

PURPOSE

Using a multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional approach, Muskegon Community College endeavors to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future by operating within a sustainable environmental, social, and economic framework. The purpose of the JSC shall be to seek opinions, express ideas, identify, investigate, review and recommend sustainability policy and procedural matters to the Coordinating Council and other pertinent groups that relate to the sustainability affairs of the College.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

This year's student representative was Reese Watson. As part of his learning experience, he shadowed the chair at meetings with Dr. Selmon and the Coordinating Council, and took over planning for Earth Day.

LAKESHORE FITNESS CENTER

There was no progress this year toward repairing the shoreline erosion at the Lakeshore Fitness Center, while the college awaited final decision of the Board of Trustees about whether or not to retain ownership. Now that the Board has come to a definitive decision that MCC will keep the Fitness Center, the council will proceed to encourage the college to act responsibly.

(Background: A combination of high water levels and unusually strong, late-summer storms in 2017 caused severe erosion of the shoreline. The shoreline has been eroded back several feet, exposing soil contaminated from past industrial discharge. The repair estimate is \$43,000 and requires permitting from the Department of Environmental Quality.)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER

LEED is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is a very high standard to achieve. MCC did receive LEED certification for the Life Sciences Center in 2015, but did not pursue certification for the Health and Wellness Center; however, LEED-like initiatives were incorporated into Health and Wellness. All items below have been verified as achieved by the project's architects and engineers.

- substantial pre- and post-consumer recycled content
- low VOC sealants and adhesives
- extensive use of outdoor views and/or access to borrowed-exterior light to reduce lighting needs, along with lighting control systems, including manual overrides for occupancy sensors
- exterior lighting design reduced light trespass from the building and site to improve night sky access and reduce development impact on nocturnal environments
- LED lighting is the primary source for the interior and exterior lighting systems
- mechanical systems exceeded the minimum energy code requirements of ASHRAE 90.1-2013
- HVAC systems utilized demand control ventilation to reduce energy usage during low occupancy and increase indoor environmental quality (IEQ) during high occupancy times
- locker room areas utilized high amounts of outside air to aid in the removal of odors and increase indoor air quality
- low-flow plumbing fixtures to reduce water usage, including showers
- incorporated storage and collection for recycling
- minimized large areas of new pavement by utilizing existing campus parking and hardscape
- strict erosion and sedimentation control plan that minimize the impact on the existing storm water system
- bio-retention basin to capture the rain water from the roof and new hardscape elements
- native landscape plantings
- salvaged more trees than the original plan

COMPOSTING

This year the college stopped using New Soil, a Zeeland-based company, to pick up our compostables. This decision was made due to recent fee increases and also concern about the carbon cost of transporting the materials so far. Over the year, several areas on or near the main campus were explored as a location to begin on-site composting. We're still looking for the appropriate area to begin composting, taking into account proper drainage, sunlight, and accessibility. Currently, however, materials deposited in campus composting bins are being put in the garbage collection. We don't want students and staff to become unaccustomed to composting while we develop a new location.

On-site composting has several exciting possibilities. Physical Plant says that we would use our own equipment to turn the compost. Between food service, the golf course, and the main campus, we could produce sufficient product to mulch our beds and perhaps have enough left over to share or sell with the MCC Garden Club or local community

gardens. MSU is offering a composting course, and they might be interested in helping build a fence to enclose the composting area.

SOLAR INVESTMENT

Members of the council are exploring solar panel options for retrofitting on campus buildings and also the option of solar-powered cell phone charging stations at picnic tables. We are particularly intrigued by MSU's carport-style solar panel covered parking, which not only generates power, but also reduces heat transfer to the asphalt. MSU expects to receive 10% of its electricity needs from solar panel covered parking. Dr. Nesbary attended one of our meetings and said that the payback for solar investment can be as little as seven years.

NATIVE PLANTINGS

Physical Plant plans next year to reduce the area dedicated to lawns and increase native plantings. This will reduce irrigation and maintenance.

EVENTS

In October, the council has a table at the MCC EXPO.

In April, students Reese Watson and Mika Smith spearheaded the council's Earth Day events, turning it into an Earth Month.

- An extensive book giveaway was held in the Life Science hall.
- Graphics students designed "wanted" posters with invasive species information, which were displayed on easels around campus.
- Student Megan Wallinga, along with high school students from the Careerline FFA chapter, did a bee presentation about bee handling and safety.
- We had a free showing of the documentary "Racing Extinction," which discusses how humans have sped up extinction, and what we can do to slow it.
- A high level of interest was generated by Food Service-prepared cookies made with honey from our campus bees, and purchased snacks of dehydrated crickets (a sustainable source of protein) in several flavors.

From MCC's Bay Window student newspaper:

