

# 20 10

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *Sustainability Annual Report*

Transportation

Stuff

Water

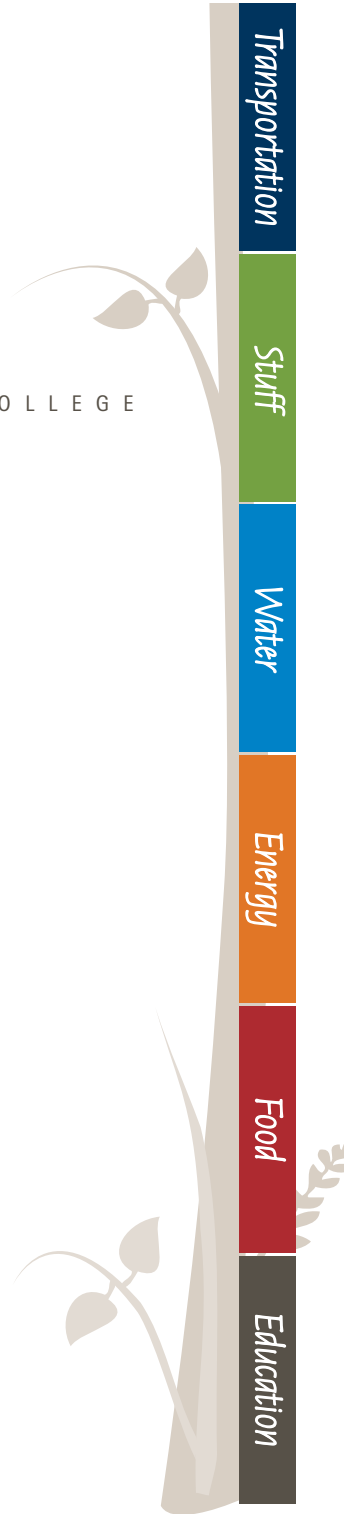
Energy

Food

Education



LEARNING HOW.  
*Teaching Others.*



**Metropolitan Community College's (MCC) Office of Sustainable Practices** was established in July 2009 with the hiring of a collegewide Coordinator of Sustainable Practices. This office is tasked with the integration of sustainable practices in the classroom, with the community and in campus operations.

By focusing on the five main elements of sustainability—food, water, energy, transportation and stuff, MCC students, faculty, staff and administration are collaborating to make decisions that benefit the triple bottom line—prosperity, equity and our environment. MCC's Board of Governors has already taken a leadership role by ensuring all new construction is LEED-certified and approving a Master Plan with sustainability as a key feature in all planning activities. To date, there are two LEED buildings on our campuses: the South Omaha Campus Connector Building (LEED Silver) and the new Institute for the Culinary Arts (LEED certification in progress) at the Fort Omaha Campus.

Since its establishment, the Office of Sustainable Practices has worked with nearly every department at MCC and more than 40 community partners to facilitate 17 grants in excess of \$1.5 million, engage more than 100 faculty and staff, and reach thousands of students in new and existing classes and programs. The Office of Sustainable Practices has also introduced new sustainable initiatives on campus such as single stream recycling and Pass to Class, which helps to ensure MCC students have transportation to and from classes.

MCC's regional leadership in sustainable practices has received positive attention from dozens of print, web, radio and television media venues, including national recognition for innovative projects and programs at the College and in partnership with our community.

Underlying the success of all these projects is the inherent commitment to sustainability and a willingness to work together among MCC students, faculty, staff, facilities, community partners and Board members. None of these achievements could have been accomplished single-handedly. I would like to personally acknowledge the countless number of individuals across the College and in the community who have championed or supported a project, idea or program mentioned in this report to help make MCC more environmentally prudent, socially responsible and economically sound. Without the support, vision and dedication of the Board of Governors, administration, facilities, students, faculty and staff, none of these projects would have been possible.

