

Western Technical College

THE ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCE



www.westerntc.edu/green

Western Technical College has recently signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. This commitment provides a framework and support for colleges and universities to become climate neutral over time, and requires the institution to implement many environmental initiatives within the first few years after signing. More information about the commitment can be found at www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org.

Western Technical College is currently working on such initiatives as:

- Retrofitting the Angelo Dam with a turbine to produce electricity for the Sparta campus
- Making the recycling program more widely known and accessible
- Integrating renewable energy and sustainability into the curriculum
- Partnering with Organic Valley and Gundersen Lutheran to erect two wind turbines in Cashton
- An Energy Behavior Modification internal program
- Local Sustainable Foods Purchasing Network between institutions in the area
- Promoting ridesharing and carpooling

There are a number of other things Western already does that decrease our impact on the Earth:

- A Sustainable Facilities portion of the Facility Development Policy, in which all new construction will be LEED Silver certified
- Greenhouse Gas Analysis/Carbon Foot Print completed
- Purchasing about 27% of our energy from renewable sources, including Xcel's Windsource program
- Efficient HVAC systems and controls
- Online document sharing to reduce paper use
- Discouraging driving by parking permit fees and free bus passes for all students, faculty, and staff
- A Neighborhood Electric Vehicle for security
- The new Lunda Center is LEED certified and the Cleary Courtyard was recreated with environmentally sound and sustainable features
- Refurbishing and donation of old furniture and computers
- Charging for paper copies at all copiers to decrease wasted paper, and charging each department for paper use
- A few lifelong learning classes dedicated to green living, smart building, and organic gardening
- Student Government set aside a Green Fund for campus projects
- Many others