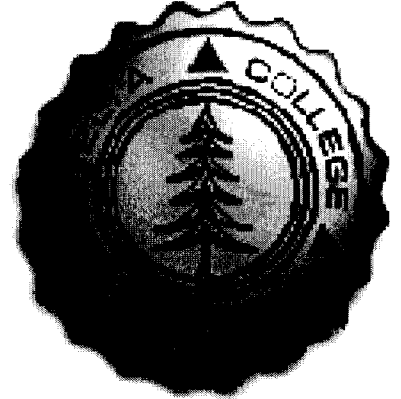


# Action Line

## Sustaining our resources for the future

Delta is working to integrate sustainability into campus programs **in education, operations and community service** while creating a culture that believes in the **power of a single action.**



### WHY?

Sustainability has a triple bottom line payoff.

#### \$\$ Financial

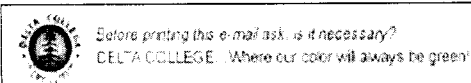
It eliminates wasteful spending which is good for the college budget's bottom line.

#### \*\* Social

It partners people as we work together to improve our standard of living.

#### ^^ Environmental

It allows us to live healthier lives while preserving the world for future



For instructions to add Delta's sustainability tag line to your e mail messages go to [www3.delta.edu/evergreen/](http://www3.delta.edu/evergreen/)

## Working toward our goals

### What's been accomplished?

- Establishment of an Office of Sustainability with staff and permanent funding
- The ongoing comprehensive evaluation of the waste stream for all recyclable materials coming into the college and going out
- A comprehensive greenhouse gas emissions inventory that determined our campus carbon footprint since 1999
- Ongoing promotion of best practices and highly recognized programs

### What's in progress?

- Developing a Sustainability Implementation Plan
- Developing a marketing plan including the expansion of the college's EverGreen website
- Establishing a Sustainability Advisory Board
- Evolving toward purchasing relationships with companies that support sustainable manufacture and delivery of product and who practice the triple bottom line.
- Evaluating and continuing to incorporate green cleaning processes, products and equipment

- Developing academic courses in sustainability
- Offering professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to learn strategies to incorporate sustainability into academic courses
- Developing the "University Center Trail" to connect Delta with Saginaw Valley State University and eventually the community

### What about the next 2 to 3 years?

- Strengthen the college's commitment to promote sustainability throughout the curriculum
- Evaluate investment options in proactive sustainability investments such as renewable energy
- Develop a graduation requirement for sustainability
- Incorporate sustainability as a criterion within the college's existing award programs

### And beyond that?

- Investigate the installation of an organic, community garden
- Investigate the development of a sustainable green building for campus and community use
- Consider replacing campus fleet vehicles with hybrid vehicles

# The Flip Side

## 2-minute AQIP Update

### • Student survey is on its way

The annual rotation of student surveys brings us back to the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) this winter. Delta recently submitted to CCSSE a list of courses that fit their criteria. The list of Delta courses they select to survey should arrive soon.

The survey is scheduled for distribution to Delta students in March. Delta collected benchmark CCSSE data when it surveyed 1,500 students during winter 2007. The 2009 survey results will allow Delta to measure its progress in the areas of student-faculty interaction, academic challenge of classes, active and collaborative learning, support for students as learners and student effort. We'll report survey results in an upcoming edition of *Action Line*.

### • Faculty/Staff survey readied

If you have questions to include on the winter survey for faculty and staff, contact Mike Wood, director of institutional research, at [williamwood@delta.edu](mailto:williamwood@delta.edu)

### • On the horizon

*Action Line* for March will introduce the college's AQIP website and the April issue will recap committee news.

### • Did you know?

The College Bookstore donates retired textbooks to organizations in Kenya.

Delta Food Service serves 6,300 cups of organic/free trade coffee a year.

Printing Services offers both recycled content paper and organic ink.

Here's one from the Gipper or in this case Don Halog, the "A" Quipper —

*We have been benchmarking the wrong things. Instead of copying what others do, we ought to copy how they think.*

## Q & A



LINDA PETEE  
Sustainability &  
Risk Management  
Coordinator

## How is Delta 'greening' up?

### How did the sustainability program start?

**Petee:** *Its roots are in the Facilities Management and Business areas. Long before "greening" and "sustainability" were buzzwords, conservation, efficiency of operations, growth by substitution, and recycling were routine measures. With the support of President Jean Goodnow, EverGreen was formalized as a campus-wide initiative.*

### How is the program funded?

**Petee:** *This is a break-even program funded through cost-avoidance rather than profits. For example, temperature controls in classrooms and occupancy sensors that turn off lights in vacant rooms cover their purchase costs in energy savings.*

### What is the easiest way anyone on campus can take part in the program?

**Petee:** *Start by looking at how you move through the day, what you use, buy, eat, drink, wear and consider what you can reduce, reuse, recycle or share. Also the EverGreen website has suggestions at [www.delta.edu/EverGreen](http://www.delta.edu/EverGreen) You can click on "Power of a single action" from the left-hand menu.*

### What is pre cycling?

**Petee:** *It's the idea of 'think before you do'. For example, buy products with less packaging, share something with a friend, reuse an item, etc.*

### What is the biggest drawback/frustration of the program?

**Petee:** *For me it's not being able to do more, faster. Sustainability and the environment are my own personal passions. We also need to re-educate people who understand recycling but not necessarily sustainability, which is the larger picture.*

### When did your interest in sustainability begin?

**Petee:** *As a kid during summer vacation, I started an Invention Club in my neighborhood. On trash day we'd go up and down the street, collect 'good' stuff and make it into our own inventions. Early on I realized that "one kid's trash is another kid's treasure."*



## Think fast

### True or false?

1. \_\_ Serving organic/shade grown coffee at Delta has a direct effect on Michigan's migratory birds.

2. \_\_ Barley straw is substituted for chlorine in the courtyard pond.

3. \_\_ The College Bookstore donates retired textbooks to Kenya.

4. \_\_ "Off the Beaten Trail" is the name of the non-motorized trail that will connect Delta with SVSU.

5. \_\_ Pre-cycling is biking for pre-schoolers.

6. \_\_ Solar panels are installed on the roof of M Wing.

7. \_\_ You can recycle mixed paper, cell phones, cardboard, iPods and cell phone accessories on campus.

8. \_\_ The new South Campus roads and parking lots feature wet meadows, bioswales, recycled asphalt, and LED lighting.

*All of the statements are true except 4 and 5. You can find those answers in this newsletter*