

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- DAYLIGHT HOUR CAMPAIGN
- ECOFESTIVAL 2016
- BEACH CLEANUP 2016
- KCC GOES GREEN 2016
- REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES



### INTRODUCTION

As the nation's largest urban university, the City University of New York plays a transformational role in New York City's sustainable future. On June 6, 2007, Former CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein publicly accepted then-Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC challenge to universities to reduce their overall carbon footprint 30 percent by 2017.

All 24 CUNY schools have developed individual ten-year sustainability plans on their campuses to achieve this goal. Kingsborough Community College (KCC) is dedicated to meeting this sustainability challenge by focusing its efforts on the seven pillars of this plan which include energy, water, transportation, recycling, procurement, nutrition, education, and community outreach. Kingsborough has been proactive on sustainability issues for many years.

The objective of the KCC Dreams Green: Sustainability Newsletter is to create awareness of these initiatives and to ask for your help in implementing them. Your participation in these efforts is crucial to our success. Please help us create a more sustainable environment to preserve the future for ourselves, our families, and our students.

For more information, please visit:

PlaNYC: http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc/html/about/about.shtml

Campus Sustainability 10-Year Plan:

http://www.kingsborough.edu/sub-administration/sustainability/Pages/history.aspx

## DAYLIGHT HOUR 2016

On June 17, 2016, hundreds of state, city and private sector offices will commit to turning their lights off for ONE hour (from noon to 1 PM) in an effort to conserve energy as part of a public awareness energy conservation campaign, and to show their employees that it is possible to work by using available natural daylight from nearby windows. Kingsborough will participate in this initiative.

This "Daylight Hour" concept was originally developed by the Building Energy Exchange to promote awareness of energy conservation by using the natural resource of sunlight. This program has had great success reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere in just one hour! With its

## THE DAYLIGHT HOUR CAMPAIGN. A SINGLE HOUR WHEN WE ASK YOU TO TURN LIGHTS OFF.

21 buildings and over 1.2 million square feet of enclosed space, Kingsborough is fertile ground for such an initiative. The plan is to show people that they can in fact, work with daylight only, instead of relying solely on electric lighting.

Here at Kingsborough, the idea has taken root. Staff members are already turning off ceiling lights and using a combination of "task lighting" and natural daylight. To help work with natural daylight, you can easily adjust the brightness on a computer monitor.

The Daylight Hour Campaign has received support from government officials who recognize the importance of reducing greenhouse gases.

"We can all do our part to make the City more sustainable and environmentally friendly," said Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. "Through small steps we can decrease energy consumption on a daily basis and collectively contribute to a greener city. I applaud the Building Energy Exchange for creating the Daylight Hour initiative and encouraging all New Yorkers to make use of natural light rather than consuming unnecessary energy."

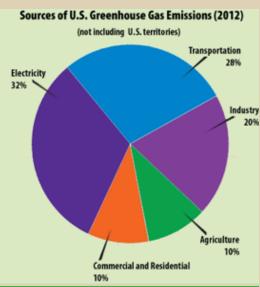
KCC's goal is to plan future Daylight Hour events on a quarterly, and even on a monthly basis, to maximize energy savings. Harvesting daylight is the future... it is totally FREE and readily available!



## SUSTAINABILITY

NEWSLETTER





Source: EPA's Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (2014).

# REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES BY CONSERVING ELECTRICITY

Global climate change from greenhouse gases will affect people and the environment in many ways. It is expected that there will be stronger storms and hurricanes, and severe heatwaves. These events could be life-threatening, and can potentially destroy or damage infrastructure, buildings, and homes. Taking steps to reduce greenhouse gases will help minimize these changes in the weather (and it will help you save money on your home's energy bill).

Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, which makes the earth warmer. Carbon dioxide, which is a byproduct of burning fossil fuels for energy, is the primary greenhouse gas emitted by humans. Electrical energy demand is responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions. University, commercial, and office buildings are the highest consumers of electrical energy. In 2012, electricity use by buildings was responsible for 32 percent of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

By understanding how utility bills are calculated, you can help Kingsborough conserve electricity and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Rates charged for electricity are based on two types of usage: on-peak and off-peak. Off-peak use is when electricity demand is flat and the building or home uses less electricity. On-peak charges occur when a building uses a lot of energy at one time creating a surge in electricity. The moment you start a piece of equipment, it will use up to 600 percent of its normal energy for the first few seconds. These surges of electricity emit more greenhouse gases than when energy use remains flat.

In addition, a monetary penalty is assessed on your electric bill based on the highest 15-minute surges. The higher the surge, the higher the penalty. The penalty applies to your bill for 18 months, unless you have a higher surge which will then increase the penalty for another 18 months, and so forth. The key to reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and avoiding this penalty is not to use too much energy at any one time. To minimize surges, stagger turning on electronic equipment in 15-minute intervals.

Conserving electricity and reducing peak demand can be accomplished by following these guidelines:

• Summer peak hours use more electricity than other times of the year due to the use of air conditioning. Do not turn on your air conditioning, computers, televisions, or lights at the same time. Wait a minimum of 15 minutes for each piece of major equipment.

## **Standard Start** Staggered Start Peak HVAC - 1 HVAC - 2 HVAC - 3 Demand (kW) Demand (kW) Peak Time

Time

- Start your air conditioning or heat one hour before turning on lights, computers, televisions, and other appliances.
- Even when computers and electronic devices are powered off if the devices are plugged in, they are still using power. These so-called "vampire electronics" can add more than \$100 per year to a home's electric bills. At the end of each day, turn off your computer and other electronics by unplugging them from the wall or use power strips to control multiple devices.
- Turn off the lights and all appliances when you leave a room for an extended period.
- During the hottest days, keep fans on for a limited amount of time. Keep shades down and turn off all lights and computers that are not in use.
- If your office is too cold or warm, do not open a window or prop open a door. This allows cooled air or heat to escape which can waste energy. Instead call B&G and ask to have the temperature adjusted as needed.

By implementing these simple behavioral changes, the College, as whole, could significantly reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Moreover, these guidelines can be applied to your home and help you be part of the global solution. As a bonus, you can save money on the cost of energy in your home.

## DREAM GREEN

KINGSBOROUGH

## SUSTAINABILITY

N E W S L E T T E R

## ECO-FESTIVAL 2016

On Thursday, May 12th and Friday, May 13th, more than 1,100 Kingsborough students, faculty, staff, and community members took part in Kingsborough's 10th annual Eco-Festival.

This year's festival, focused on the theme, "Environmental Justice for All", and featured a wide array of back-to-back programming. Keynote speaker, Jacqueline Patterson, Director of the NAACP

Climate and Environmental Justice Program, opened the event with a remarkable talk highlighting the many



ways in which violations of human rights and the environment go hand-in-hand, specifically affecting minorities and low-income communities. Later in the day, a mixed panel of experts and KCC faculty discussed the ethics involved in factory farming and animal agriculture.

A highlight of the Festival was the number of events put together by Kingsborough's students, faculty, and staff. Students from the Culinary Arts Program, the English Department, the Biological Sciences Department, the Physical Sciences Department, as well as Salzburg Seminar Fellows hosted panel discussions and film screenings covering topics from food justice, water as a basic human right, and securing the global food supply to gentrification and sustainable growth to capitalism vs. the climate, and so much more.

While sessions were happening concurrently, the Eco-Festival Share Fair was also taking place. Representatives from local environmental organizations, Gateway National Recreation Area, the

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL



New York Times, and the KCC Urban Farm promoted their organizations, gave out free goodies, and discussed volunteer opportunities available to students. KCC science students also set up an impressive display of their research posters on water quality and the oyster farming project at KCC as well as touch tanks with live oysters, which they eagerly demonstrated to passersby.

On Friday, May 13, Capt. Tony DiLernia of the Maritime Technology Program held his annual lecture series for high school students. An impressive array of speakers filled the Performing Arts Center to discuss issues such as seismic testing and local marine species. As is customary for Eco-Festival, Friday was also a day of action where students were given the opportunity to go out in the field and contribute in a positive way to their community.

Approximately 60 students, faculty, and staff went to the Breezy Point section of Rockaway Beach to do a beach cleanup and engage in a service project through a partnership with the Gateway National Recreation Area division of the National Parks Service. Three park rangers led workshops on how to conduct surveys of the Atlantic Horsehoe Crab, the restoration of the Rocky Point Salt Marsh, and discussed volunteer opportunities and activities are available at Gateway National Recreation Area.

Although this year's Eco-Festival was shortened from the traditional three

to two days, the program was rich and well-rounded with top-quality events that served the needs and interests of all who attended. Eco-Festival is a prime example of what makes Kingsborough one of the top community colleges in the nation.

Eco-Festival, coordinated by Professor Christina Colon (Biological Sciences) and co-coordinated by Professor Jacob Mey (Physical Sciences) is held annually during the spring semester. The Funding for Eco-Festival comes from the CUE (Coordinated Undergraduate Educational) Initiative, Con Edison, National Grid, the KCC Auxiliary, and the New York Times.





# SUSTAINABILITY

### KCC GOES GREEN CONTEST WINNERS FOR 2016

Each year Kingsborough students are invited to present innovative ideas to help KCC become a more sustainable campus. Awards for the winners of the KCC Goes Green contest were presented at the Eco-Festival by VP for Finance and Administration, Eduardo Rios. The winners and prizes are listed below:

PRIZE	STUDENTS NAME	AMOUNT AWARDED	ENTRY TITLE
FIRST	Ali Ahmad	\$500.00	A Greener Library
SECOND	Fadhiya Norova	\$300.00	Here is your country
THIRD	Alyssa Gardner-Vazquez	\$100.00	Growing Seaweed
HONORABLE MENTION	Shareen Thomas	\$25.00	Ways to Make Kingsborough Go Green
HONORABLE MENTION	Benjamin Levitz	\$25.00	In Order to Make KCC More Environmentally Sustainable
HONORABLE MENTION	Kalif Murray	\$25.00	Keep Ourselves Healthy Keep the Earth Healthy
HONORABLE MENTION	Mohammed Yafaie	\$25.00	Notebook Recycle



#### SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEES:

### **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

- Dawn Walker
- Janine Palludan
- Celeste Creegan

#### **ECO-FESTIVAL**

- Ianine Palludan
- Jacob Mey
- Christina Colon

### **DAYLIGHT HOURS-TURN IT OFF**

- Peter Hermida
- Lynn Relay

### KCC GOES GREEN

- Maureen Daly
- Celeste Creegan
- Anthony Corazza
- Eduardo Rios

### RECYCLING AND CONSERVATION

- Asif Hussain
- Lynn Relay
- Nelson Hernandez

#### **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

- Celeste Creegan
- Anthony Corazza
- Asif Hussain
- Tom Smyth