
Action Project

Institution: Delta College

Submitted: 2008-09-12

Timeline:

Planned project kickoff date: 2008-07-01

Target completion date: 2009-01-01

Actual completion date:

A. Give this Action Project a short title in 10 words or fewer:

Move toward social, environmental and economic sustainability by developing a comprehensive plan.

B. Describe this Action Project's goal in 100 words or fewer:

Our goals are to meet the President's Climate Commitment and complete a greenhouse gas inventory, participate in the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS), and develop a structured approach to a comprehensive plan to integrate sustainability into the College's curricula.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category which the Action Project will most affect or impact:

Primary Category: Planning Continuous Improvement

D. Describe briefly your institution's reasons for taking on this Action Project now -- why the project and its goals are high among your current priorities:

This Action Project evolved from many years' work by our Facilities Management team, changing from energy management to a comprehensive approach to sustainability. The President signed the President's Climate Commitment in November 2007 and the College was accepted into the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) in early 2008. In March 2008 a Summit involving several hundred people added a commitment to sustainability to the College's Guiding Principles. The President appointed a Sustainability Task Force which presented its report in May 2008 defining 26 recommendations and suggestions for action beginning within 1 year, along with an additional 13 recommendations and suggestions for development within 2-3 years and 3 more in the long term. The College has now committed one half-time administrative position and one half-time faculty position to lead this effort.

E. List the organizational areas - institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units --

most affected by or involved in this Action Project:

All College organizational areas will be affected.

F. Name and describe briefly the key organizational process(es) that you expect this Action Project to change or improve:

A number of processes will be changed or improved during the course of this Action Plan, including strategic planning, curriculum development, course delivery, facilities planning and management, auxiliary services planning and management, student activities, purchasing, procurement, inventory and storage processes, staff development, budgeting, and marketing and promotion.

G. Explain the rationale for the length of time planned for this Action Project (from kickoff to target completion):

The Task Force in its May 2008 report listed 26 recommendations and suggestions for action proposed to begin during the 2008-2009 academic year. Of those the five priority recommendations are: 1). Develop a Sustainability Implementation Plan which allows us to chart progress. For all initiatives, the Plan will develop baseline statistics, set goals, track progress, and report progress. It will also establish criteria for measurement. This will also satisfy the 2009, Step 3, ACUPCC requirement; 2.) To establish baseline data and to satisfy the Year Two (2008) President's Climate Commitment requirement, conduct a thorough and comprehensive greenhouse gas emission inventory. Adequate staff resources, and training must be provided to ensure thoroughness and accuracy of data. The baseline inventory will allow a template from which to target specific areas where potential for short-term and long-term reduction is feasible; 3). Make baseline student survey more widely available to the student body and develop follow up surveys to illustrate trends; 4.) Expand Facilities EverGreen website to include all academic, student, campus-wide and community endeavors; 5.) Provide the resources for the development of courses in sustainability that encompass social, environmental, and financial aspects.

H. Describe how you plan to monitor how successfully your efforts on this Action Project are progressing:

We will use the structured intermediate deadlines included in the President's Climate Commitment and the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) to motivate and regularly report and track progress.

I. Describe the overall "outcome" measures or indicators that will tell you whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals:

Multiple process measures, leading indicators and outcome measures are part of the President's Climate Commitment, the greenhouse gas inventory, the Sustainability Tracking and Assessment Rating System (STARS) and the planned development of a structured approach to a comprehensive plan to integrate sustainability into the College's curricula. We will use all of these measures and indicators as well as completion of each of these major tasks as measures of whether this Action Project has been a success or failure in achieving its goals.

J. Other information (e.g., publicity, sponsor or champion, etc.):

Last Action Project Update:

A. Describe the past year's accomplishments and the current status of this Action Project.

B. Describe how the institution involved people in work on this Action Project.

C. Describe your planned next steps for this Action Project.

D. Describe any "effective practice(s)" that resulted from your work on this Action Project.

E. What challenges, if any, are you still facing in regards to this Action Project?

F. If you would like to discuss the possibility of AQIP providing you help to stimulate progress on this action project, explain your need(s) here and tell us who to contact and when?
