

The Action Project Commitment Declaration

AQIP institutions complete their actual Action Project Commitment Declarations in the Action Project Directory on AQIP's website, but the web form follows the structure below. We've provided brief explanations of what each item requires in italics, after the item.

Institution: (Name of your college or university)

Delta College

Planned project kickoff date: **9/1/09**

Target project completion date: **1/15/10**

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

Use a descriptive name containing nouns and verbs that will enable people searching for projects that interest them to find yours.

Climate Action Plan for Achieving Campus Climate Neutrality

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

You don't need to explain how you are going to accomplish the project's goals, but the clearer and more explicit the purposes are to you, the more likely you are to mount a successful project.

Develop a Climate Action Plan that includes a target date and interim milestones for achieving campus climate neutrality. Climate neutrality is defined as having no net greenhouse gas emissions, within a minimum scope of boundaries as defined by the American College & University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). This is to be achieved through such measures as conservation, renewable energy, and carbon offsets or other measures to mitigate the remaining emissions.

C. Identify the single AQIP Category that this Action Project will most affect or impact.

Identifying the primary AQIP Category will allow colleagues from other institutions who are searching for projects that interest them to find yours. Making clear which of the nine AQIP Categories is most related to the goals of your project will help you and others with similar interests to communicate.

Category 8: 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.

Sustainability, earlier defined by the college as conservation, efficiency of operations, and environmental awareness, has historically played a key role in the operations of Delta College. Over the past few years, the college has made significant progress in its promotion and practice of sustainable measures throughout its administrative, academic, and operational functions. Sustainability has now

been adopted as a Guiding Principle. Additionally, the 2008-2011 Strategic Priority Action Plan identifies sustainability as a key campus initiative with the goal being to use all resources in an efficient and sustainable way--meaning to consider the Triple Bottom Line to move toward social, environmental and economic sustainability. As a means to attain this goal, the college is a voluntary signatory of ACUPCC which requires the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality. To create the base for the development of a climate plan, the College recently completed two major benchmark measurements-- a nine year greenhouse gas inventory (GHG) and the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

E. List the organizational areas—institutional departments, programs, divisions, or units—most affected by or involved in this Action Project.

List the academic units, departments, or organizational areas that will be directly or indirectly affected by the project, or whose needs may influence the way the project is conceived.

All College areas will be affected directly or indirectly.

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

Some key processes have commonly used names (hiring, personnel evaluation, course preparation, program design, budgeting, planning, etc.) while others may require unique designations and descriptions.

As a result of this action project, any number of processes may be changed or improved as they relate to energy consumption, conservation, and efficiency. They may include, but are not limited to, facilities planning, management, and operations; auxiliary planning and management, transportation, purchasing and procurement, course delivery, inventory and storage, professional 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).

If you plan for this project to last longer than one year, identify the goals you hope to reach at one or more interim phases as you work on the project. Establishing “mileposts” that mark progress toward your ultimate goal is equally useful for projects of shorter duration as well, but not required. These interim goals or mileposts should be objective measure or indicators that “stretch” or challenge your capacities and thereby build and extend your institution’s skills in tacking and solving problems.

The official deadline for completing the written climate action plan is 1/15/10. Throughout Fall 2009 semester, we will be evaluating the outcomes of specific benchmark programs completed in the past year and how to best incorporate them into the plan. These programs include such programs as our GHG, STARS, Green Fridays, and staff and student commuting surveys. Other steps taken to meet the January deadline include meeting with appropriate campus departments and outside utility suppliers and waste management vendors for input and to analyzing our energy management/utility data.

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

Your Action Projects are important, and deserve a central place in your institution's attention. Explain how you plan to keep everyone focused on what you are working to achieve.

The Climate Action Plan will include both a target date to achieve climate neutrality and interim milestones. The Sustainability Office will provide an annual report of progress by reporting both the GHG emissions and our progress in implementing the climate action plans.

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.

Process measures tell you whether you are making progress toward accomplishing the project's goals, and serve as "leading indicators" or predictors of a successful project. Outcome measure tell you whether the project has actually accomplished the goals or purposes that led you to undertake it, measuring whether it was successful when completed.

The Climate Action Plan will include both a target date to achieve climate neutrality and interim milestones. Accomplishing the project's goals will become evident by conducting an annual GHG inventory and by reviewing the annual report of progress as stated in the climate action plan.

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

The Climate Action Plan and subsequent annual reports will be made publicly available.

K. Project Leader and contact person (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Title, Email, Telephone)

Supply the name and contact information for the project manager or leader of the project team above, an employee of your institution who will be directly responsible for the work of doing this Action Project. Each of your Action Projects should have a different contact person. If the person with this responsibilities changes, you should update the Action Project Information on AQIP's Action Project Directory.

Linda Petee, Sustainability & Risk Management

Larry Ramseyer, Director of Facilities Management