption from renewable sources within one year of signing the ACUPCC.” “…To count towards the 15% necessary to achieve this action option, purchased RECs must be Green-e certified or meet the Green-e standard’s technical requirements.” (pg 16)

a. Ernie Cunningham is preparing a proposal to use solar panels at the Springerville/Eagar Center to generate power. This would be a joint project with Navapache Electric and would require funding.

6. Climate-Friendly Investing – “Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution’s endowment is invested.” The NPC Foundation has money in banks and will begin investing in companies with economic stability.

a. The NPC Foundation will be moving funds from banks to investments with a view towards stable economic returns.

7. Waste Minimization – “Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste...signatories must participate in the Waste Minimization component of RecycleMania, a friendly competition among campuses.” …must also adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste.” (pg 18 & 19) “…To capture the GHG reductions...include emissions from waste disposal in their GHG inventory.” (pg 20)

a. The Student Participation Subcommittee proposes to participate in RecycleMania January 2010. This will meet an implementation goal of “within two years” of signing the commitment.
b. The Recycling Subcommittee is proposing a contract with Keith Webb to pick up newspapers and any other paper for a fee. The college would hope to earn some funds through the contract. Kenny is working with Keith to produce a contract.

c. The Recycling Subcommittee is exploring how to organize can and plastic recycling.

d. 8 NPC sites report local efforts to recycle various materials. See MyNPC site.

e. Reuse packing materials. We feel most departments do this.

f. Promote inter-office reusable envelopes for campus mail. Yes NPC does this.

g. Replace production of paper materials with online alternatives. Yes NPC does this. Grades online only; library notices by e-mail; pay stubs online only.

h. Establish a system to review and approve placement of new campus trash containers. Expect this will be explored by Recycling Subcommittee & Student Participation Subcommittee.

C. Climate Action Plan (pg 22) – due September 2010

Anticipate that ASU School of Sustainability intern will assist.

D. Curriculum and Other Educational Experiences – “It should start by describing the institution’s current educational offerings (both curricular and extra-curricular) related to climate change and sustainability. It should then set out planned actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.” (pg 23)

1. Identifying current courses

   a. Trudy Bender reviewed all course outlines and sent suggested list to Curriculum Subcommittee for those courses which most likely currently meet the criteria.

   b. Identifying Learning Adventure courses – Trudy Bender reviewed the class schedules and compiled a list of courses which may have been offered in the last 2 years that meet the criteria.

2. Creation of new academic programs related to climate change and sustainability.

   a. Barbara Hockabout has an in-depth plan. See “Preliminary Plans for Integrating a Sustainable Curriculum at Northland Pioneer College” created March 15, 2009. The table of contents are: Proposed Mission for NPC Sustainability Subcommittee; Proposed Tasks for the NPC Sustainability Subcommittee; Applying Our Mission: Considering the Unique Aspects of NPC; Proposed Actions; Initiation of Faculty Development Workshops; Institution-Wide Incentives to Encourage Faculty to Address Sustainability in Their Courses; Sustainable Curriculum Subcommittee Coordination.

   b. Develop institute-wide incentives or programs to encourage faculty to address sustainability in their courses. See Plan mentioned above.
c. Initiation of faculty development workshops on climate change and sustainability. See Plan mentioned above.

d. Establish a graduation requirement in sustainability. See Plan mentioned above.

3. Inclusion of students on building and construction, operations, and facilities committees. We believe this is being done through the Student Participation Subcommittee.

4. Implementation of student life educational initiatives related to climate change and sustainability. See March 13, 2009 report from the Student Participation Subcommittee – “Strategizing for Student Commitment to a Green Campus.”

E. Research – “…may be omitted by institutions that are not engaged in significant research activities.” (pg 24)

F. Community Outreach and Other Efforts

1. Initiation of community service or service-learning activities related to climate neutrality. See “Strategizing for Student Commitment to a Green Campus.” March 13, 2009

2. Development of community partnerships related to GHG reductions and sustainability.
   a. Lance Chugg with NPC Foundation spoke with Winslow Schools and Winslow Public library to ask them to participate with NPC in paper recycling contract with Keith Webb.
   b. Kenny Keith (NPC faculty and Recycling Subcommittee Chair) participates in Northeast Arizona Recycling Committee (Apache & Navajo county entities).
   c. Ernie Cunningham proposal includes cooperation with Navapache Electric.
   d. Proposal for ASU School of Sustainability to send an intern to work on carbon footprint and Climate Action Plan.
   e. Proposal for NPC to hire Keith Webb to recycle materials at Catalyst.

3. Introduction of community education initiatives related to climate change and sustainability. See “Strategizing for Student Commitment to a Green Campus” March 13, 2009 as well as list “NPC Courses Offered with Focus on Sustainability 2007-2009” on Curriculum Subcommittee Group page in MyNPC.

4. Development of programs that support faculty and staff in making personal efficiency upgrades at their residences. (pg 24) No discussion on this topic yet.
   a. Library purchases materials for individual efforts as well as curriculum needs.
b. Library sends notice of new books on this topic.

5. Explaining NPC’s participation and progress toward implement the ACUPCC to the surrounding committee. (pg 24)

   a. Public access to Sustainability Committee reports and activities and links on MyNPC.

   b. Ability for public to comment and make suggestions on Committee site.

   c. Ability for public to comment in the forum “I Have an Idea” under category Energy Use.

G. Financing

1. Income and expenditure line in NPC budget so the committee can actually use money earned or solicited. March 13, 2009 requested that Dr. Swarthout ask for these accounts to be created.

2. NPC budget. Budget for Ride-Share software approved. What other funds? The budget will impact what can be accomplished.

2. NPC volunteer contributions. All committee work is being done by volunteers in addition to their regular tasks.

3. NPC partnerships with outside companies may require matching funds.

4. Grant opportunities may require matching funds.

H. Tracking Progress “The final section of the climate action plan should describe how the institution will track its progress in achieving the goals set out in the rest of the plan...emissions, curriculum integration, community service projects, cost savings.” (pg 24)


2. Compare usage and invoices for utilities over time.

3. Compare paper purchased and paper purchased from us by Catalyst.

4. Mira is exploring creation and use of an NPC database.