This report is a brief overview of just some of the projects, accomplishments and programs of MCC's collegewide sustainability initiative. For questions or further details, visit [www.mccneb.edu/green](http://www.mccneb.edu/green) or contact me via the information listed below.

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# TRANSPORTATION



**Mission:** To promote sustainable transportation options to, from and between MCC locations, thereby reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips and decreasing the pollution from transportation footprints while simultaneously reducing costs of transportation.

## Project:

## Status:

*Where?*



### PASS TO CLASS

Started in October 2009, Pass to Class is a joint program between MCC and Metro Transit, the city bus system, providing MCC students with bus passes for rides to and from MCC locations and other education-related sites.

- More than 1,840 students have participated.
- Students have taken more than 185,000 rides.



### CARPPOOLING

Carpooling helps reduce the demand for parking spaces on campus, thereby helping to delay the need for new parking lots.

- MCC participates in Metro Rideshare, a service that connects commuters throughout the metropolitan Omaha region who are interested in carpooling.
- More than 30 convenient, reserved parking spots on campuses and centers encourage carpooling.
- MCC provides communication and policy solutions to encourage carpooling.



### BICYCLING

MCC is committed to providing a safe environment for cycling and encourages people to bike to and at campus and center locations.

- Bike parking is available at all locations.
- MCC partnered with Live Well Omaha and the Communities Putting Prevention to Work grant to improve bicycle parking and signage at all locations.
- MCC supported Live Well Omaha's grant application for a citywide bicycle sharing program.

On-going  
On-going

*Classroom  
Community  
Campus*

On-going

*Community  
Campus*

COMPLETE

*Campus*

In progress

*Campus*

COMPLETE

*Classroom  
Campus*

In progress

*Community  
Classroom  
Campus*

In progress

*Community*

Transportation

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Water

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# S T U F F

**Mission:** To achieve zero-waste by eliminating waste from our campus operations that would otherwise end up in a landfill. This is done by rethinking our waste practices by increasing waste reduction, reuse, composting and recycling.

Transportation

Stuff

Water

Energy

Food

Education

## Project:

## Status:

*Where?*



### TRASH

MCC currently generates approximately 50 tons of trash per month. With the ultimate goal being zero-waste, the Office of Sustainable Practices is collaborating with several departments on campus to continue to reduce the total amount of trash we generate.



### Reduce:

- MCC set double-sided printing and copying as the default option.
- MCC encourages the use of digital documents over hard copy.
- MCC is moving to appropriate digital marketing and PR strategies while reducing the quantity of printed materials.



### Reuse:

- Central Stores reuses office furniture and products by transplanting unutilized items from one department to another one where they are needed.
- Applied Technology labs reuse otherwise wasteful building and automotive materials as teaching tools in the classroom.
- MCC's Facilities Department mulches grass clippings to return nutrients to the soil, reducing the need for fertilizers and water.



### Recycle:

MCC's largest effort to eliminate landfill waste is with single-stream recycling.

- South Omaha Campus – recycles about two tons each month
- Fort Omaha Campus – single-stream is being implemented
- Elkhorn Valley Campus – single-stream is being implemented

COMPLETE *Campus*

On-going *Campus*

On-going *Community  
Campus*

On-going *Campus  
Classroom*

On-going *Classroom*

On-going *Campus*

On-going *Campus*

In progress *Campus*

In progress *Campus*

**Project:**



**COMPOSTING**

MCC is incorporating food waste composting in Culinary Arts classes and at the Sage Student Bistro for reuse as nutrients in the Horticulture Food Garden and to teach students about local, closed-loop food systems.



**PURCHASING**

MCC encourages environmentally preferable purchasing with our vendors and suppliers.

**Status:**

*Where?*

**In progress**

*↓  
Classroom  
Campus  
Community*

**On-going**

*Campus*

Transportation

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# W A T E R

**Mission:** To promote the wise use of water resources on campus, in the classroom and in the community by reducing water waste, reusing water where appropriate and keeping our waterways clean.

