

The Print

Campus' future green while still in the red

Green grants may fund big changes

By Mark Foster

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Clackamas Community College is attempting to save the world, one solar panel at a time.

Over the past few years, Clackamas has made strides to further its green technology and bring green life to all CCC campuses. Currently in its fourth year, the Sustainability Committee has helped generate funds for the school to "go green."

The Going Green grants Clackamas received have given life to classes such as Renewable Energy Technology 200. Partnered with the Oregon Institute of Technology, RET 200 gives students a better look at green technology options used by countries around the world.

Scott Giltz, dean of the Technical Career Education Division, said, "We're hoping to be able to offer a renewable energy technology program." But, he added, "It's all dependent on funding."

Pending approval, Clackamas will be able to offer students a degree or certificate in renewable energy technology.

Going green seems to be a trend that is catching on. Ray Hoyt, Director of Customized Training and Development, said, "This is a cultural change."

One of the first changes being made is changing the conventional hot water heaters in McLaughlin, Pauling, and Randall to solar heated hot water systems. Bill Leach, who sits on the Sustainability Committee, believes that by converting to these solar-heated systems, Clackamas is shifting the foundation of how business has been done in the past.

Leach commented, "By redesigning our infrastructure we are moving towards doing business that is more sustainable."

Another grant which the school has applied for would award Clackamas \$26 million. Along with that money comes two steam power generators that would give the school its own internal electric source. This grant would partially allow the school to be taken off the grid.

"If awarded this grant, it would also give faculty enough resources for all exterior lights of the school to be powered by wind turbines with solar power battery back-ups.

"We are competing against Portland Community College to receive the bid for this grant.

"Not only will Clackamas benefit from this, but also local people who are currently unemployed. People contracted to do the work cannot be employees of CCC. One of the rules for this and other grants was that the school must hire outside contractors or

laborers to perform the work. The idea behind the stimulus money was to stimulate the local economy," Leach said.

Another project currently pending is to turn the gas station behind Barlow into an alternative fuels refueling station. The plan is to provide refueling for vehicles that run off hydrogen, biodiesel, electrical and compressed natural gas.

Moving into the future, Clackamas is laying the foundation for the next generation to come. Without funding it will be difficult to continue on the path it is headed.

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