## Project:



### INDOOR WATER

MCC switched from 2.2 to 0.5 gallon per minute (gpm) restroom faucet aerators reducing indoor water use by more than 500,000 gallons annually.



### OUTDOOR WATER

Fort Omaha Campus' Institute for the Culinary Arts captures rainfall from the roof and stores it in a 15,000 gallon tank for use on landscaping.

Pervious pavement has been installed at the Institute for the Culinary Arts. This type of pavement allows rainwater to soak through, recharging groundwater and reducing stormwater runoff into Omaha's waterways.

MCC's Sarpy Center, Elkhorn Valley Campus, South Omaha Campus and Fort Omaha Campus have integrated native and ecologically well-adapted non-invasive plants, such as native prairie grasses and wildflowers, into their landscapes to reduce turf area.

Irrigation systems have rain sensors and timers to practice wise water use on our grounds and landscapes.

All new turf at MCC is composed of high-heat tolerant and low-water use fescue.

## Status:

*Where?*

COMPLETE

↓  
*Community  
Campus*

COMPLETE

  
*Community  
Campus*

On-going

*Classroom  
Community  
Campus*

On-going

*Classroom  
Campus  
Community*

COMPLETE

*Campus*

On-going

*Community  
Campus*

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# E N E R G Y

**Mission:** To promote the wise use of energy on campus, in the classroom and in the community by becoming as energy efficient as possible and meeting the remainder of our needs through renewable energy.

## Project:

## Status:

*Where?*



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

A Nebraska Energy Office grant of \$360,000 will fund three in-depth energy studies and one building commissioning to maximize the building's energy efficiency.

MCC received Vending Misers on all beverage vending machines, saving an average of 30 percent of energy use per machine.

As MCC remodels and retrofits our aging buildings, energy-efficient HVAC equipment and lighting is being installed to reduce MCC's energy consumption.

All new construction is LEED Certified.

MCC partnered with the EPA's ENERGY STAR program to pilot the first-ever college class on ENERGY STAR for Commercial Buildings.

A new Specialist Diploma in Residential Energy Management offers students the skills needed to work in residential weatherization.

MCC will establish a Nebraska Weatherization Training Center in partnership with the Nebraska Energy Office, using funds from a \$600,000 grant.



### RENEWABLE ENERGY

MCC received a two-year, \$318,000 grant from the Nebraska Energy Office to develop a solar energy program. Operable solar panels will be installed on campus as a learning lab.

Pending Grant

Campus  
Community

COMPLETE

Campus

On-going

Campus

On-going

Campus  
Community

COMPLETE

Classroom  
Community

COMPLETE

Classroom  
Community

Pending Grant

Classroom  
Community

Received funds, in progress

Classroom  
Campus  
Community

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# F O O D

**Mission:** To cultivate healthy food systems through education and action.

## Project:

## Status:

*Where?*



### GROW IT

Planted in Spring 2010, MCC now has an on-campus garden that covers more than 9,000 square feet. This outdoor garden classroom is a partnership between the Horticulture and Culinary Arts programs.

Herb gardens outside the Institute for the Culinary Arts give guests and students alike an educational and pleasantly aromatic experience as they approach the building.

MCC's Horticulture and Culinary Arts programs partnered in joint curriculum to teach students the food cycle through growing, preparing, eating and composting food waste.



### COOK IT

MCC's Institute for the Culinary Arts works with local farmers and community gardens to purchase local produce for use in their classes.

The Horticulture and Culinary Arts programs are working within the community by sharing their knowledge at local community gardens and farmers' markets.

Throughout the Institute for the Culinary Arts, MCC teaches and practices minimal waste and the importance of fresh, local food.



### COMPOST IT

On-campus composting will reduce food waste going to landfills and provide vital nutrients for Horticulture's food gardens.

**COMPLETE**

*Classroom  
Community*

**COMPLETE**

*Classroom  
Community*

**In progress**

*Classroom  
Community*

**On-going**

*Classroom  
Community*

**On-going**

*Classroom  
Community*

**On-going**

*Classroom  
Community*

**In progress**

*Classroom  
Campus  
Community*

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# E D U C A T I O N

**Mission:** To be a center of sustainable education and provide job training for green jobs through the integration of sustainability principles into existing curriculum and the development of new curriculum and programs to prepare MCC students for green jobs in our changing economy.

## Project:

## Status:

*Where?*



### IN THE CLASSROOM

More than 20 classes in over 12 programs have integrated sustainability into their curriculum.

- Applied Technology
- Arts
- Pre-engineering
- Social Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Humanities
- Business
- Information Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Horticulture
- Automotive
- Construction Trades
- Industrial and Commercial Trades

8 new credit classes

- Three in renewable energy
- Three in residential energy management
- One in urban agriculture
- One in commercial energy management; piloted for the EPA ENERGY STAR program

2 new specialist diplomas

- Organic Gardening
- Residential Energy Management

15 new Green Living Workshops through Continuing Education on topics such as composting, home energy savings, organic gardening, rain barrel making, bicycle commuting and recycling.

3 service-learning classes

- Two Home Maintenance  
Carpentry – Weatherization
- Utility Line

On-going

*Classroom*

COMPLETE

*Classroom*

COMPLETE

*Classroom*

On-going

*Community  
Classroom*

COMPLETE

*Classroom*



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**Project:**

**Status:**

*Where?*



8 new Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Horticulture workshops through Continuing Education on topics such as water-wise lawns and perennials, aronia berry cultivation, tomatoes and fruit tree pruning.

Metro Reads! *The Green Book* incorporated into various classes and the *Inside Story* weekly green tip.

4 industry workshops

- Two in compressed natural gas vehicles
- Two in solar energy

9 faculty development workshops on topics such as green business, alternative fuels, energy management, renewable energy, horticulture and culinary arts.



**ON THE WEB**

MCC's Sustainability website  
[www.mccneb.edu/green](http://www.mccneb.edu/green)

- Helps students find green classes, programs and workshops
- Highlights MCC's Sustainable practices and projects
- Provides resources for green living at work and at home

Listed as the pilot partner on the EPA's website for the first ENERGY STAR for Commercial Buildings college class in the nation

On-going

*Classroom  
Community*

On-going

*Campus  
Classroom*

COMPLETE

*Community  
Classroom*

In progress

*Community  
Classroom*

COMPLETE

*Classroom  
Community  
Campus*

COMPLETE

*Community*

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**Project:**



**T.V. and Print**

5 *Metro & More* shows on sustainable practices

- Home energy efficiency
- Recycling
- Sustainable transportation in metro Omaha
- Two on MCC's sustainability Initiative

5 TV news stories on MCC's sustainability efforts, including national attention for the EPA ENERGY STAR class MCC piloted and MCC's compressed natural gas van conversion as part of a Clean Cities Coalition Grant.

7 print media stories in the *Omaha World-Herald* and the *Midlands Business Journal* and various news websites.

**Status:**

*Where?*



**COMPLETE** *Community  
Campus*

**COMPLETE** *Community*

**COMPLETE** *Community*

Transportation

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Education



## Community partners engaged with MCC sustainable practices:

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Activate Omaha  
Alfred Benesch & Company  
Buy the Big O! Show  
City of Omaha  
City Sprouts  
Clean Cities Coalition  
Community Bike Project  
Creighton University  
Douglas County Health Department  
Earth Day Omaha  
Emerging Terrain  
Environment Omaha (EO)  
Florence Library and Community Center  
Girls Inc.  
Goodwill Industries  
Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
Green Home Tour  
Green Omaha Coalition  
Live Well Omaha  
Lowe's  
MCC and Community Volunteers  
Metro Transit  
Metro RideShare  
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)  
MUD  
Nebraska Department of Labor  
Nebraska Energy Office  
Nebraska Food Coop  
Neighborhood Center  
No More Empty Pots  
North Omaha Boys & Girls Club  
Omaha by Design – Livability Roundtable  
Omaha Chamber of Commerce  
Omaha Economic Development Corporation  
OPPD  
Omaha Public Schools  
Pepsi Bottling Company  
Peter Kiewit Foundation  
Peter Kiewit Institute  
Renew America Roadtrip  
Solar Energy Society  
South Omaha Boys & Girls Club  
South Omaha Library  
The Big Garden  
USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education  
University of Nebraska  
Village Pointe Farmers' Market  
WasteCap Nebraska  
Westside Community Center

**Sustainable Practices Grants**  
 (17 grants total more than \$1.6 million)

		<i>Where?</i>
<b>Americorps–Munroe Myer</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Assistant Sustainability Coordinator</li> <li>• Funding: \$8,000</li> </ul>	Received	<i>↓</i> Classroom Community Campus
<b>City of Omaha</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: MCC Cares (service-learning) home weatherization project</li> <li>• Funding: \$16,000</li> </ul>	Pending	Classroom Community
<b>Clean Cities Coalition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: CNG Van Conversion</li> <li>• Funding: \$28,000</li> </ul>	COMPLETE	Classroom Campus
<b>Live Well Omaha –            Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Bike racks and signage</li> <li>• Funding: \$4,000</li> </ul>	In progress	Classroom Community Campus
<b>Lowes Grant</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: MCC Cares (service-learning) home weatherization project</li> <li>• Funding: \$10,000</li> </ul>	Complete	Classroom Community
<b>Metro Transit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Pass to Class matching</li> <li>• Funding: \$90,000</li> </ul>	Received; On-going	Classroom Community Campus
<b>Nebraska Department of Labor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Synergy green jobs training</li> <li>• Funding: \$125,000</li> </ul>	Submitting early Dec.;	Classroom Community
	Training in Jan.	
<b>Nebraska Energy Office (NEO)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Renewable energy curriculum</li> <li>• Funding: \$318,000</li> </ul>	Received; getting started	Classroom Community Campus
<b>NEO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Building energy efficiency upgrade</li> <li>• Funding: \$360,000</li> </ul>	Pending	Campus
<b>NEO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Weatherization training center</li> <li>• Funding: \$600,000</li> </ul>	Pending	Classroom Community
<b>Pepsi Bottling Co.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus: Vending Misers</li> <li>• Funding: \$4,000</li> </ul>	Received; complete	Campus

Where?



**Perkins Funding**

- Focus: Faculty development workshops
- Funding: \$20,000

**Received;  
in progress**

*Classroom  
Community*

**Perkins Funding**

- Focus: Sustainable horticulture and Urban Ag equipment and supplies
- Funding: \$79,000

**Received**

*Classroom  
Community*

**Peter Kiewit Foundation**

- Focus: Service-learning community gardens at three elementary schools
- Funding: \$2,500

**COMPLETE**

*Classroom  
Community*

**Rocky Mountain Solar Training Provider  
(Photo-voltaics)**

- Focus: Solar energy training (photo-voltaics) equipment
- Funding: \$7,000

**Received;  
in progress**

*Classroom*

**Rocky Mountain Solar Training Provider  
(Solar Thermal)**

- Focus: Solar energy training (solar thermal) equipment
- Funding: \$4,500

**Received;  
in progress**

*Classroom*

**USDA People's Garden Grant**

- Focus: Food gardens and nutrition at low-income schools
- Funding: Yet to be determined

**In progress**

*Classroom  
Community*

**Grants we have supported and partnered with:**

- Live Well Omaha  
Focus: Community-wide B-Cycle program  
Funding: \$400,000
- Hunger Free Omaha –  
Douglas County Health Department
- Omaha-Lincoln Better Buildings Program  
Funding: \$10 million grant



